

Spring game bad dream for Sherrill, Murray

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Sports Writer

For Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill, Saturday the 14th turned an annual reunion in Kyle Field into a nightmare come true.

The Varsity won the Annual Varsity-Former Student Football Game, as expected, 13-0. But, more important than the score of the game, A&M's promising sophomore quarterback Kevin Murray suffered a knee injury during the third quarter.

With 12:18 left to play in the third quarter, Murray attempted to pass, but was sacked by about five defenders. Murray hit the AstroTurf flat on his back, then tried to bring himself to his feet. He fell back to the ground in agony, clutching his right leg.

Trainers carried Murray off the field as 10,400 Aggie faithfuls looked on in shock and disbelief.

At the press conference after the game, Sherrill described

Murray's condition as if he, too, was in a state of shock.

"Right now it appears it won't need an operation," Sherrill said. "It's a twisted knee. He'll have to go through a stress test, and if that's positive, he'll need an arthroscope. If not, he could be in a cast for six weeks."

Sherrill's diagnosis was fairly accurate.

Athletic Department sources reported Sunday that Murray suffered a partially torn anterior ligament in his left knee. Officials said that no surgery will be required, but Murray will wear a hinged immobilizer for six weeks. The hinged immobilizer will allow Murray to bend his knee, unlike a cast, while still protecting his injury.

After six weeks, Murray is expected to begin a rehabilitation program to prepare him for the season opener with UTEP, September 1.

Sherrill hopes the Aggies' early season schedule will benefit Murray's recovery.

"The good thing is, our season starts and then we have a

two week break," Sherrill said. "He may or not be ready for the first game or even the second."

One reporter asked Sherrill if he had nightmares about this sort of thing happening in a spring game.

"It's like walking across a street," Sherrill replied. "It can happen in scrimmages too."

All the quarterbacks in Saturday's scrimmage wore bright red jerseys so they could be easily identified by the referees and, above all, the defenses.

In last year's game, officials blew quick whistles when it looked as if a quarterback was in danger of being sacked. Saturday's game wasn't called nearly as strict.

Craig Stump, A&M's reserve quarterback, and alumni quarterbacks David Walker and Edd Hargett hit the turf far too many times. Earlier whistles could have saved the quarterbacks from unnecessary contact.

"We were more lax on that today than we should have been," Sherrill said.

Before being injured, Murray completed seven of 17 passes for 61 yards. He and

wide receiver Shea Walker combined in the second quarter for the game's only touchdown — a 13-yard pass completion to the right corner of the endzone.

Eric Franklin, brother of All-SWC kicker Tony Franklin, provided the rest of the Varsity's points with field goals of 29 and 26 yards in the first half.

For the alumni, Curtis Dickey, David Brothers, George Woodard and David Walker were reunited once again in the alumni backfield. The four-some led coach Emory Bellard's powerful wishbone attack during the late 1970s.

Dickey didn't suit up in pads, but he served as an on-the-field coach by calling plays in the huddle. Brothers led the alumni in receiving with six catches for 19 yards. Walker completed 13 out of 24 passes for 97 yards.

Edd Hargett was only two of six through the air for eight yards, but it was more exciting to see him try to team up with his favorite receiver, Bob Long, than to look at his statistics.

Hargett threw an 80-yard touchdown pass to Long to win the 1967 Texas game and send

Texas A&M to the Cotton Bowl.

Hargett and Long seemed to have trouble getting their timing down. After all, it's been 17 years. But they tried to find that winning combination one more time in the first half.

Hargett rolled left and Long ambled only 40 yards down field this time. Long looked over his shoulder and saw the ball on the way, but he couldn't out run the youthful legs of Varsity defensive back Tony Slaton. Slaton jumped and made the interception.

The Aggie defense lived in the alumni backfield all afternoon. Ray Childress and Co. held Old Army to minus seven

yards rushing and allowed only 105 through the air.

Sherrill praised the play of linebackers Ken Ford and Johnny Holland. Both were moved from their secondary positions to increase the Aggies' strength behind the defensive front.

"Putting them inside was our best move of the spring, but it weakened us outside where we had some depth," Sherrill said.

Sherrill said the running back positions are still up for grabs.

The Aggies were strong at the quarterback position, at least until Saturday. Freshman Craig Stump, redshirted last

season, completed three or seven passes for 30 yards, though most of his playing time came after Murray had left the game.

Sherrill also expressed concern over the special teams play on Saturday.

