

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## Sherrill: Kubiak should be ready for Rice game

by Frank L. Christlieb

Aggie football coach Jackie Sherrill says he's confident that quarterback Gary Kubiak will return to action in Saturday's game against the Rice Owls in Kyle Field.

Kubiak, who sustained a bruised shoulder two weeks ago during Texas A&M's 24-20 loss to Houston, aggravated that injury in the Aggies' 28-23 triumph Saturday over Baylor. After throwing a block on Bear defensive end Charles Benson during the second quarter, Kubiak had to leave the field and didn't return to the game.

The injury occurred during a Kubiak-to-Jimmy Hawkins-to-Jeff Nelson reverse play that resulted in a 25-yard touchdown run.

"Kubiak is fine," Sherrill said in Monday's weekly press conference in Cain Hall. "He says he feels better now than he did Saturday or Sunday."

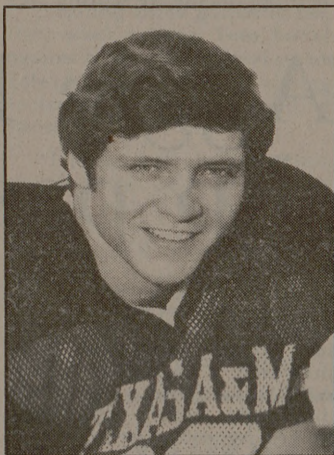
"He threw that block on Benson, but that wasn't really the problem. He didn't get hurt when he hit Benson — he really got hurt when he hit the turf," Sherrill said with a smile.

Sherrill announced that tight end John Kellen, who caught two passes for 32 yards, had been named offensive player of the week and linebacker Jerry Bullitt had been named defensive player of the week. Bullitt, whose 37 total tackles for the season ranks second behind Jeff Fuller's 56, had seven unassisted tackles against the Bears.

Bullitt also recovered a fumble by Bear tailback Allen Rice in the second quarter and came up with an interception of a David Mangrum pass during the third quarter.

Other top players for the Baylor include Johnny Hector, offensive back of the week; freshman David Dowell, special teams player of the week; Jon van Sant, defensive linemen of the week, and Billy Cannon, defensive back of the week.

Hector finished the game with 58 yards rushing on 16 carries, van Sant had 11 unassisted



Tight end John Kellen offensive player of week



Linebacker Jerry Bullitt defensive player of week

tackles and Cannon had eight unassisted tackles.

Kyle Stuard, whose punt under pressure with 21 seconds left in the game resulted in a fumble by the Bears' Gerald McNeil, received Sherrill's praise, as did freshman free safety Domingo Bryant. During Baylor's last-gasp drive in the closing minutes of the game, Bryant recorded three of the Aggies' final six tackles, including a tackle of flanker Bruce Davis for an eight-yard loss and a tackle of Rice for a five-yard loss.

