

The Battalion Sports

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Varsity outlasts alumni team, 24-7

Transfers Mazur, Harris lead Varsity

by Scott Griffin

Battalion Staff

While it was hardly a thriller, the Varsity's 24-7 victory in the second annual varsity-alumni game had some rather pleasant surprises.

The Twelfth Man kickoff team actually did a decent job, the passing game worked relatively well and people got a chance to see three transfer players who may prove vital to the Aggies this fall.

Rich Siler, Joey Harris and John Mazur all looked good.

Mazur, a quarterback and senior transfer from the University of Southern California, completed nine of 15 passes for 103 yards and one touchdown.

Harris, a sophomore running back from Wharton Junior College, ran well against an hard-hitting defense and wound up with 60 yards on nine carries and one pass reception for 14 yards.

Siler, a tight end transfer from the University of Illinois,

caught three passes for 33 yards, including one for a touchdown.

At first, however, it looked like the Alumni who might make a good showing.

Quarterback Ed Hargett led the Alumni on a 16-play, 60-yard drive in which he connected on six of eight passes, including a five-yard scoring toss to tight end Larry Edmondson. With Tony Franklin's conversion, the Alums had an early 7-0 lead.

The Varsity was held scoreless in the first quarter.

Unfortunately, though, the Alums could not do much better. The touchdown was the only score all afternoon for the Alumni, who could do little more offensively from that point on.

Excluding the first half, the Varsity had a somewhat balanced attack.

Harris led all ground gainers with his 60-yard performance, and Shea Walker caught four passes for 53 yards to lead all receivers.

For the Alumni, George Woodard led the running attack with 32 yards on nine carries. Wide receiver Doug Teague led the receivers with three catches for 35 yards.

Siler summed up the game when he said: "The whole thing was unorganized, especially the (alumni) defense. But I guess you can't blame them."

Most of the game was sluggish — both teams strung together some good drives during the game, but failed to turn them into points.

After the game, Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said he knows more about the team at this point than he did this time last year.

Sherrill said he was especially pleased with the play of the offensive line, a weakness of last year's team.

Sherrill also said he was impressed with the coverage of the Twelfth Man kickoff team, which made its debut in the game. The group held the alumni to 28 yards on two returns.

However, Sherrill added that he is still looking for a break-away running back.

The Varsity wound up with 297 yards total offense to 180 yards for the former students. The Alums had only 77 yards rushing — the Varsity had 170 yards on the ground.

AGGIE FACTS: Plans are underway for the Twelfth Man kickoff team to travel to Mexico City to play the University of Mexico in a game in August. Sherrill said the game would be a reward for the team's work. The game must first be approved by the NCAA, though, because of its pre-season date ... Wide-receiver Don Jones will be in a knee cast for six weeks. Jones tore a ligament in practice on Thursday ... Aggie fans got a look at a new defense that will used this fall. The defense is a 3-4 alignment with three linemen and four linebackers. The alignment will be used to take advantage of the wealth of linebackers on the team, Sherrill said.



staff photo by David Fisher

Aggie varsity quarterback John Mazur prepares to deliver a pass in Saturday's

Texas A&M varsity-alumni spring game. The Varsity defeated the Alums 24-7.

Alums 'fool a few people' just by staying alive

by Joe Tindel Jr.

Battalion Staff

Aggie fans got a first look at the 1983 version of Texas A&M's football team in Saturday's Varsity-Alumni game.

It wasn't much to talk about — not this early in spring practice.

Of course, one could discuss possibilities of a John Mazur-led offense, or make a bet that transfer Joey Harris might, with time, become one of the best backs to wear Aggie maroon.

But it's too early. The entertainment came from the guys who've already left their marks in Aggieland. Certainly they fooled a few doubters who thought they couldn't stand up with the youngsters. After all, the alumni scored the first points of the game, and, using mass substitution tactics, held on long enough to keep from being

blown out.

They also got a chance to see what their alma mater has potential to do next season, and they had a blast doing it.

"We enjoyed it," said Warren Trahan, a defensive tackle who played on Texas A&M's nationally-ranked defense of the mid-70s. "But we can't play but four or five plays in a row before we're sucking gas. This is the best thing that ever happened to me, and I'm going to be coming back as much as I can."

"What's good is when the game's over with, everybody calls us and says, 'Well, what do y'all think, how good're they going to be?'"

Much of the levity from the alumni after the game centered around lack of physical conditioning. Former offensive guard Kent Adams said jokingly that mental preparedness was a must for the alumni.

"We had to (be prepared)," Adams said. "It was kind of survival. We either get up or be killed."

And Alum quarterback David Beal, who's now an assistant coach for the Aggies, spoke of some concern about his health.

"There were a few of them (varsity players) that said before the game they'd like to take a shot at me, and I had my eyes open all the time looking for one of them to take a shot at me."

