

Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

Monday, October 3, 1983/The Battalion/Page 13

Tech field goal defeats no-offense Aggies, 3-0

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M football team is frustrated.

The Aggies are frustrated because if it's not one thing keeping them from whipping opponents, it's another.

• A&M TENNIS/page 15

• SWC ROUNDUP/page 15

• HIGH SCHOOLS/page 15

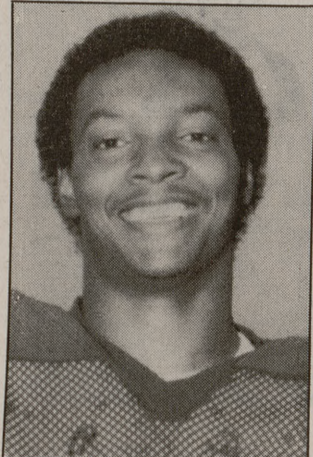
In their first two games of the year, the Aggies rolled up 55 points offensively, but the defense played in spurts and the Aggies went 1-1.

Then, in their third game of the year against Oklahoma State, the Aggie offense slipped and again, Texas A&M lost. But A&M coach Jackie Sherrill said he saw signs of improvement defensively against the Cowboys and expected a strong performance from the Aggie defense in A&M's conference opener against Texas Tech Saturday.

The Aggies' defense didn't let Sherrill down. A&M turned in what was perhaps its finest defensive performance in years against the Red Raiders. The Aggies kept constant pressure on Tech quarterback Jim Hart, forcing eight Raider punts and three Tech fumbles. They also made several key plays, including a goal-line stand.



Texas Tech's Ricky Gann kicked winning field goal



Sherrill said Kevin Murray may start at QB Saturday

There was just one problem. Every time the defense gave the ball to the offense, the Aggies imitated a chorus line — 1-2-3-kick.

And that was the main reason the Aggies lost, 3-0, on a field goal by Tech's Ricky Gann.

It wasn't that the Aggie running game was bad, and it wasn't that the passing game was bad — they were both terrible. On the ground, A&M managed a measly 85 yards on 36 carries against a Tech defensive line that was outweighed by 20 pounds per man.

So with a scrappy Tech de-

fense holding back Aggie runners, A&M went to the air, but the Aggies should've stayed on the ground. In 17 attempts, they could only manage 6 completions and 35 yards.

The offense's poor performance was a disappointment to Sherrill. "We had plenty of opportunities," Sherrill said. "We just couldn't move the ball at times."

"We had some big plays, but they were all called back because of penalties. We had a lot of mental errors."

What turned out to be the biggest mental error by the Aggie

offense was a motion penalty followed by a sack in the second quarter.

A&M started at its own 20-yard line and moved the ball into Red Raider territory. The Aggies had a third and four from Tech's 31-yard line, well within kicker Alan Smith's range, but the motion penalty moved the ball back five yards and a blitz by Tech trapped quarterback John Mazur at the 50-yard line.

After that drive, A&M only broke into Red Raider territory once more when the Aggies drove to the 43-yard line where they were forced to punt.

"It's frustrating," Mazur said. "They did everything we expected them to do, but we couldn't move the ball like we wanted."

Something was missing from the A&M offensive attack all night, so Sherrill — as he did against Oklahoma State — inserted freshman quarterback Kevin Murray.

"Obviously, we were having trouble," Sherrill said. "So we put Kevin in there to try and get some spark into the team. And he moved the ball, but the penalties stopped us."

Sherrill said after the game that he'll have to see the game films before making a decision on whether Mazur or Murray will get the start against Houston Saturday.

