

Tech kickoff moved to 2:45 p.m.

## Sherrill praises team's effort

by Frank L. Christlieb  
Sports Editor

Never in his coaching career has Jackie Sherrill been so short on running backs.

The Aggies began the season Sept. 4 with a solid backfield bolstered by quarterback Gary Kubiak, fullback Earnest Jackson and tailback Johnny Hector. The two running backs combined for 1,614 yards during their junior season in 1981.

In addition, Sherrill opened the year confident that Thomas Sanders could fill in for Jackson or Hector if either went down with an injury.

Four weeks later, Kubiak is the lone survivor of that foursome as 2-1 Texas A&M prepares to meet 1-2 Texas Tech in the Aggies' Southwest Conference opener Saturday.

Jackson and Hector received injuries during the first three weeks of the season and Sanders' severe ankle sprain during the first quarter of Saturday's victory over Louisiana Tech will keep him out of the Texas Tech game.

At Monday's weekly press conference in Cain Hall, Sherrill said he's never endured such a series of injuries to key offensive players.

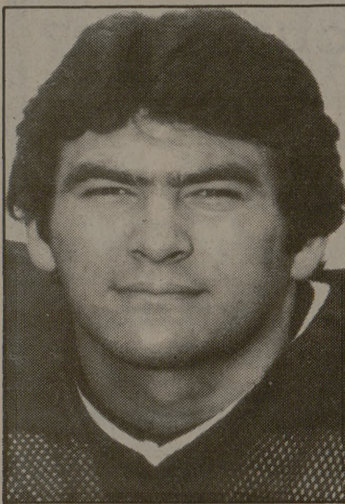
"Normally, not when you had that many to begin with," he said. "We started with a good group of running backs. When you lose three of your best players, it really hurts."

Kickoff, originally slated for 6 p.m., has been moved to 2:45 p.m. to accommodate the CBS-TV regional telecast of the game. CBS confirmed Monday afternoon that Vern Lundquist will handle the play-by-play and Steve Davis will be the game's color announcer.

At the start of the season, Sanders was listed as Hector's backup and junior squadman Elvis Walker was Jackson's backup at fullback. However, Jackson's injury in the loss to Boston College prompted Sherrill to insert freshman George Smith as the starting fullback against the University of Texas-Arlington.

Hector started that game, but sustained a separated shoulder during the third quarter. Senior Mike Marshall took Hector's place, and Sanders replaced Smith during the course of the Aggies' 61-22 triumph.

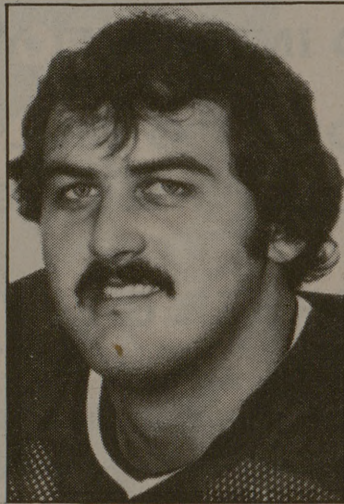
Against Louisiana Tech, Sanders started at fullback and Marshall opened at tailback, but with Sanders' ankle injury, Sherrill must now turn to a different



Defensive end Paul Pender named player of the week

backfield combination against Texas Tech.

And the answer? Sherrill plans to go with Marshall at tailback and Smith at fullback. Although Smith has had recurring problems with an oft-twisted left ankle, Sherrill saw enough from the freshman against the Bulldogs to start him against the Red Raiders. But, Sherrill said:



Tommy Robison praised for play against Louisiana Tech

"He would be much more productive if he were 100 percent."

In the Aggies' 38-27 victory, Marshall led all rushers with 61 yards on 20 carries, and Smith finished with 60 yards on seven attempts. Smith's total included a 20-yard touchdown run in the second quarter.

Sherrill said he's concerned about the situation at the run-

ning back slots, but added that he feels confident about Marshall, Smith and reserves Elvis Walker and Jimmy Hawkins. The Aggie coach praised Marshall for his effort and enthusiasm:

"He's a young man who's got an awful big heart and a lot of ability. He's not going to embarrass you by not throwing a block or by running the wrong direction."