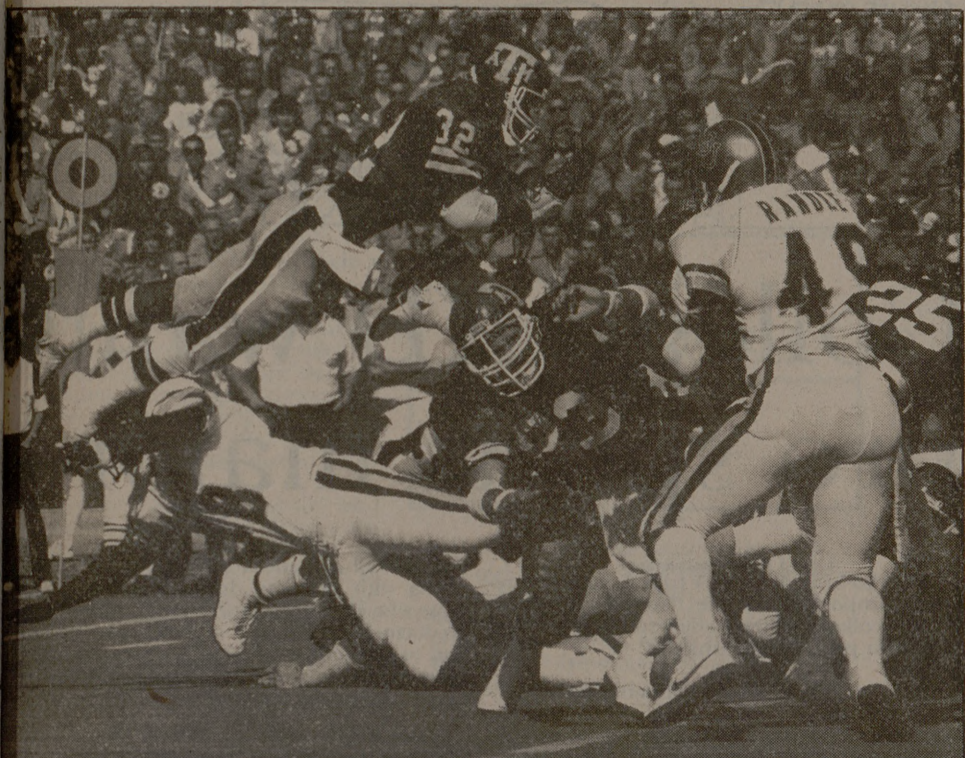
Sherrill said he's been impressed with the play of Aggie cornerbacks Wayne Asberry and Billy Brown during the last two games. Asberry had an end-zone interception against the Bears and Billy Brown tipped away a Mangrum pass intended for Davis with 1:53 left in the game.

Rice, which enters Saturday's game winless at 0-6, will bring several talented players to Kyle Field, Sherrill said.

"The A&M game is one in which Rice usually plays extremely well," Sherrill said. "Doug Johnson came in at quarterback and made some things happen against Texas Tech (in a 23-21 loss Saturday), so I'm sure they'll start him against us."

the top 15 passers in SWC history for a single season. No. 15 on the list is Mike Livingston of SMU, who completed 152 passes in 1967 ... For those who are interested or don't know, the Rice Owls dress out in blue and gray uniforms. Seems there are some Aggie fans who want to be sure they don't want to wear the wrong colors when they go to A&M's games. Those folks had better be sure they don't wear blue jeans to Saturday's game with the Owls ... Jeff Nelson made an impressive debut in Texas A&M's victory over the Bears. Touching the ball for the first time in an Aggie uniform, Nelson scored on a 25-yard reverse around right end to give Texas A&M a 21-3 halftime lead ... It's been said that Rice's Marching Owl Band, the MOB, didn't want to come to Kyle Field this year because of the reception it usually receives from Aggie fans. But it looks as if the MOB and director Ken Dye will come after all. Rumor has it that the MOB will attempt to duplicate the Aggie Band's performance at last year's Rice-Texas A&M game ... The Aggies defeated Rice 51-26 in 1981 as Kubiak completed 18 of 25 passes for 263 yards and six touchdowns. Rice won here in 1980 by a score of 10-6, breaking the Aggies' six-game winning streak over the Owls. Rice upset the Arkansas Razorbacks 17-16 the following week in Little Rock ... Aggie wide receiver Rod Richardson, who returned kickoffs during the first four games of the season, is out indefinitely with an ankle injury. Richardson has averaged 20 yards on his eight returns this season ... The Aggies have lost eight fumbles this season, whereas their opposition has lost 14 fumbles. Entering Saturday's game with Baylor, Texas A&M and its opponents had both turned the ball over seven times on the ground. Baylor's seven lost fumbles set a record for Texas A&M recoveries for a single game. The previous high was six fumble recoveries for the Aggies against Boston College in

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staff photo by John Ryan

This first-half play proves that what goes up must come down — but not without an Aggie first down. Texas A&M tailback Johnny Hector works

against gravity and Baylor defenders in this bone-crunching fourth down play which was good enough to gain the Aggies another set of downs.

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