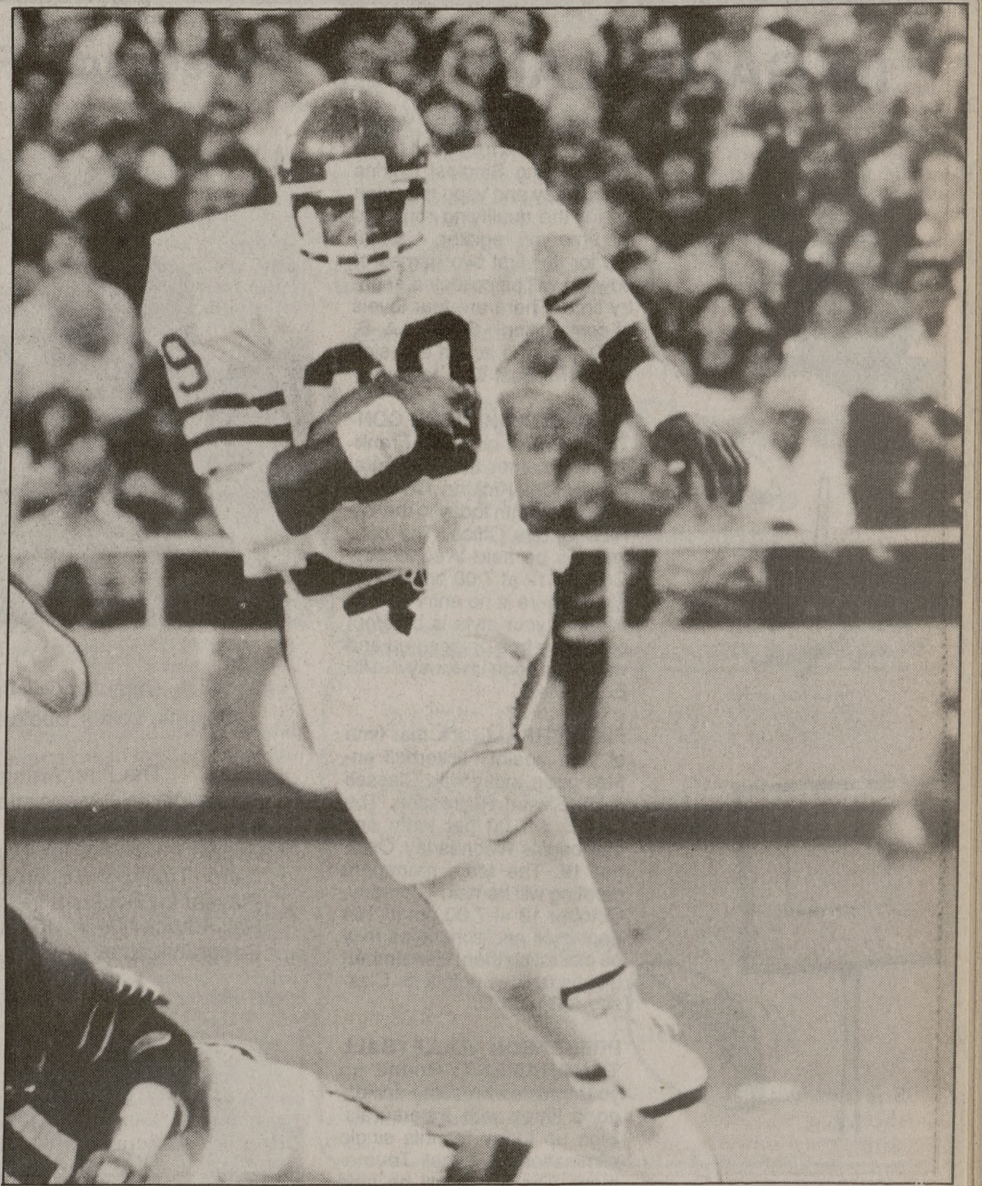


photo by John Ryan

Texas A&M freshman running back Rod Bernstine carries the ball

against Tech Saturday. The Aggies' running game gained only 85 yards.

