

Thanksgiving Classic '82

Losses don't affect Sherrill

by John P. Lopez
 Battalion Staff

Nobody said it was going to be easy.

When Jackie Sherrill opted to take over the reigns of the Texas Aggies instead of staying at national contender Pittsburgh, a lot of Texas A&M supporters started to talk cotton.

But after early-season optimism became Thanksgiving-day reality at the hands of the Texas Longhorns, Sherrill started to talk turkey.

"When you're number one or number two in the nation, people think you're a hell of a coach," Sherrill said after the Aggies had been defeated 53-16 in Austin.

"But when you go through a season like this, you just work harder. I don't have any problems with losing a football game. When the time comes

that I have a problem, I'll do something else. I can always write."

Senior quarterback Gary Kubiak agreed with Sherrill, saying the disappointing season should serve as a motivating factor for the Aggies.

"There's no time to look back," Kubiak said. "We've got a good program, all we need is for it to get back on the right track. Coach Sherrill is a great man and he's meant a lot to me in just one year."

"We had some fine football players and we lost three of them in the first three games. That's a tough road to hold, but Sherrill's a class man and I think he's taking it as a challenge. He's going to build it back up."

Kubiak, slated to play in at least two college all-star games later this year, took more than his share of lumps against the

Longhorns. The Horns sacked Kubiak five times, pressured him numerous other times, and knocked him down after he had already thrown the ball on several other occasions.

That pressure kept Kubiak from having the kind of day necessary for the Aggies to win. Kubiak completed only 10 of 34 passes for 128 yards. That gives the senior from St. Pius High School in Houston a total of 1,948 yards passing for the 1982 season — only 52 yards shy of a 2,000-yard season.

Junior defensive tackle Keith Guthrie said: "We're not going to be down all the time. Sooner or later things are going to turn our way. I'm just glad I have one more year with Coach Sherrill because we can be a great team."

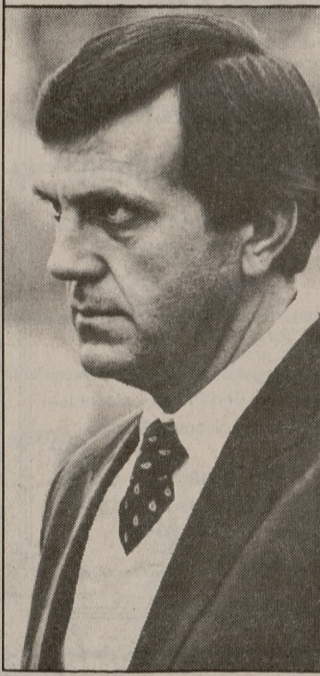
With the Aggies finishing at a not-so-great 5-6, there are obviously some holes to fill before

Texas A&M becomes a perennial football power, but Sherrill said that despite some weaknesses, the groundwork for a good team has already been laid.

"The three inside people (center Matt Darwin and guards Greg Porter and Ken Reeves) are all sophomores," he said. "So we've got some players. We don't have a lot of them, but we've got some. We have the potential to start building a team. The underclassmen should be able to help us in the future."

Some of the underclassmen Sherrill cited as vital for future success are Billy Cannon, Jerry Bullitt, Keith Guthrie, John Kellen, Domingo Bryant and Ray Childress.

"We've got to come up with some defensive people soon—
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Jackie Sherrill, (left) and a group of Texas A&M fans (above) show their interest in the outcome of Thursday's annual clash between Texas and Texas A&M. Sherrill saw his team's record close out at 5-6 with the Aggies' loss to the Longhorns 53-16.

Photos
 by
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The field isn't the only place where teamwork comes in handy. Robert Knowles, a senior from Corpus Christi, and Cindy Brashars, a

senior, also from Corpus, find out that four hands are better than two when shivering through a Longhorn-Aggie football game.



Aggie punt returner Billy Cannon breaks through the Texas defense in the second quarter of the Aggie-Longhorn clash for a 57-yard romp that set up the

Aggies' first score of the game. Texas defender Klint Groves (30) tries in vain to catch the fleet-footed Cannon.

Horns 'spur' Aags, 53-16

by John Wagner
 Battalion Staff

Before the start of the 89th annual Thanksgiving Day clash between the Aggies and the Longhorns, Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill was presented with a black cowboy hat and a pair of silver spurs.

The gifts were given by the University of Texas Spurs, Bevo's official keepers, to welcome Sherrill to UT's Memorial Stadium for the first time.

Some welcome. The Silver Spurs' intentions may have been good, but the Longhorn players had other ideas, donning black hats of their own and playing like the bad guys all afternoon long.

The Longhorns' 53-16 victory in near-freezing, rain-soaked Memorial Stadium did little to make Sherrill and the Aggies feel at home. And despite the gifts, one could easily get the impression that the 'Horns felt Austin just wasn't big enough for the two teams.

No problem, though. The good guys were gone long before

fore sundown. Before the Aggies could skip town, however, the Sun Bowl-bound Longhorns gave the Cadets a lesson in steamrolling — piling up 501 total yards of offense and flattening any Aggie hopes of a salvaged season. Only an Aggie touchdown pass with 47 seconds remaining in the game kept this from being the series' worst rout since 1898.

The Aggies fell faster than Bonfire — fumbling away the ball after what appeared to be a promising game-opening drive, then giving up an 87-yard TD pass from running back Darryl Clark to flanker Herkie Walls on the 'Horns first offensive play.

Those two plays — the fumble and pass — set the tone for the rest of the contest. The Aggies never recovered and the Longhorns never faltered.

At the end of the first quarter, Texas led 27-0 and had amassed 220 yards in total offense on only 18 plays. By the end of the game the 'Horns had scored in every manner possible — touchdown, extra point, field

goal and safety, and convinced the Aggies, as well as themselves, that they were for real.

"After the SMU game," Clark said while standing on the sideline trying to keep warm, "We really got mad at ourselves, because we knew we could beat them (Texas lost to the Mustangs 30-17). We just decided then we were going to win the rest of our games."

Longhorn defensive end Kiki DeAyala agreed. "We've improved a lot as a team since the SMU game," DeAyala said. "We just caught A&M at a time when they were down."

"And we're playing with a lot of confidence right now. We're not the kind of defense that plays 1-2-3 (and make the other team) punt every time, but we come up with the big plays and we hang tough when we have to," DeAyala said.

"If we keep playing good ball and improving, hopefully we'll finish the season in the top 10." Most of the Longhorns agreed the pass play from Clark

to Walls helped permanently douse the Aggies' enthusiasm. After Johnny Hector fumbled the ball on the tail end of a 14-yard run, the Longhorns reached in their black hats and pulled out the game-breaking touchdown.

The play began as a standard running play, with Texas quarterback Robert Brewer pitching the ball to Clark, who was sweeping around right end.

Clark brought the ball up above his head and heaved it downfield to the speeding Walls, who made an over-the-shoulder catch at the Aggies' 48-yard line. The senior track man-turned footballer then ran untouched into the end zone for the 'Horns' first score. Only 3:21 had ticked off the clock since the opening kickoff.

Walls said the play was a natural for the Longhorns' game plan.

"I knew that play (the pass) was going to work," Walls said. "A&M was just not prepared for it. I had to wait on the pass a
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University of Texas mascot Bevo eyes the Aggie-Longhorn clash with

a somewhat more subdued look than the fans that attended the game.