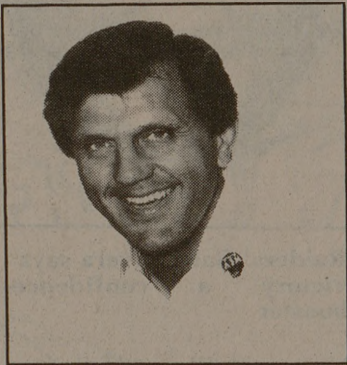


A&M's muffed opportunities costly

Hart's poise on offense key to Raiders' victory

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor



Jackie Sherrill's team must regroup to face Houston

ninth game of the 1980 season, when the Red Raiders shut out the SMU Mustangs, 14-0.

The Aggies' 8-0 halftime lead evaporated during an incredibly long third quarter, when Texas Tech scored 21 points, ran 28 offensive plays and compiled 197 yards. In contrast, Texas A&M scored 0 points, ran six plays and came up with 23 yards.

Hart led his offense, which featured the 132-yard rushing effort of I-back Anthony Hutchison, to third-quarter touchdown drives of 80, 60 and 57 yards.

At halftime, Hart had completed 2 of 6 passes for 8 yards and one interception. By the end of the third quarter, Hart had completed 7 of 13 passes for 57 yards and three touchdowns.

That's the story. There's not much more to tell. Three of Hart's seven passes — for 5, 11 and 3 yards — went for touchdowns in the Aggies' disastrous third quarter.

Sherrill said the Aggies' inability to stop crucial third-and-long situations partly spelled their doom.

"There's no question that in the first half defensively, we

played well enough to put some points on the board," Sherrill said. "In the third quarter ... they (the Red Raiders) went 80 yards on a drive and scored. We took it, had three plays and punted."

"They they took the ball and went downfield and scored. Gary (Kubiak) did a great job hanging in there under pressure. He did an outstanding job running the ball downfield late in the game. He threw it in, but they got the tipped ball and the interception."

Texas Tech's Wayne Dawson intercepted a pass intended for Aggie flanker Jimmie Williams with 45 seconds left, putting an end to Kubiak's last-gasp attempt to lead his team into the end zone.

Kubiak completed 25 of 40 passes for 252 yards and one touchdown to increase his SWC-leading total to 1,002 yards. But Sherrill said the Aggie offense simply didn't take advantage of the opportunities presented to it by the defense in the first half.

For example, Texas A&M free safety Domingo Bryant recovered a Hutchison fumble at the 11:09 mark of the first quarter. Kubiak guided the Aggies to the Texas Tech 18-yard line during the next 5:37, but a fourth-and-one try over right guard by Mike Marshall fell short for no gain.

In the second quarter, Hart faced a third-and-13 at his own 11-yard line. When Aggie tackle Keith Guthrie chased him back toward the goalline, Hart lost the ball and it bounded into the end zone.

Guthrie and tackle Fred Caldwell scrambled in an attempt to recover the ball for a touchdown, but after Caldwell had it in his hands, Guthrie knocked it away — and out of the end zone — for a safety.

When weakside linebacker Jeff Fuller intercepted a Hart



staff photo by David Fisher

After escaping a last-ditch lunge by Aggie defensive tackle Keith Guthrie, Texas Tech quarterback Jim Hart gains seven yards during the first half of the Red Raiders' 24-15 victory Saturday in

Kyle Field. Hart threw three touchdown passes and the Aggies' Guthrie recorded 11 unassisted tackles and four assists during three quarters of play before leaving the game with a muscle spasm in his neck.

pass at with 9:35 left in the second quarter, the Aggies had to settle for a 52-yard field goal

from David Hardy. Through the first four games, Hardy has been successful on 10 of 13 field-goal attempts and has kicked 14 of 14 extra points.

Later in the second quarter, Texas A&M had to settle for another Hardy field goal — this time from 48 yards, after linebacker Bobby Stroger recovered a Texas Tech fumble at the Red Raider 35.

Right cornerback Greg Wil-

liams, who nearly intercepted a Hart pass in A&M territory with 11:43 left in the game, said the Aggies will have to put the defeat behind them with Houston ahead.

"The team will realize that this is conference play and we

can't afford to get down about this game," he said. "The pain inside the players from this loss will give them give them confidence and make them ready to play. We have to really get after it and fly around the ball. The loss should really help us a lot in the long run."

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