Texas' teams Cowboys stay undefeated with 37-24 win over Vikes

United Press International
MINNEAPOLIS — Ron Fellows scored on a 58-yard interception return for the go-ahead touchdown and Tony Dorsett rushed for 141 yards to lead the unbeaten Dallas Cowboys to a 37-24 victory Sunday over the Minnesota Vikings.

The Cowboys are 5-0, their best start since an 8-0 beginning in the 1977 Super Bowl championship season.

Danny White completed 22 of 40 passes for 213 yards and an 11-yard TD pass to Drew Pearson in the fourth quarter that sealed the victory. Fellows' interception was his second of the game and opened a 27-24 Dallas lead with 2:14 left in the third quarter.

The Vikings, 3-2, hurt themselves in the drive with two penalties for a total 20-yard loss. Safety John Turner's second interception of White had set up Minnesota at their own 47.

The Vikings opened a 24-13 halftime lead. In the third quarter, Rod Hill returned a

punt 37 yards to put the Cowboys at the Minnesota 47. White hit four of five passes in the ensuing march to reach the Vikings 5, setting up Ron Spring's 5-yard touchdown run to close Minnesota's lead to 24-20.

Fellows intercepted a pass intended for Sam McCullum, racing 58 yards for the score. It was his second touchdown in as many games after scoring last week against New Orleans on a 62-yard blocked kick return.

In the first quarter, Turner intercepted White at the Minnesota 29 and returned the ball 11 yards. Viking quarterback Steve Dils hit Darrin Nelson on a 17-yard pass and then found Sammy White wide open up the middle for a 43-yard touchdown with 7:17 left in the quarter.

Dils hit Nelson on a short pass in the second quarter that the 1982 No. 1 draft choice turned into a 13-yard gain. Dils then found White open on the same pattern, connecting for a 36-yard TD to open a 14-3 lead.

After a 41-yard field goal by Minnesota's Benny Ricardo, tying a club record for 10 consecutive kicks, Dallas marched 62-yards to the Vikings' 2 aided by a 23-yard run by Dorsett.

Danny White then ran into the end zone to pull the Cowboys within 17-10 with 2:31 left in the quarter.

A 59-yard punt by Greg Coleman backed Dallas up to their 3-yard line. After a 5-yard run by Springs and no gain by Dorsett, White fumbled a snap and defensive end Doug Martin recovered at the Dallas 5. Ted Brown then plowed into the end zone to give Minnesota a 24-10 lead.

Dallas's Rafael Septien capped a 46-yard drive in the first quarter with a 45-yard field goal but missed a 53-yard attempt in the second period that was wide to the right, breaking a string of eight straight field goals.

Septien redeemed himself with a 45-yard field goal as time ran out in the first half to pull Dallas to within 24-13 at halftime.

NASL championship game

Tulsa wins Soccer Bowl '83

United Press International
VANCOUVER — The Tulsa Roughnecks gained more than the supremacy of North American professional soccer with their 2-0 win over the Toronto Blizzard in Soccer Bowl '83 — the unheralded Oklahoma franchise may have ensured its own survival.

"This couldn't have come at a more opportune time for us," Tulsa general manager Alex Skotarek said Saturday amidst the locker room bedlam. "It's very difficult to say what it means at this point, but I think it will mean a future for our team."

The Roughnecks began the 1983 North American Soccer League season ignominiously, dropping eight of their first 10 games. They rebounded spectacularly, however, winning 15 of

"I think it would be a great tragedy if this franchise ever folded because there's a great group of supporters in Tulsa." — Roughneck coach Terry Hennessey

their remaining 20 games in the regular season.

"I think it would be a great tragedy if this franchise ever folded because there's a great group of supporters in Tulsa," coach Terry Hennessey said.

The 1983 champions, formerly known as the San Antonio Spurs and Team Hawaii prior to starting in Tulsa in 1978, averaged about 11,000 fans at Skelly Stadium this season and kept losses to about \$400,000.

Carl Moore, the team's majority owner, said the club hoped to approve a stock issue by Oct.

