

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## Murray, Aggies smash Cougs, 30-7

by John Wagner  
Battalion Staff

In the end, Kevin Murray proved that a one-scat-cat quarterback is better than two.

Texas A&M's Murray, in his first collegiate start, tossed three touchdown passes to three different receivers as the rejuvenated Aggie offense surpassed the two-quarterback Houston Cougars, 30-7.

The quick-footed freshman from North Dallas High School put an end to A&M's quarterback "situation" with his performance Saturday, passing for 147 yards and rushing for 39 more yards after replacing junior John Mazur in his first A&M start. Murray was finally given a chance to strut as a starter. He responded to the challenge by calling with glee.

"I knew if I had time to throw the ball, good things would happen,"

Murray said after the game. Happen they did. The Aggies, who had been struggling offensively all year (they scored their first rushing touchdown of the season late in the fourth quarter) were simply too much for Houston's error-prone Cougars.

The story of this game, however, is a tale of two teams — one whose star appears to be rising, the other's fading fast. Take a guess at who's who.

Had the Cougars not made enough mistakes to last the rest of Bill Yeoman's coaching career, it might have been a different story. For two and one-half quarters, the Cougars dominated. Then they realized they weren't meeting their usual dumb-play quota, and whoops, there went the ball game.

Check the facts:  
• UH fumbled the ball five times, losing four. In six games, the Cougars

have turned the ball over an incredible 26 times. Against A&M, three lost fumbles stopped long drives (One came with the Cougars at the A&M 15-yard line, one at the A&M 22, and another at the A&M 14). The other fumble gave the Aggies a first-and-10 at the UH 49, and led to A&M's third touchdown.

• Cougar punt returner Larry Shepherd called fair catch at the UH 3-yard line on a ball that would have gone into the end zone had he not caught it. The Cougars gained three yards in three plays, and punter Robert Myers shanked a 30-yarder that gave A&M a first down at the UH 36. The Aggies scored seven plays later.

• The Cougars were stopped three times on fourth-and-one — each time after running a simple dive play into the line.

• Both UH quarterbacks were ineffective when it came to scoring. Freshman Gerald Landry and sophomore Quince Harris led the UH veer to 495 yards of total offense. Despite being speedy runners and adequate passers, however, neither could put the ball in the end zone with consistency. "I guess we have to work on holding on to the ball," said Landry.

It was obvious quickness was the "spark" A&M coach Jackie Sherrill had been looking for when he named Murray as starting quarterback Monday. By utilizing roll-out pass plays and Murray's ability to run with the ball, A&M was able to negate UH's defensive pressure.

"Kevin gives us a lot of dimension," Sherrill said. "He's going to make it very hard for other teams to prepare for us."

UH scored first when Landry tossed a short pass to split end Jeffery Fields, who broke away from the defense and cruised to an 82-yard touchdown reception. A clearing block by flanker Kevin Johnson at the A&M 20-yard line made it possible for Fields to score.

The Aggie offense was unable to muster much of a drive in the first half. Several key penalties and two turnovers — both by Murray — kept A&M bottled up.

But with 4:45 left in the third quarter, Murray found tailback Rod Bernstein all alone in the right flat and tossed an eight-yard scoring pass to the freshman from Bryan. Alan Smith's extra point tied the game at 7-7.

"We had a roll-out pass on, and I just went out into the flat," Bernstein said. "The defensive secondary didn't see me at all."

A&M scored again less than five minutes later, after stopping UH on a fourth-and-one at the Aggie 29. Murray took the Aggies on a 4-play, 71-yard drive the ended in a 30-yard touchdown pass to Jimmie Williams, giving A&M a 14-7 lead.

After UH's Shepherd fumbled a punt at the Cougar 49, the Aggies went the distance in five plays, scoring on a 12-yard pass to Shea Walker.

A&M's other points came on a safety by Jeff Paine and Keith Woodside's 6-yard run. Woodside set himself up for the score by racing around the right side for a 61-yard gain to the UH one. A 5-yard penalty pushed the Aggies back to the 6, and Woodside scored on the next play.

The win boosted the Aggies' record to 2-3, 1-1 in the Southwest Conference. The Cougars dropped to 2-4, 1-2 in conference play.

## Murray proves freshman can play

by John P. Lopez  
Battalion Staff

Prior to Saturday's 30-7 win over the Houston Cougars, something was missing from Texas A&M's offense.

The running game sputtered, the passing game was inconsistent and consequently, the Aggies lost three of their first four games.

But if the Aggies' big win over the Cougars Saturday is any indication, that missing ingredient as a 6-2, 187-pound strong-arm quarterback from North Dallas High School named Kevin Murray.

