Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

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Aggies follow Smith's toe to 38-0 victory

Lacewell: Smith should thank ASU for record

by Joe Tindel Jr.

Ettalion Staff Arkansas State coach Larry acewell, looking tired and ready go home, analyzed the Aggieslians game as if it were a matchp between two teams of equal

He refused to give all the credit Texas A&M for the Aggies' 38-0 victory. After all, his team did fumble the ball away four times, and they did manage to do someng illegal on many of the good lays they made

What did the Indians do well? "Made 'em kick a lot of field bals," Lacewell said. "That's the ily thing I can think of that we

"I don't know if it was that we photo by Donn Friedm rs. We probably should have been beaten a lot worse than we political Little is an

Arkansas State's wishbone roved to be a little slippery at mes, but the all but outmoded fense always sputtered. And it sed up a lot of the clock, as the lians edged the Aggies in time possession, 30:12 to 29:48. But that's no good when you're

Yet a coach always thinks his nse can work, and Lacewell aid the execution of his offense one of the main contributors he loss.

"When you're down, the way vere executing, I don't care if e'd been in the Green Bay Pack-sweep," Lacewell said. "We uldn't have made anything. Evtime we completed a pass, we ad a holding penalty. Every time e did anything good, we'd turn ght around and fumble.

'I honestly don't think we played very well. Our quarterback (Tim Langford), I don't think, has played this badly all season. And I'd like to think them having two weeks to prepare for us was an advantage for Texas A&M.'

beginning for the Indians, as they fumbled the ball away to the Aggies with only 56 seconds elapsed in the game. Langford bobbled the snap from center and Aggie linebacker Jerry Bullitt pounced on the loose ball.

It took the Aggies only one play to take the lead. Quarterback John Mazur found Jimmie Williams in the endzone by air, 32 yards away. Things slowed down a bit for the Aggie offense during the rest of the evening, but play became even slower for the Indians' offense.

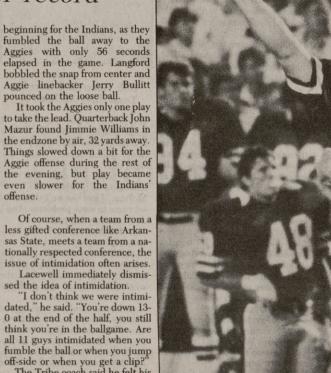
Of course, when a team from a less gifted conference like Arkansas State, meets a team from a nationally respected conference, the well. They could have been issue of intimidation often arises. Lacewell immediately dismis-

played bad or that Texas A&M "I don't think we were intimi-played awfully well. I know we ad a lot of penalties and turnov-0 at the end of the half, you still think you're in the ballgame. Are all 11 guys intimidated when you fumble the ball or when you jump off-side or when you get a clip?" The Tribe coach said he felt his team was still in the game as late as when the Aggies had a 16-0 lead midway through the third quarter. But the point of no return came when Texas A&M's Billy Cannon returned a Stacy Gore punt 60 yards for the touchdown that lifted the Aggies to a 22-0 lead with 5:18 remaining in the third quarter

"I think it (punt return) did, because we'd battled so hard defensively trying to just get a little bit of field position," Lacewell said. "The game was over, for all practical purposes." The Indians' offense kept on

sputtering until 16 Aggie points and a little more than a quarter later - the end of the game.

Arkansas State managed 182 yards total offense, compared to Texas A&M's 396. Only 35 of the Tribe's total yardage came through the air. Indian back Duane Pittman led all rushers with 97 yards on 20 carries, and dvantage for Texas A&M." was the most productive player on Things didn't go well from the Arkansas State offense.



staff photo by Dean Saito

Aggie holder Kyle Stuard celebrates Alan Smith's 5th of 6 field goals.

