

The Battalion Sports

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Aggie tailback Thomas Sanders rushes past members of the California football team during last year's season opener. Texas A&M, which defeated the Bears

29-28, has its sights set on beginning the 1982 season with a victory over the Boston College Eagles when the teams meet Saturday at 6:10 in Kyle Field.

photo by Greg Gammon

Kubiak, Flutie top features in Saturday's 1982 opener

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor

To be an offensive game or a defensive game: that is the question.

Who's to say whether 'tis nobler in the mind to expect an onslaught of passing, rushing and touchdowns, or to expect total dominance by the defensive units of Texas A&M and Boston College?

To win: to effectively combine the necessary defensive ingredients and offensive essentials in the proper amounts, and by winning to say we eliminate the first-game jitters and the preseason uncertainty that the Aggies and Eagles are now enduring, 'tis a goal to be devoutly wished by both teams.

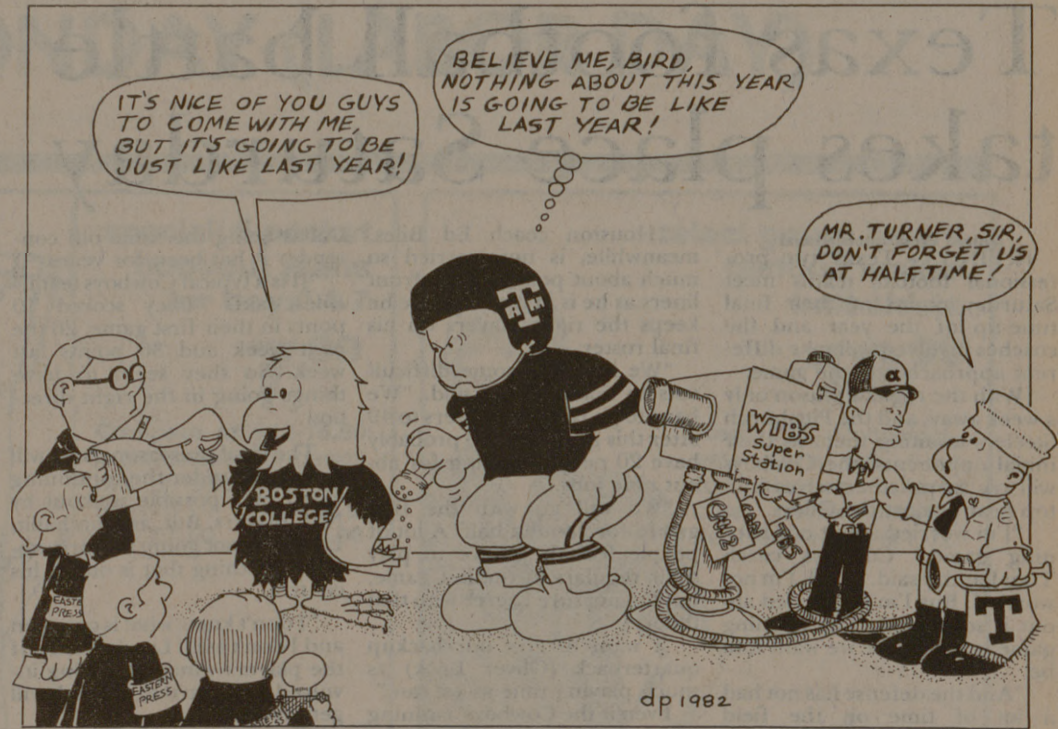
But alas, no one knows what to expect from Saturday's game in Kyle Field at 6:10 p.m. Last year's game, played in Chestnut Hill, Mass., ended with a 13-12 victory for Boston College, much to the dismay of the Aggies and their followers. After its season-opening 29-28 triumph at California in 1981, Texas A&M almost didn't need an airplane to fly to Massachusetts.

Eagle coach Jack Bicknell realizes that he and his players will have their hands full for about three hours Saturday night.

"It's hard to say what kind of game it'll be," he said. "I sort of think there'll be more offense. A&M, with the firepower they've got, will certainly score some points.

"I know that I'm very concerned with the A&M team speed—we can't match up with that. We have the strength to match them but not the speed."

In this year's season opener, first-year coach Jackie Sherrill and his squad don't have to worry about jet-lag or Boston's un-



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usually cool weather. But they do have to worry about Bicknell's all-powerful offensive weapon — sophomore quarterback Doug Flutie.

Flutie became the Eagles' starter in their fourth game of the 1981 season, and during eight games, the freshman passed for 1,652 yards and 10 touchdowns.

"We're looking for him to continue the same kind of performance he had last year," Bicknell said. "As a freshman, there's a lot of things that get thrown at you in a hurry. But now that he's a sophomore, we think Doug's ready to handle the pressure.

"He's a very instinctive kid, he

has good, but not blinding, speed and throws the football very well. Basically, he's a thrower first and a runner second."

In seniors Gary Kubiak, Johnny Hector and Earnest Jackson, Sherrill has his own arsenal of talent to display against Boston College. Kubiak, the top returning quarterback in the Southwest Conference, threw for 1,808 yards and 11 touchdowns during the 1981 season. Tailback Hector has rushed for 2,162 career yards, while Jackson, the starting fullback, has gained 1,421 yards in three years.

Flutie's primary receiver last season was Brian Brennan,

whose 37 catches netted 726 yards and three touchdowns. On the other side of the field, it's likely that Kubiak will rely heavily on the receiving services of junior tight end Mark Lewis, sophomore split end Jimmy Teal and junior flanker Jimmie Williams.

Bicknell, who led the Eagles to a 5-6 record last season, anticipates a close contest Saturday featuring two well-prepared teams.

"We're guessing on what's going to happen. We have no idea what (the Aggies) are going to do offensively or defensively.

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