Murray ignited the Aggies Saturday with three touchdown passes while keeping Houston in balance with his running ability. That speed, Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill said, is what gives the Aggies an added edge while Murray is at the helm.

sponded well today." Sherrill said he thought Murray played as well as could be expected considering Murray is a freshman and was playing in front of better than 57,000 vocal Aggie fans.

"He did a lot of things well today," Sherrill said. "He audibled well and used the clock very well in the fourth quarter. For a freshman to use the clock the way he did at the end of the game, that shows a lot of poise."

"But that's just the way he is. He's a very mature young man and he's very dedicated."

And Murray's statistics show exactly how important it is to have a mobile quarterback. He connected on 18 of 31 passes for 217 yards and three touchdowns, but the key in Murray's offensive output were the 67 yards he gained rushing, not counting three sacks for 28 yards in losses.

It seemed that every time Murray rolled into the flat, the Cougar defense didn't know whether Murray was going to run or pass. To say the least, the young quarterback impressed everyone at Kyle Field.

Aggie running back Rod Bernstein said the versatile Murray could be just what Texas A&M needs to salvage an otherwise disappointing season.

"He (Murray) has that extra speed and he can pop the ball a little quicker," Bernstein said. "He throws the ball with a little more zip."



Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray looks for a receiver during the Aggie-Cougar game

Saturday. Murray threw three touchdown passes to lead the Aggies to a 30-7 victory.

staff photo by Dean Saito

## Coogs say turnovers hurt most

By Steve Thomas  
Battalion Staff

Larry Shepherd's mental lapse came on the Houston 3-yard line with his arm raised waiting for a kicked football.

"I just forgot where I was," Shepherd said after the game.

His words were like a eulogy for the whole team.

Cougar coach Bill Yeoman said his own team was his biggest problem, attributing the 30-7 loss to the Aggies to lots of mistakes and little teamwork.

"We played hard," he said, "but not well."

"We moved the ball," sophomore quarterback Quince Harris said, adding that more hard work was what the Cougars needed for success.

Harris said the sudden change of quarterbacks, which included a change from a running game to a passing game, was planned from the beginning. Houston, he said, suffered from "no strategy problems."

Shepherd, who is probably still on the 3-yard line, pointed a more concise finger of blame.

"We can't keep the defense out there all day and expect to hold them," he said while nervously looking around the locker room. "It's up to the offense to do a little bit."

A few minutes earlier coach Yeoman used a different color light to explain the situation. A reporter asked him if he had thought about taking Shepherd out.

"We don't have anybody else," Yeoman said. "who would we put in?"

Despite Yeoman's lack of players in some areas, he wasn't hurting for quarterbacks. Freshman Gerald Landry put on a surprising show, passing 3-5 for 107 yards and rushing for 21, though three sacks knocked his net rushing down to one yard.

Landry wasn't exactly gushing with praise for the Aggies, saying he felt the Cougars just got overconfident in the second half.

But Landry dangled in and out of the game because Yeoman considered a full game too much for him.

"He's a freshman," the coach said, "he can handle a minimum of offense."

That's interesting. What about Kevin Murray, coach?

"Well," Yeoman rasped, "we gave him some good field position to work with."

Overall, Yeoman was more inclined to blame his team than to magnify Texas A&M. He emphasized the importance of the Cougar's several turnovers and mumbled some witticism about how he was "just waiting for the snowflakes to fall."

Shepherd seemed concerned about the number of turnovers, also. To correct the team's problems, he said "we just need to shut down on the turnovers."

He should know.

Landry jumped on the bandwagon, saying "if we would stop turning over the ball our morale would go up." He said lack of morale was an important contributing factor to their loss.

And with haunting similarity, Billy Ray Brown, the Cougar ball boy, echoed Landry's words as he mingled with the reporters outside the locker room.

He accused his team of an unnecessary lack of morale, asking: "If you can't get motivated against the Aggies, who can you get motivated against?"

## Cowboys do it again, defeat Bucs 27-24

United Press International

IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys have won so many games in the final minutes over the years that it has sort of become commonplace. But on Sunday they did themselves.

The unfortunate victim this time deserved a better fate. But the Tampa Bay Buccaneers have grown used to pain.

Almost certainly beaten at the end of an overly long afternoon, the unbeaten Cowboys somehow did it again, defeating the Bucs, 27-24.

And the Cowboys did it on the day they honored their all-time comeback hero — former quarterback Roger Staubach.

First of all, Dallas scored on a 22-yard touchdown pass from Danny White to Timmy Newsome with just 47 seconds left in regulation to force the game into overtime.