PACKERS 27, RAMS 24 - At

Milwaukee, the Packers capital-ized on a fumble by Los Angeles

rookie back Eric Dickerson to set

up Jan Stenerud's 36-yard field

goal with one second left. Stener-

ud's winning kick came after Dick-

selected in the draft - fumbled

with 29 seconds remaining as the

Rams were attempting to run out the regulation clock.

ceptions for scores to power the

resurgent 49ers over the winless

Cardinals. The victory was the

the second player

Youthful defense, backs gain confidence in win

by John P. Lopez

Bttalion Staff The Texas A&M football team was full of surprises Saturday in its 38-0 win over Arkansas State.

No, the score didn't raise many eyebrows at Kyle Field — the Aggies were heavily favored over the Division II Indians.

But what did turn out to be a pleasant surprise for Texas A&M was impressive play by newcom-ers in the Aggie backfield, defensive secondary and linebacking positions.

Freshman running back Rod Bernstine, of Bryan, led the way on offense as he slashed his way for 76 yards on 12 carries. But Jimmie Hawkins, George Smith and freshman Roger Vick also contributed to Texas A&M's 227 yards on the ground.

Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill said the solid performance by the Aggie backs should prove to be a confidence builder for his team.

'I wasn't happy with the overall performance of the offense," Sher-rill said. "but I thought our backs and offensive line gained some confidence tonight.

George Smith played well he had a 30-yard run called back Roger Vick played well and Bernstine had a good game. He's a good football player." Bernstine said he has confi-

dence in Texas A&M's running attack and expects the balanced offense to continue throughout the season.

"I think we all are more confi-dent in ourselves," he said. "I feel pretty good about my performgive me confidence. And if next week another back gets the start, then I'll be there trying to help him out. I think our backfield is

good and will get better.' Defensively, Sherrill said that signs of improvement over last season's team are already starting to surface.

"I felt like our 3-4 (new Aggie Arkansas State's wishbone very well," Sherrill said. "Our outside ally televise the contest.

people — the linebackers and secondary people — are fast and were getting to the ball well tonight."

Aggie linebacker Mike Ashley, who had seven tackles and recovered a fumble, agreed with Sherrill.

"The name of the game is execu-tion and speed," he said. "And I think we have a lot of speed at linebacker and in the secondary. This game was definitely a character builder for the whole team. True.

The Texas A&M defensive team looked good in spots, but broke down several times two weeks ago in its 19-17 loss to California. Saturday, however, the Aggies re-corded their first shutout since 1975 and seemed to surprise themselves with the way they easily handled Arkansas State's wishbone. The Indians only crosthe 50-yard-line once sed

Saturday. But the biggest surprise for the Aggies was the extroardinary performance by kicker Alan Smith. Smith hit six of seven field goals to tie the NCAA record and set a new Southwest Conference record for number of field goals in a single

Ironically, the old record of five 3-pointers in a game was held by former Texas A&M kicker Tony Franklin. Smith also said his per-formance boosted his confidence. "It really feels good (to have the

record)," Smith said. "I had a down week against California and I'm glad to bounce back the way I did tonight with a good game. "I'm just glad coach Sherrill

gave me the chance to kick it (sixth ance. When I got the start, every-body helped me out and tried to tion of kickers here and I just hope I can keep it up." Texas A&M evened its season

record to 1-1 with the victory over the Indians.

The Aggies will host a considerably tougher opponent next week in Oklahoma State. The Cowboys boast a possible Heisman trophy candidate in running back Ernest Anderson.

Saints slip by Bears; Cowboys muscle past NY

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to the cadets

ing Center!

United Press International A couple of potential Hall of famers squared off in New rleans Sunday to stage a private Mardi Gras.

The left arm of Saints' quarterwer the legs — and right arm — of Chicago halfback Walter Payton as Morten Andersen kicked a 41-yard field goal with 4:03 left in ertime to lift New Orleans to a 34-31 victory

Payton threw two option touch-own passes to rookie Willie Gault nd rushed for 161 yards on 28 rries, including a 49-yard TD un. Gault also caught an 8-yard coring pass from Jim McMahon go with his receptions of 56 and yards from Payton.