"I'm sure glad we have him at this time."

Sanders was injured when he scored on a 14-yard touchdown reception with 7:35 left in the first quarter against the Bulldogs. Sherrill said the game films showed that Sanders had his foot planted on the goalline, but Bulldog strong safety Kevin Corbello dove at Sanders' feet, causing the ankle injury.

"When you get skill people like that, it's kind of like a race-horse," Sherrill said. "Their ankles are very small and very tender."

Sherrill described Sanders as "very doubtful" for Saturday's game. Jackson's cast will be removed this weekend, Sherrill said, and a decision on his status will be made at that time.

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photo by C. Michel Chang

Aggie safety Mark McQueen returns an interception in Texas A&M's 61-22 victory over UT-Arlington. McQueen's 15-yard return in the second quarter set up a 31-yard field goal from David Hardy, putting the Aggies ahead 17-6 at that point. Texas A&M will play Texas Tech here Saturday at 2:45 in Kyle Field.

## Alborn wants to keep Money in pocket

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Rice Head Coach Ray Alborn is angry at Louisiana State Head Coach Jerry Stovall for "running up the score" and at Rice quarterback Michael Calhoun for not following coaches' instructions.

Calhoun felt Alborn's wrath immediately as the coach Monday replaced him as the starter against the Texas Longhorns Saturday with junior Philip Money. It will be the first time in 14 games that Calhoun has not started.

But Alborn will have to wait at least a year and possibly many years before trying to avenge a loss to LSU. The score of the 52-13 defeat was what particularly galled Alborn, and he told Rice athletic backers:

"I'll get even some day. I resent it very much. He (Stovall) must be worried about his job. I don't believe in doing that to the kids."

Alborn said he had not waited until he got home to point a finger at Stovall, a third-year LSU head coach whose record in two-plus seasons is 12-11-1.

"I told him (after the game) that what goes around comes around," Alborn said. "And it will. I'll be in coaching long enough to get back at him. He engaged in running up the score."

Alborn pointed to LSU's late third-quarter fake punt as proof that Stovall wanted a wide margin of victory. The fake punt and 29-yard run came with the Tigers leading 31-7.

Alborn admitted he wasn't sure LSU's ability.

"LSU is much better than Tulane and, in looking at films (of Texas), it looks like Texas is better than LSU. But I'm not sure. LSU could give Florida all they can handle," he said.

The Tigers play the highly

ranked Gators in Southeast Conference play Saturday.

Rice plays LSU in 1983 at Rice Stadium in a series that is scheduled to 1991. Last season, Rice beat LSU 17-7 for the first time since 1966.

Alborn said the immediate effect of the big loss on his players could not be determined.

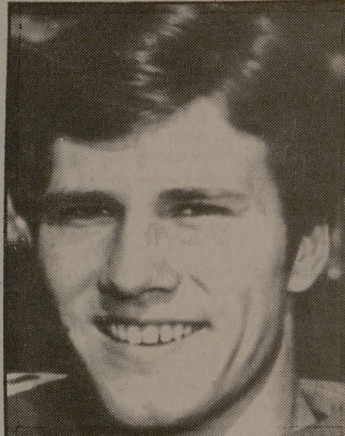
By benching Calhoun, Alborn is making a drastic — and some say desperate — move to turn things around. Calhoun is a much more talented offensive player than Money, but Alborn said he wanted a quarterback who would run the play called and who would stand in the passing pocket instead of

scrambling.

Calhoun, a Wichita Falls senior, accounted for all of the Owls' 22 touchdowns last season, but his consistent improvising finally got Alborn's goat.

"I just think he (Calhoun) has so much natural talent and he just calls on that talent too often," Alborn said. He added he would not be reluctant to insert Calhoun into the Texas game early, but he could not say what the circumstances would have to be.

Money is an inexperienced junior from Edinburg. He is known as a dropback passer who lacks foot speed in contrast to Calhoun.



Philip Money to be Owls' starter at QB against Texas

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