

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Dean Saito, Battalion staff

Texas A&M defenders Ray Childress, Jerry Bullitt and Chris Lammers surround TCU quarterback Anthony Sciaraffa after a sack

during A&M's 20-10 victory Saturday in Fort Worth. A&M raised its record to 5-4-1, with only UT remaining on the schedule.

No bowl for Aggies despite 20-10 victory

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff

There it was — seat number 88 in the press box of TCU's Amon Carter Stadium.

"The Fightin' Frogs of TCU welcome The Independence Bowl," the place card said.

But the seat was empty throughout the Aggies' less-than-overwhelming 20-10 win over the Horned Frogs. After the game, there was no invitation to Shreveport handed out to Jackie Sherrill and his team.

up the Aggies' first touchdown of the day. It came when reserve tight end John Kellen freed himself in the endzone and hauled in a, you guessed it, Murray pass. With Smith's extra point, the Aggies took a comfortable 10-0 lead.

From there, the Aggies sputtered their way to the win, but it was no fault of freshman fullback Roger Vick. Vick grinded out 110 of Texas A&M's 165 yards rushing for the day. It marked the first time an A&M runner has gained over 100 yards in one game since Ernest Jackson did it two years ago. Not surprisingly, Vick was pleased with his performance.

"It feels really good," Vick said. "I felt confident going into the game. All I can say is it's about time. I've been waiting for this for a long time. The line was really opening up the holes — they were doing the job."

But while Vick and the offensive line were getting the job done, Sherrill said the Aggies could never put the game away because there were too many intangibles to overcome — namely, six men in striped shirts.

"If the officiating keeps going on like this, they (SWC) ought to wipe it clean and start over again," Sherrill said. "The penalties just didn't allow us to do the things we would normally do. It doesn't make a difference who the officials are for or against. Everybody knows I asked this crew not to be used in this game."

The crew Sherrill was talking about is the team of Rob Jones, Ted Benson, Bill Walters, Charles Caraway, Don Ponder and Clint Ramsey — the same group of referees that made a controversial no-touchdown call in the Aggies' 10-7 loss to SMU earlier this season.

"Coming into the conference, (Arkansas' Lou) Holtz and (Texas' Fred) Akers told me how bad the officiating is in this conference," Sherrill said. "It just took me two years to find out that they were right. There are certainly some (questions) that need to be answered."

Sherrill cited one particular instance during the TCU game that irritated him.

"There was a time out on the field and I asked the official what the call was — I asked to talk to him. And he just turned his back and walked away. Something's got to be done in this conference."

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Air Force and Mississippi will face off Dec. 10, Independence Bowl officials decided, so the Aggies decided to relish the victory over TCU and look to Saturday's season finale against undefeated Texas.

"A win is a win," Texas A&M tight end Rich Siler said after the game, "it doesn't matter if we win by one point or 100 points. Now it's Texas and we're ready for them."

And for awhile, it seemed the Aggies were ready to dispose of TCU in short work, but the Horned Frogs didn't fold until a last-minute goal line stand by the Texas A&M defense sealed the Aggie win.

"We came out and took the wind and started to make some things happen," Sherrill said. "But penalties hurt us and we had to go for the field goal (on A&M's first drive). After that, we just didn't play well cohesively on offense. We just weren't sharp offensively. And TCU played well defensively."

That they did. TCU held Texas A&M's sensational quarterback Kevin Murray to a mere 116 yards passing, but while Murray completed only 11 of 30 passes, he hit the ones that counted. A quick screen to receiver Jimmie Williams set up Texas A&M's first score — a 43-yard field goal by Alan Smith.

And moments later, Murray hit freshman running back Rod Bernstine over the middle and Bernstine proceeded to romp 41 yards to help set

Pickin' Cotton

Texas earns berth with 24-21 win over Bluebonnet Bowl-bound Bears

United Press International
Just as it was drawn up on the blackboard, three Southwest Conference teams were ticketed Saturday for Texas' three bowl games.

Texas won its 18th trip to the Cotton Bowl by virtue of its victory over Baylor Saturday. SMU was given a spot in the Sun Bowl and Baylor will travel to the Bluebonnet Bowl.

Those were the arrangements made a week ago in the wheeling and dealing that went on with an assortment of bowl officials.

The Longhorns will be facing the Georgia Bulldogs Jan. 2 in what will be Texas' 30th bowl appearance and its seventh in a row.

Texas has been in the Cotton Bowl more than any other team and returns for the first time since it upset the Alabama Crimson Tide two years ago.

The Longhorns have a 9-7-1 record in the Cotton Bowl and a 15-12-1 overall bowl record. Field Scovell of the Cotton Bowl Association extended the invitation to the Longhorns.