Stabler completed 25-of-39 ses for 271 yards and eneered the drive that led to

Andersen's game-winner. The Bears sent the game into overtime on a 21-yard pass from Payton to Gault with 1:40 left in regulation. Cornerback Johnnie Poe had given the Saints a lead with a 31-yard interception re-

turn Stabler forged a 14-point lead with two third-period TD tosses, but the Bears tied the score 24-24 on a 49-yard Payton run and one of Payton's option passes to Gault. Elsewhere Sunday, Washing-ton beat Kansas City 27-12, Green Bay edged the Los Angeles Rams 27-24, San Francisco downed St. Louis 42-27, Atlanta topped De-troit 30-14, Buffalo defeated Baltimore 28-23, New England upset the New York Jets 23-13, Pittsburgh whipped Houston 40-28, Dallas beat the New York Giants 28-13. Seattle outlasted San Diego

34-31, Philadelphia nipped Denver 10-7 and Minnesota topped Tampa Bay 19-16 in overtime.

COWBOYS 28, GIANTS 13-At Irving, a 68-yard interception return by Dextor Clinkscale and a 10-yard fumble return by Michael Downs, both going for touchdowns in a fourth-quarter span of 12 seconds, sealed the Cowboys' triumph as Dallas emerged the only undefeated club in the NFC.

REDSKINS 27, CHIEFS 12 — At Washington, Joe Theismann

passed for two second-half TDs and the Redskins' defense limited Kansas City to just 34 total yards over the final two quarters. The Redskins, 2-1, trailed 12-0 at half-time as the Chiefs, 1-2, got four Nick Lowery field goals, including a 58-yarder

49'ERS 42, CARDINALS 27-At St. Louis, Joe Montana passed for three TDs and Dwight Hicks and Tim Collier returned inter-

erson

49ers' fifth in a row on the road over two seasons and gave San Francisco 90 points in its last two FALCONS 30, LIONS 14 - At

Pontiac, Mich., Steve Bartkowski threw three TD passes, two to Alfred Jackson, and William Andrews set a club record with 32 rushing attempts to lead Atlanta.

BILLS 28, COLTS 23 - At Orchard Park, N.Y., Joe Ferguson threw three scoring passes, two to running back Joe Cribbs, and Cribbs also scored on a 1-yard run to power Buffalo over the penalty-plagued Colts.

PATRIOTS 28, JETS 13 - At Foxboro, Mass., Tony Collins set one club record and tied another,

scoring on runs of 39, 7 and 23 yards to trigger New England's upset. Collins rushed for 212 vards on 23 carries, breaking the Patriots' record of 208 yards set in 1966 by Jim Nance.

SEAHAWKS 34, CHARGERS winning kick. - At Seattle, Steve Largent 31

caught touchdown passes of 41 and 5 yards from Jim Zorn and rookie Curt Warner rushed for 109 yards to pace Seattle's ballcontrol offense. The Seahawks withstood a late Chargers' rally, behind three fourth-quarter touchdown passes from Dan Fouts, including a 27-yard strike to tight end Eric Sievers to make it 34-31 with 4:16 left.

EAGLES 10, BRONCOS 7 At Denver, Tony Franklin kicked a 43-yard field goal with 56 seconds remaining to lift the Eagles. The Broncos tied the game with 1:54 left when rookie John Elway threw a 33-yard touchdown pass up the middle to running back Rick Parros, but Philadelphia responded by driving 55 yards to set up Franklin's game-

VIKINGS 19, BUCCANEERS 16 - At Tampa, Fla., Benny Ricardo kicked four field goals, including a

game-saving 38-yarder and a game-winning 42-yarder 9:27 into overtime, to lift the Vikings.