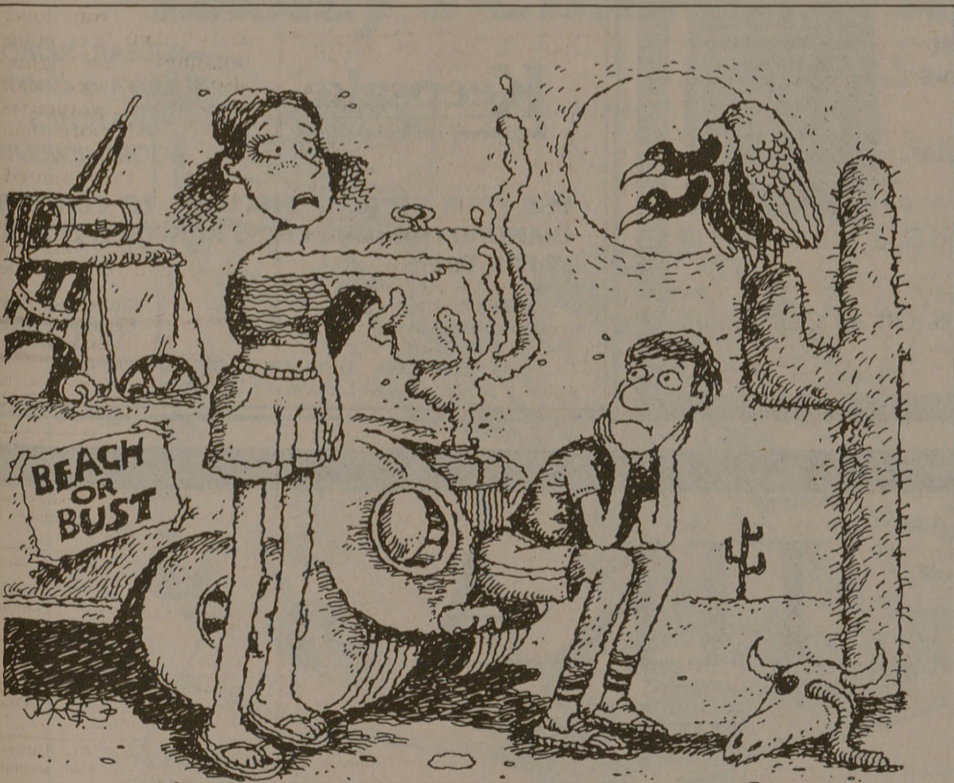
A lot of varsity players didn't play in Saturday's game either because they are involved with baseball, track or nursing injuries. But the consensus from the alumni was that there's hope for the Aggies.

Here's how a few of the alums critiqued the Aggies:

Beal — "I thought they looked pretty good at times. At other times, they didn't. I think

we were doing some things on defense that were not really what we were suppose to be doing. But I was impressed with the running of Joey Harris, and I was impressed with the way the line blocked."

Edd Hargett, quarterback — "You can't tell anything about today (Saturday). They're not doing any stunts or anything. They're standing in there just playing straight-up basic defense. They're very aggressive. I didn't think they were nearly as aggressive last spring as they were this year."



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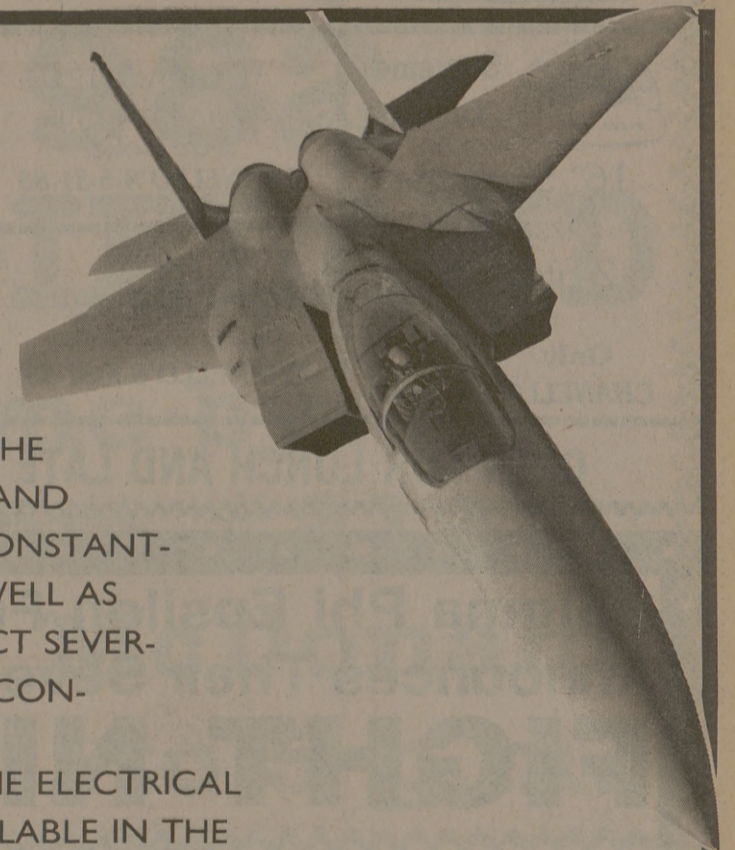
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