"You are great champions," he said. "On behalf of the Cotton Bowl Association, I want to invite you to be in Dallas on Jan. 2. The next thing I want to know is whether you accept."

That was followed by loud ovation from players. Quarterback Rob Moerschell said, "This is what it is all about, making it to the Cotton Bowl. That's why I came here, to get the ring and play in a game like that."

Georgia coach Vince Dooley says Bulldogs are excited about Horns

United Press International
ATHENS, Ga. — University of Georgia coach Vince Dooley says his team is excited and faces "a very big challenge" in playing second-ranked Texas in the Jan. 2 Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

"Playing the Southwest Conference champion means we are going to play a great team," Dooley said after Cotton Bowl President J. L. Huffines and executive vice president Jim Brock extended the bowl invitation to the 7th-ranked Bulldogs Saturday evening. "It will be a very big challenge for our football team," the coach said.

"The Cotton Bowl people have a tradition of doing things first class in every respect and we are looking forward to being with them again," Dooley said. Georgia's last appearance in the classic was in 1975 when they lost to Arkansas, 31-10. The Bulldogs played one other time in the Cotton Bowl, in 1966 when they beat SMU, 24-9.

In issuing the invitation, Brock said, "Georgia has one of the outstanding football programs in the country and has been as visible as any team in America the last few years. Vince Dooley is one of the premier coaches in the

SMU, meanwhile, will be going to a bowl game for the second straight season and it marks only the second time the Mustangs have made post-season trips two years in a row.

It will also be the second trip for SMU to the Sun Bowl, where the Mustangs will face Alabama on Christmas Eve. The Mustangs went to the Sun Bowl in 1963, when that bowl first began trying to attract major college teams.

The Mustangs will be trying to even its bowl record, currently owning a 3-4-1 mark.

Baylor will be going to a bowl for the first time since the Bears made it to the Cotton Bowl in the 1980 season.

Baylor's meeting with Oklahoma State, a 30-7 winner over Iowa State Saturday, will also be its second trip to the Bluebonnet Bowl. The Bears went to Houston for the 1963 game, when they knocked off LSU, 14-7.

The Bears' overall bowl record currently stands at 5-5.

In Austin to extend the invitation to the Bears, Bluebonnet Executive Director Ted Nance said, "A month ago our selection committee met and decided if we could get Baylor, we would have the most exciting team in Texas."

But after Baylor's narrow 24-21 loss to Texas, Nance said, "Well we changed our minds. We feel like we're getting the most exciting team in the United States."

business and one of the great gentlemen in college football. Georgia has tremendous fans and we are looking forward to having them in Dallas."

Georgia is 8-1-1 for the year and faces only Georgia Tech next weekend before completing its season. Texas, unbeaten in nine games, beat Baylor Saturday.

The reaction from Bulldog players was that they have a tough opponent in Texas.

Terry Hoage, an All-America senior defensive back from Texas, said he is excited about returning to his home state to play the Longhorns.

"It's an opportunity for me to go home to play my last game," he said. "I know Dallas is an exciting city and it will be a fun trip."

"All I know is that we may be playing the best team in the country," commented defensive back Darryl Jones.

Quarterback John Lastinger said Texas has the top defense in the country. "We'll have our work cut out for us," he added.

Guy McIntyre, one of the anchors on the offensive line, said, "We're looking forward to going to Dallas and playing what is a great football team."

Dorsett-led Cowboys handle KC

United Press International
IRVING — Tony Dorsett galloped for two touchdowns and became the ninth player to surpass the 8,000-yard career rushing mark Sunday and the Dallas Cowboys fought off a flurry of Bill Kenney passes to down the Kansas City Chiefs, 41-21.

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For the first time all season the Cowboys led from start to finish, raising their record to 10-2 and staying even with the Washington Redskins atop the NFC East.

Kansas City, which fell behind by a 27-0 score before Kenney began to pick away at the Dallas secondary, slipped to 5-7.

Dorsett ran 28 yards for Dal-

las' second touchdown midway through the second quarter and then broke free for a 32-yard scoring run early in the third period.

Dorsett picked up 108 yards during the day, raising his season total to 1,036 and his career total to 8,051. It marks the 12th time in 13 years — dating back to Dorsett's junior year in high school — that he has surpassed the 1,000-yard mark.

During the strike-shortened season of 1982, Dorsett managed just 745 yards in nine contests.

Ron Springs scored Dallas' first touchdown on a 1-yard run at the end of the Cowboys' first possession. Rafael Septien added field goals of 25 and 40 yards and, after Kansas City had climbed to within 13 points, Timmy Newsome scored on a third-down draw play from the

7-yard line.

