

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Kyle Field reunion proves successful for both squads

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

The atmosphere in the alumni locker room after Saturday's first annual Texas A&M Varsity-Alumni game was not subdued and somber like most losing locker rooms.

In fact, it made the San Francisco 49ers' Super Bowl locker room look like Aggie Muster.

Every player had a smile on his face and was already telling a story to a teammate; there were scores of reporters and well-wishers present, and there was back-slapping and high-fiving among the players.

The only things missing were Pete Rozelle and the Lombardi Trophy.

The alumni had just lost to the Texas A&M varsity 42-15, but the score didn't seem to matter to the alumni players.

"Of course we wanted to win," alumni fullback George Woodard said, "but we were really just out there to have a good time."

Woodard led the alumni with two touchdowns on three carries running from the lead position in the wishbone.

"It felt good to run the 'bone and hear 'Woooooo' again," he said. "The 'bone worked for us because (Bubba) Bean, (David) Brothers and I have run it before. If you don't know how to run it, it can hurt you."

Woodard's first touchdown was set up by an interception by 35-year-old Rolf Krueger, who returned the ball to the varsity 7-yard line.

Krueger, who prior to the interception had dislocated and reset his arm, was voted the game's most valuable defensive player.

"I didn't feel a thing when I tipped the ball and it fell in my hands," he said. "I feel great about the game. I'm going to be in better shape next year."

Krueger's sentiments were shared by just about everyone on the alumni team.

Former Texas A&M quarterback Charlie Milstead said: "We'll support A&M and Jackie Sherrill any way we can, because the idea of having this game was great. I'll come back in some capacity next year. As for the game, I thought we were well prepared."

"We even had two-a-days — we ran two plays on Thursday and two on Friday," he said.

The players also agreed that the Texas A&M varsity is a team that will fare well in the Southwest Conference.

"They are definitely hitters," Woodard said.

Former Los Angeles Ram safety Dave Elmendorf said: "I'm just real happy that every-

one had a good time. I gave a couple of good shots and they gave me a couple, too. They were out there really hitting. They're pretty talented at the skill positions, but there may be a few depth problems."

Buddy Payne, an offensive guard for the alumni, said he couldn't believe the size of the varsity. Payne's blocking assignment was against 6-3, 260-pound Keith Guthrie.

"He was so big," Payne said, "that when I looked up I couldn't find his head. When I did find his head, I looked at him and he started smiling this big smile. I knew then it was going to be a long night."

David Beal, alumni player-coach, said the game will probably become an annual affair.

"I think this will reunite the whole program," he said, "because the alumni are such an important part of the program."

Honorary coach and former Heisman Trophy winner John

David Crow agreed with Beal. "The alumni have a closeness with the players today," he said. "We share a common interest. I'm just thankful the good Lord gave me enough sense not to play."

Honorary coach O.A. "Bum" Phillips, head coach of the New Orleans Saints and a former Aggie line coach, said that no matter how long one is associated with Texas A&M, the school has an impact on him.

"The attitude of the student body is great," he said. "Ever since I was here I have thought that the students at this school are sincerely interested in the athletic program. That's what makes a game like this worthwhile."

Texas A&M quarterback Gary Kubiak said the players of his squad weren't out to run up the score on the alumni.

"Tonight we just wanted to let everybody play and have a good time," he said.



staff photo by Peter Rocha

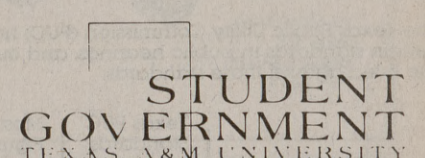
Aggie running back Thomas Sanders runs through several teammates and members of the alumni squad during

Saturday's game in Kyle Field. Sanders had 58 yards on 14 carries during the contest, won by the varsity 42-15.

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