And then Rafael Septien got two chances to kick the winning field goal and made good on the second try from 48 yards out and 1:38 deep in the extra period.

Despite being penalized for 183 yards, the Bucs were on the verge of at least partially atoning for their record-setting loss a week ago.

And, as he has been so often lately, Dallas coach Tom Landry was at a loss to explain the outcome.

"You've got to be excited when the guys make the big plays," said Landry. "But it was very hard to get ready to play this game."

"Both sides suffered a lot of penalties. When that happens it means you are playing lazy. You aren't playing the way you should."

It marked the sixth comeback-from-behind victory for the Cowboys this season and kept

Dallas one game ahead of Washington in the NFC East. Tampa Bay lost for the sixth consecutive time.

James Wilder gave Tampa Bay the lead with a 23-yard touchdown run with 8:53 to play in regulation at the end of a 70-yard march and the Bucs' defense then stopped two Dallas drives.

But Dallas tied it at 24-24 on Newsome's unlikely touchdown after the Cowboys had taken over on their own 26-yard line with no timeouts left and only 79 seconds remaining on the clock.

Newsome caught the ball in the left flat and appeared headed out of bounds in order to stop the clock. But he stopped just short of the boundary and then headed downfield, staying just in bounds and hurdling a would-be tackler along the way.

Dallas won the toss following regulation and had to start at its own 10-yard line. On the second play, White hit Butch Johnson with a short pass and Johnson split two defenders to turn it into a 46-yard gain down to the Bucs 39.

Four plays later, Septien tried a 50-yard field goal and missed, but Tampa Bay's Thomas Morris was flagged for running into the kicker and Dallas had another chance. Septien made good on the second opportunity four plays after the penalty.

Tampa Bay showed from the start it was a different team than the one the Packers beat by 31 points.

The Bucs scored first on a field goal of 48 yards by Bill Capece and then for the first time in 18 games — dating back to Dec. 13, 1981 — scored a touchdown in the opening quarter.

## World Series preview

# A clash of youth and age

United Press International

BALTIMORE — The Old Guard against the New Wave.

That's what the marquee outside Baltimore's Memorial Stadium should read Tuesday night when the Orioles send left-hander Scott McGregor to the mound against right-hander John Denny of the Philadelphia Phillies in the first game of the World Series.

Let the Talking Heads sing the national anthem and give the honors to Chuck Berry at Philadelphia.

The Phillies, who defeated the Los Angeles Dodgers in four games to win the National League pennant, are baseball's Methuselahs, a collection of older players acquired from different teams, many of whom already wear world championship rings. Where once their electric talents carried them to great heights, they now use their

vast experience to climb those same mountains.

"They have a bunch of first-class old guys over there. That experience won out," said the Dodgers' Derrel Thomas Saturday night after the Phillies had wrapped up the NL pennant with a 7-2 triumph.

In marked contrast to the Phillies, the Orioles are mere cherubs. Only pitcher Jim Palmer, who doesn't figure to see much action in the World Series, has played on a world championship team, although a handful of current Orioles' players were members of the 1979 American League championship squad. Palmer was with the Orioles when they won the World Series in 1966 and 1970.

"There is a difference between an experienced and an inexperienced player under pressure," said the Phillies' Joe Morgan, the club's 40-year-old

second baseman who once sparked the Cincinnati Reds to successive world championships in 1975-76. "An inexperienced player will try to do more than he is capable of. An experienced player will stay within his limits."

Morgan may be in for a surprise when he sees the Orioles perform, however. While the Orioles aren't greybeards, they don't lack for poise under pressure. In their four-game AL playoff victory over the Chicago White Sox, their young, inexperienced players came through as if they'd made ice water a staple of their diet.

Cal Ripken Jr., the Orioles' 23-year-old shortstop who is only in his second major league season, hit a cool .400 in the playoffs and fielded his position flawlessly; rookie Mike Boddicker, a 26-year-old right-hander, captured the MVP award after his four-hit, 14-strikeout per-

formance in game two; Storm Davis, at 21 baseball's youngest pitcher, pitched six scoreless innings in game four and 25-year-old John Shelby made several fine catches in center field.

About the only concern manager Joe Altobelli of the Orioles has in the playoffs is what to do with Ken Singleton. The Orioles' one-time regular right fielder was relegated to a designated hitter role during the regular season and the playoffs, but the designated hitter will not be used in the World Series this year.

Singleton, who hit 18 homers and drove in 85 runs during the season, most likely will be used only as a pinch hitter, since Altobelli has gotten plenty of production out of his right field corps of Jim Dwyer, Dan Ford and Tito Landrum.