15 in which 100-share blocks of stock would be offered to the public at \$2 a share.

Tulsa striker Ron Futcher, the center of controversy and scorer of the club's second goal, said the victory had "given soccer a good boost in Tulsa. I think just getting here is an unbelievable thing for Tulsa. Winning it was icing on the cake."

Both Tulsa goals came after a scoreless first half.

Njego Pesa scored on an indirect free kick from 19 yards out at 55:36 to give the Rough-

necks a 1-0 lead. Barry Wallace nudged the ball to teammate Iraj Danaifraid, who teed it up for Pesa's blast past the Blizzard defensive wall and through the legs of charging Toronto goalkeeper Jan Moller.

"The shot came from 19 yards out and the goalie has to expect a shot," said Pesa, who was named Player of the Game. "This was the most important game of my career. It was a player's dream."

The Roughnecks stretched their advantage to 2-0 at 61:37 on Futcher's sixth goal in six playoff games. The play began on a corner kick by Wallace to teammate Terry Moore, who headed the ball over the Toronto defense to Futcher, who tapped it in from two yards out.

Late TD pass gives Steelers 17-10 victory over Oilers

United Press International
PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers, finding Houston tougher the second time around, used a fourth-quarter touchdown bomb and a field goal to defeat the Oilers 17-10 in an AFC Central Division game Sunday.

The Steelers, 3-2 after snapping a two-game home losing streak, beat the 0-5 Oilers 48-28 at Houston two weeks ago.

"The second time is always the tougher of the two," Pittsburgh Coach Chuck Noll said. "It certainly was this time. It was tougher all the way around."

Cliff Stoudt connected with Walter Abercrombie on a 51-yard touchdown pass and Gary Anderson kicked an 18-yard field goal to erase Houston's 10-7 fourth-quarter lead.

Stoudt's pass to Abercrombie ruined a great defensive effort by Houston. On a 2nd-and-10 from Pittsburgh's 49, the Oilers forced Stoudt out of the pocket, but he broke free of three defenders along the sideline and flipped a pass to Abercrom-



RB Earl Campbell scored Oilers' only touchdown

bie. The second-year man from Baylor caught the ball near the Houston 30 and raced down the sidelines to put Pittsburgh ahead 14-10, with 4:08 gone in the fourth quarter.

"It was a play-action pass and they had the weak safety blitz on," Stoudt said. "Walter cut to the middle. When something like that happens, you just have to hope the receivers find an open lane. Walter did

what he was supposed to do, and that's good.

"This kind of play is not something you write down in a playbook. You just have to react."

Pittsburgh got a chance to add to its lead when cornerback Mel Blount came up with the third interception of Gifford Neilson on Houston's next series.

The Steelers took over on the Houston 30. In five plays, they moved to the Houston 1, but fell short on three chances to cross the goal line and Anderson came in to kick his 18-yarder with 4:50 left to play.

Florian Kempf kicked a 34-yard field goal for Houston just before halftime, and the Oilers took their 10-7 lead 5:32 into the third quarter on a 1-yard touchdown burst by Earl Campbell.

"We played well and we played hard," Houston Coach Ed Biles said. "They are a little bit ahead of us but we're closing the gap. For a period of two weeks, our defense has showed the improvement we've asked of them."

United Press International
Joe Theismann outdueled Jim Plunkett in an offensive shootout Sunday, leading the Washington Redskins to a 37-35 victory over the previously unbeaten Los Angeles Raiders.

Theismann passed for a career-high 417 yards and three touchdowns, including a 6-yard game-winning TD toss to Joe Washington with 33 seconds left. Theismann also passed 5 yards to Washington and 11 yards to Charlie Brown. John Riggins ramed 2 yards for a touchdown and Mark Moseley kicked field goals from 28, 29, and 34 yards for the Redskins, 4-1.

The Redskins trailed 35-20 midway through the fourth quarter before Theismann got hot. Theismann, who completed 23-of-29 passes, hit Brown in the end zone to cut the LA lead to 35-27 with 6:15 remaining.