• OILERS LOSE/page12

On day of upsets, the Horns have what it takes

The Texas Longhorns had two things going for them in their 20-7 victory over Auburn Saturday,

• SWC ROUNDUP/page 12 • HIGH SCHOOLS/page 12

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proving once again that cliches are cliches because they usually work. It's the UT Code of Success. Learn it, and you will win. And best of all, there are only two parts.

1) Depth wins. 2) Defense wins.

On a day when preseason No. I's fell like crystal balls dropped from the Sears Tower, the Longhorns looked extremely capable of taking over the top spot. In addition to Auburn, picked by Playboy to win the mythical na- reads like a preseason all-tional championship, two other Southwest Conference team.

No. 1's bit the Astroturf. Michigan (Sports Illustrated) lost to Washington, 25-24, and Notre Dame (The Sporting News) fell to Michigan State, 28-23.

But the Horns had no such problems Saturday. They jumped on the Tigers from the start, led 20-0 at the half, and completely dominated the line of scrimmage on both offense and defense.

We may have shocked them a little," Texas coach Fred Akers said. "They weren't able to recov-er until the fourth quarter."

If anyone should be shocked, it's the people back in Austin.

Putting it bluntly, there's no way the Longhorns should be win-ning football games. At least not now. Check the injury report. It



Quarterback Todd Dodge — injured. Flanker Ronnie Mullins — injured. Tight end Bobby Micho - injured. Linebacker Jeff Leiding — injured. It's a wonder UT coach Fred Akers could find 22 players to send out against the fourth-ranked Tigers, let alone 22 that could dominate.

But that's Point No. 1. Depth the Longhorns have it in abundance. Before the season started, a popular joke among sports writers was to say the second best team in the conference would be sitting on the Longhorn bench.

So far, nobody - not SMU, not

Arkansas, not Texas A&M — has proven that assumption wrong.

Still, those injuries helped change folks' minds a little. Maybe the Longhorns wouldn't be that good. After all, even Texas would have trouble replacing that many key players. Oddsmakers made the Tigers 2½-point favorites. In The Battalion's Friday football forecast, four of the six "pickers' chose Auburn. Even the sports editor of the Daily Texan, UT's student newspaper, picked Au-burn in that paper's forecast.

But that's all theory. The truth is Texas is knee-pad deep in talent. Injuries won't hurt, because the second-teamers are just as good as the first. Take quarterback, for example. The Great UT Quarterback

Scramble was decided, or not de-cided, in typical Longhorn fashion. Got three quarterbacks who can play? Can't decide on any one? No problem. Use 'em all!

That's just what Akers did. Although junior Rob Moerschell started the game, both Rick McIvor and Danny Akers played. In fact, Moerschell and McIvor took turns leading the Horns to scores on four of UT's first six posessions.

It was easy after that. The only thing Dodge's injury did was keep one less QB out of the rotation. It could get awfully confusing with four quarterbacks running the show.

Then again, maybe not. The Horns used 10 different running backs against the Tigers. Talk about depth.

That brings us to Point No. 2. defense. No surprise here. Eight returning starters and mega-talent stopped the Tigers' vaunted wishbone attack from going anywhere.

Auburn's bone picked up only 130 yards, prompting Tiger running back Bo Jackson to say he felt like he had "been stampeded by a herd of cows." Close enough. The

Horns held the Tigers to 51 yards of total offense and two first downs in the first half. Auburn didn't cross its own 46-yard line until the third period, and didn't score until 1 minute, 33 seconds before the end of the game.

"I don't know if we were scared or what," said Auburn coach Pat Dye. "If we could have sustained the ball any at all in the first half we could have moved the football on Texas. But the offense wasn't out there long enough to break a sweat.

Dye called the first half an "embarrassment." But it was Akers who said it best.

"It was our day, folks. It was our day," he said.

Not only that, it could the Longhorns' year, if they can remem-ber those two points. Depth and defense. They work every time.