## -sports

# Mistakes

(continued from page 9) Banged up, Ray? More like down and out.

In fact, the Owls should have foreseen problems when star-ters Doak Slay and Donahue Walker were lost to injuries before the start of the season.

The Owls had lost starting tight end Deron Miller to a rib injury, but he played during the first quarter of the Texas A&M game. In addition, running back Charles Hester missed Saturday's game with a sore knee, running back Antonio Brinkley has been out almost the entire season with knee problems, cor-nerback Alvin Rettig played despite a bruised heel and running back Weldon Meeks sustained torn knee ligaments against Texas Tech. "Everybody's got injuries," Alborn said. "The list goes on

and on, and you have got to have that depth. I'm really dis-appointed for the players." Alborn said mistakes spelled the Owls' defeat. The Aggies empiratized on eix intercentions

capitalized on six interceptions, two of which led to touchdowns.

"Early in the game, we drop-ped two (passes) across the pipe that were catchable," Alborn said. "Obviously, Gary Kubiak did a great job running their offense. Their linemen did a great job great job - they blocked well and opened up some holes. If they just stand in there toe-to-

toe, they're going to be tough to ten burned on." get through

Rice defensive tackle Clenzie Pierson gave the Aggie offense credit for its performance. They scored those two quick

touchdowns on us, and we never could come back," he said. "We made some mistakes that were fatal to us.

"A&M has a good team, too. They had the opportunity to gamble more than we did and they were ready to play. There was a lack of concentration ... so we got burned on a couple of pass plays we shouldn't have got-ing after us or something."

Johnson, who completed 15 of 33 passes for 168 yards while throwing five interceptions, said he didn't expect the Aggies to be well-prepared to play an 0-6 team

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1 At A AL

"We thought it would be hard for them to get ready for us," Johnson said. "We came out and drove the ball well and we thought that would set the tem-

po for the rest of the game. "We had some breaks and some busts. That just seems to be

sure got up and looked to see if

there were any flags on the field," he said. "It feels great to

The offensive performance

was so productive it nearly over-

shadowed the Aggie defense's best outing of the year. But Sherrill and Rice Head Coach

Ray Alborn were quick to point

out the importance of the Texas A&M defense in the outcome of

finally catch one that counts.

# **Defense**

(continued from page 9) receivers with four receptions, and John Kellen, who caught his first official collegiate touchdown.

Kellen, whose apparent touchdown grabs versus Louisiana Tech and Houston were called back because of versus penalties, said he didn't start celebrating his score until he was sure the play was in the record books.

"After I caught it, I dang-

Sherrill said the Aggies were "making things happen" defen-sively and were forcing the Owls to do things on offense that they didn't plan to do. Alborn said: "Getting the

the game.

lead enabled A&M to come at us more with their linebackers, and that helped them do better.

Defensive tackle Ray Childress, who led the Aggies with 10 tackles, including eight unassisted stops, said the defensive performance should help Texas A&M gain confidence going into the toughest part of its sche-

"It feels great to win," he said. "I think the defense played real well. It should help us out in the rest of our games. I know this was one of the best games I've ever played.

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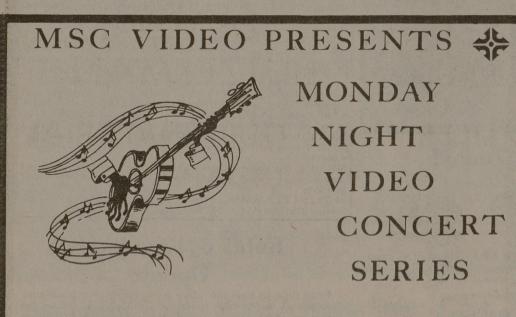
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