Redskins' safety Greg Williams recovered an onside kick at the LA 32 and Moseley kicked his third field goal with 4:28 left. The Redskins forced a punt with two minutes remaining and got the ball back at their 31. Theismann hit Brown on successive plays for 9, 26, and 28 yards for a first down at the LA 6 with 43 seconds left.

Theismann found Washington in the middle of the end zone

on second down for the winning score.

SAINTS 17, DOLPHINS 7 — Defensive end Reggie Lewis raced 27 yards with an interception return and the Saints defense dominated mistake-prone Miami. Ken Stabler hit Tyrone Young with a 16-yard touchdown pass, the first pro reception for the rookie wide receiver.

BEARS 31, BRONCOS 14 — Rookie Willie Gault caught two touchdown passes — one each from Jim McMahon and Vince Evans — and the Chicago defense shut down Denver in the first half to lead the Bears. Gault, who has now caught six touchdowns in five games, caught a 15-yard TD pass from McMahon to cap a 14-point first quarter for the Bears, who led 24-0 at halftime.

49'ERS 33, PATRIOTS 13 — Joe Montana passed for 288 yards, including two touchdowns, and Ray Werschling kicked four field goals to power San Francisco to its fourth straight victory. Montana, who utilized the short passing game to complete 25-of-38 passes, threw an 8-yard TD pass to former Patriot Russ Francis in the first quarter and a 13-yard scoring strike to Dwight Clark in the third quarter.

CHIEFS 38, CARDINALS 14

Linebacker Charles Jackson returned a fumble 37 yards for a touchdown to key a Kansas City defensive effort that forced nine St. Louis turnovers in the Chiefs' blowout. Free safety Deron Cherry, in the lineup because of the continued holdout of All-Pro Gary Barbaro, intercepted two passes to set up two other Kansas City touchdowns and also blocked a field goal attempt.

CHARGERS 41, GIANTS 34 — Chuck Muncie's third touchdown of the game, a 34-yard burst around left end with 4:32 left, lifted San Diego. Muncie, who earlier scored on bursts of 1 and 2 yards, made his game-winning run after the Giants had tied the score on Ali Haji-Sheikh's 37-yard field goal with 6:53 left.

EAGLES 28, FALCONS 24 — Ron Jaworski ran for one touchdown and passed for three others, the third a 53-yard bomb to Mike Quick with only 1:45 remaining, to lift Philadelphia. The Falcons, down 21-7 at halftime, had rallied behind Steve Bartkowski — who threw three TD passes — and taken a 24-21 lead on Mick Luckhurst's 44-yard field goal with 5:48 remaining.

PACKERS 55, BUC-CANEERS 14 — Lynn Dickey passed for three touchdowns and the Green Bay Packers set

an NFL record for points scored in one half when they moved to a 49-7 halftime lead over Tampa Bay. The 49 points broke the old record of 45 set by Green Bay Nov. 12, 1967, against the Cleveland Browns. Dickey completed 10 of 15 passes for 267 yards and now has thrown 12 touchdowns passes this season.

RAMS 27, LIONS 10 — Eric Dickerson rushed for 199 yards and scored three touchdowns to lift the Los Angeles Rams. The Rams improved their record to 3-2 while the Lions fell to 1-4.

COLTS 34, BENGALS 31 — Curtis Dickey ran 3 yards for a touchdown with 7:10 left to lift Baltimore over Cincinnati. Nesy Glasgow preserved the win for Baltimore by recovering a fumble by Cris Collinsworth with just 1:27 to play.

SEA HAWKS 24, BROWNS 9 — Rookie running back Curt Warner shredded the Cleveland defense for 92 yards, scoring two touchdowns off turnovers to power Seattle. Warner carried 25 times and scored twice on 1-yard runs that were set up by Cleveland mistakes deep in Browns' territory.