

Analysis

UT catches A&M off-guard

by Bob Caster
Battalion Staff

Before Saturday's game with the Texas Longhorns, Texas A&M's defense was nationally ranked — 16th in total defense and third against the pass. Somebody should have told the Longhorn offense. They obviously weren't aware of that fact.

The Horns took advantage of Aggie breakdowns late in the second quarter to edge out the Aggies for the halftime lead. It

was a lead the Aggies should have savored while they had the chance because the rest of the game belonged to Texas.

The Longhorns returned to the field in the second half and proceeded to wreak havoc on a seemingly unsuspecting Aggie defense. Third-string quarterback Rick McIvor, the last person anyone expected to plaster the Aggies, hit eight of twelve passes for 170 yards and four touchdowns as the "new" Texas offense romped and stomped its

way to an undefeated regular season — with an end-of-season offensive flurry of 445 total yards against A&M.

The Texas offense? Against the Aggie defense? You gotta be kidding.

But it's no joke. It's just a matter of the Horns getting the job done when they needed to — all season. Just ask A&M defense coordinator R.C. Slocum.

"Their offense had outscored ten opponents this season," Slocum said in the Aggies' locker room. "They've just done what they've had to do to outscore 11."

But the Texas offense hadn't exactly set the world on fire prior to the A&M game. In fact, they were ranked only fifth in the Southwest Conference in total offense and ninth in the conference (yes, that's last) in passing offense. Maybe the Longhorns just didn't know their own capabilities. It's obvious A&M didn't.

But the Aggies began to realize things were taking an odd turn of events late in the first half as the Horns used a busted field goal attempt to perpetuate the momentum started in that drive — a drive which ended in seven Longhorn points.

"That (the broken field goal attempt) was an alert play on their part," Slocum said. "You

really have to give the guy credit."

Well, credit given where credit due. The Aggies were caught off-guard — but those things can happen. For the Aggies, they happened again only seven plays later as McIvor found Duhon in the end zone which led to the UT halftime lead.

"There's no question as to the extent of it (the halftime lead) from a psychological standpoint," Slocum said. "It had to give them a lift. It sure had a negative effect on us."

If the one-point deficit had a negative effect on the Aggies, the entire third quarter should have created suicidal tendencies in the A&M defense. The Aggies continued to be caught off-guard as they watched the Longhorn lead increase to insurmountable proportions.

The defensive breakdowns can be blamed on a number of things, such as a strong wind and several less-than-spectacular punts which gave the Horns excellent field position. But the bottom line is that the Aggies got beat at key positions on key plays. Maybe next time they'll know a double-reverse when they see it.

"We'd seen it (the double-reverse) and worked on it," Slocum lamented on the pass to Duhon which gave the Horns their fifth touchdown and put the icing on the cake. "I think we may have come off a little too quickly."

"Overall I was pleased — if you take about three or four pass plays out of there," Slocum reflected. "There were just some plays that they executed well."

But three or four plays are all it takes to win — or lose — a football game. It just depends on what side of the play you're on.



Buccaneers whip Oilers in battle of losing teams

United Press International
TAMPA, Fla. — If Tampa Bay fans boo even when the Buccaneers win, one wonders what would have happened in Houston Sunday if the Oilers had played at home.

outcame left Tampa Bay with a 2-11 record and Houston at 1-12.

Whether the Oilers actually are the worst team in the league, interim Houston Coach Chuck Studley was not ready to say.

"Well, I suppose at least temporarily that is what they will say about us, but there are three games to go and we have three opportunities to disprove it," said Studley, who replaced Ed Biles in October after six losses.

"We do have the worst record right now, whether that makes us the worst team or not is up to somebody else's judgment. I'm obviously low and I'm sure the players are also."

"None of us contemplated

As the Bucs ran off the field after a 33-24 victory, leaving Houston alone at the bottom of the NFL's won-loss column, the crowd unleashed a lusty chorus of boos.

"It's the only game I've won like that when the crowd was booing after the game," said an otherwise pleased Tampa Bay Coach John McKay.

Billed locally as the "Repus Bowl" — for Super spelled backwards — because it pitted the league's two lowliest teams, the

anything like this would be in our wildest imagination," Studley added. "I'm talking about the season as a whole and not just this game. But this is a characteristic of how played all year."

Tampa Bay was led by Thompson, who fired two touchdowns and completed 17 of 29 passes and yards.

"The question is couldn't we do this all Thompson asked."

The loss gives the Oilers inside track to next spring's 1 draft choice. Tampa Bay traded away its first-round pick to Cincinnati for a player who came up with his best performance of the year Saturday.

Aggies open season with win

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

It wasn't the prettiest game ever played, but the Texas A&M basketball team opened its 1983-1984 season with an 80-71 win over the Texas Lutheran Bulldogs Saturday night behind good efforts by two newcomers.

Winston Crite, a freshman 6-7 forward, led the way for the Aggies as he scored 21 points and hauled in 15 rebounds over the shorter Bulldogs. Todd Holloway also had impressive numbers against TLC, but his main contribution was leadership ability, Aggies' coach Shelby

Metcalfe said. Holloway scored 14 points on 6 of 10 shooting from the floor and added two points on free throws.

"Todd Holloway has the ability," Metcalfe said, "but his biggest asset is his basketball sense. He's an intelligent ball player."

And if statistics are any indication, Holloway is also an unselfish player. Holloway's passing ability was one of the reasons Texas A&M was able to hold off a Bulldog rally early in the second half.

The Aggies held a 40-35 lead at halftime and increased that to as many as 10 points in the early going of the second half, but TLC came back and was down 55-53 with 9:19 left in the game. At that point, Holloway and Crite took over.

And they handled the Bulldogs in short work. Over the next four minutes, Holloway handed out two of his four assists for the night and hit two

short jumpers and Crite six points in an Aggie effort that gave Texas A&M a 68-58 victory with four minutes left on the clock. From there, the Aggies coasted to the win.

Texas A&M 80, Texas Lutheran 71

Texas A&M — Winston Crite 21, Todd Holloway 14, Jimmie Gilbert 13, Kenny Brown 5-12 0-10, Matt Pulliam 0-2 1-2 1, Phil James 6-9 20, Bruce Spencer 5-11 3-4 0-0 6, Charles Claess 3-9 3-9 3-4 9, Kevin Hamlin 4.

Halftime — Texas A&M 40, Texas Lutheran 30. Rebounds — Crite 15, Spencer 8, Assists — Crite 4, Lee 5, Texas Lutheran 14. Field goal percent — Texas 49.1%, Texas Lutheran 26.6%. Free throw percent — Texas 55%, Texas Lutheran 19.2%.

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