Then, with less than seven minutes to play, Gary Allen returned a punt 68 yards for another score — the first time in six years the Cowboys had scored on a punt return.

Kenney, who broke Len Dawson's Kansas City record for most passing yardage in a single season, was intercepted twice in the first half.

But he directed an 80-yard march on the Chiefs' second possession of the second half and finished it off with an 18-yard scoring pass to Carlos Carson.

Four minutes later Kenney and Carson hooked up on a 48-yard scoring pass. Kenney finished the day with 23 completions out of 40 attempts for 337 yards, but left the contest in favor of Todd Blackledge when

the Chiefs fell behind by 20 points.

Blackledge, the rookie from Penn State, threw his second professional touchdown pass with 2:12 remaining in the game, a 7-yarder to Stephon Paige.

Dorsett, who had complained during the week about his inability to produce 100-yard games of late, scored his first touchdown at the end of an 80-yard Dallas march.

Having a first-and-10 at the Chiefs' 28, Dorsett was called on to sweep right end. He started off in that direction, but cut back to the left and easily scored. It was on that run that Dorsett moved past 8,000 yards for his career.

High school playoff action

Plano, Highland Park roll

United Press International
The coaching maxim that offense wins games but defense wins championships slammed home for two defending state champions this weekend in Texas high school football playoff action.

Beaumont West Brook, the surprise Class 5A titlist last year, was shut out by Dickinson, 10-0, in an area playoff game and Refugio, the Class 3A champ last year, fell to Falfurrias, 12-7.

The West Brook and Refugio defeats leave only defending Class 4A champion Willowridge with a chance of repeating and the Eagles, 15-0 winners over Taylor in a bi-district contest, are odds-on favorites to complete their second straight undefeated season.

But Willowridge must first get by Jasper Saturday in Pasadena in a game which will be a rematch of last year's regional playoff. And Jasper coach Gene Walkoviak is predicting a tighter game than last year's 34-7 Willowridge runaway.

"We just approach it like any other game, though I think to really have a chance we've got to

Class 5A Regional Playoffs	
Midland Lee vs. Trimble Tech, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Ft. Worth.	
Odessa Permian vs. WF Rider, 8 p.m. Friday, Wichita Falls.	
Highland Park vs. Klein, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Dallas.	
Plano vs. Temple, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Waco.	
Madison vs. Aldine, 4 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome.	
Yates vs. Dickinson, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Astrodome.	
Converse Judson vs. Alice, 2 p.m. Saturday, Austin.	
SA Churchill vs. Edinburg, 7:30 p.m. Friday, McAllen.	

have a low score," Walkoviak said following his team's 32-7 win over Brazosport in a bi-district matchup.

While Jasper's rock-solid defense held Brazosport to only seven points, the offense had to explode for 18 points in the final period to put the game away. Walkoviak is counting on his defense against Willowridge.

"I think we've got a good defense," Walkoviak said. "It's a little bit quicker than last year" when Jasper shut out more than half of its 13 opponents.

In Class 5A play, Highland Park and Plano, ranked first and third respectively in the final United Press International high school football poll, continued churning toward a long-awaited

quarterfinal matchup.

Highland Park eased by Richardson, 21-13, and Plano demolished Mesquite, 28-3. Elsewhere in Class 5A, Midland Lee routed El Paso Irvin 48-14 Friday while perennial contender Odessa Permian rolled over El Paso Eastwood, 48-0.

If Lee and Permian win regional playoff games this weekend, they will meet in a quarterfinal rematch of the regular season contest that saw Lee hand the Panthers their only district loss in three years.

Another quarterfinal rematch appeared in the works in San Antonio, where Converse Judson defeated Stafford Dulles, 20-7, and San Antonio

Churchill edged a tough Brazoswood team, 21-17.

If Judson defeats Alice and Churchill gets by Edinburg in regional games this weekend, the two will replay last year's quarterfinal that saw Judson prevail 10-7.

"We're slipping in the back door again," said Churchill coach Jerry Comalander, who has taken his team to the regional playoffs or beyond the past three seasons. "We kind of had a slow start this year, but the last five weeks we've been playing well together as a team."

Comalander downplayed the possible Judson rematch.

"We felt like we dominated last year, but lost it on a long pass late in the game," Comalander said. "We're so much smaller and we're just trying to play them one at a time."

In Class 3A, Littlefield advanced with a 19-6 win over Brookshire Royal, 16-7. Littlefield, finalists in 1982, could face surprising Post in a quarterfinal showdown if the Antelopes, 14-10 winners over Muleshoe, get past Crane in a regional matchup.