"I'm not real excited about our punting, but our field and kickoff guys will be plenty," he said.

Sherrill summed up the game with the entire team's events with one statement to the reporters' press conference.

"I think you can understand why I'm not very happy," he said.

Ten Napel defies odds

By DAVE SCOTT
Sports Writer

By the fourth quarter, his maroon helmet was streaked with the white paint from butting heads with the opponent. Although the game was just the Texas A&M Varsity-Alumni football game, this alumnus didn't shy away from any contact.

As a matter of fact, he may have been looking for some extra contact. This former student, who saw his last playing time on Kyle Field nine years ago, had to squeeze all his hits into four plays.

Four plays. Not much for a 30-year-old former All-America and professional football player. But for a survivor of a near-fatal auto accident, those four plays were nothing short of miraculous.

Garth Ten Napel played weakside linebacker, alongside Ed Simonini, for Texas A&M from 1972-1976, earning All-America honors as a senior and helping to lead the Aggies to a 10-2 record and a share of the SWC championship. The Detroit Lions made him their seventh-round draft choice and Ten Napel made the team as a reserve. He stayed in Detroit for two years before being sold to the Atlanta Falcons.

In Atlanta, his third NFL season ended on the opening

kickoff of the Falcons first game when he suffered a knee injury.

It was during the rehabilitation that he met Andy Spiva, a Falcon teammate who also was recovering from a knee injury. The two became close friends and it was Spiva's 280Z that the two were riding in when the accident happened.

Spiva was killed in the wreck and Ten Napel was left barely alive.

He was in a coma for three-and-a-half weeks; no one expected Ten Napel to live. When he finally emerged from the coma, no one expected Ten Napel to walk.

He had suffered a double concussion. His back had been broken in three places, his hip and pelvis were broken and his chest crushed. His right lung, pierced from a shattered ribcage, had filled with blood and restricted the flow of oxygen to his brain, which had caused damage to the area of motor control. And he was partially paralyzed on the right side of his body.

When he emerged from the hospital six months later, the 6-1, 205-pound linebacker had shriveled to 150 pounds.

The physical therapy was seemingly endless, but Ten Napel pushed himself, doing more than the doctors or-

dered. He went from hospital bed, to wheel chair, to walking. Saturday — five years and 111 days after the accident — he made it back to talk on Kyle Field again.

"I wanted to be an independent person," Ten Napel said of his determination to begin rehabilitation. "That was my main driving force."

Texas A&M's head trainer Billy Pickard, made Ten Napel get two physicals before even allowing him to suit up. Coach Jackie Sherrill did want to take any chances. Ten Napel called Sherrill and got permission to play in a short yardage defense.

Although it was Ten Napel's first time back on Kyle Field, it wasn't his first time to Texas A&M. He came here in 1981 and finished his degree in engineering technology. Now, he and former Aggie linebacker Mike Linn have formed a dry-wall painting company, which Ten Napel says is booming. In fact, he credits the job with helping him to play in the game.

"This is the first year I've been physically fit enough to play," Ten Napel said. "I would've never been able to play last year, but the job and all the physical outdoor work has helped me."

The work may have helped, but it was probably more a case of Garth Ten Napel helping himself.



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Crenshaw wins his first Masters

But Crenshaw stretched advantage to three shots on the crushing 60-foot putt on the 10th hole while runner-up Ben Watson took a bogey there, and he in control the rest of the way to earn a record Masters first prize of \$108,000.

Crenshaw faltered slightly on the 11th hole, where he missed his first bogey of the tournament but he got that right back with a 9-foot birdie putt on the 12th hole. The slight Texan, enjoying his day in the sun, added another birdie on a 20-foot putt on No. 15.

Another bogey on the 16th hole only narrowed his margin of victory.

None of the other contenders were able to mount a challenge, one by one falling back. Crenshaw protected his lead.

Kite, who had birdied the 18th hole Sunday morning, took the third-round lead, one stroke over Lye, collapsed with a triple-bogey on the 12th hole, sending his shot into the water and the three-putting.

Lye, meantime, in his Masters, double-bogeyed the fifth hole and, after getting back with birdies on Nos. 8 & 9, he bogeyed the 10th and 11th holes.

Nelson, the U.S. Open champion, picked up his fourth hole of the round on the 11th hole to stand only one shot behind Crenshaw, but he collapsed with double-bogey on the 12th and 17th.

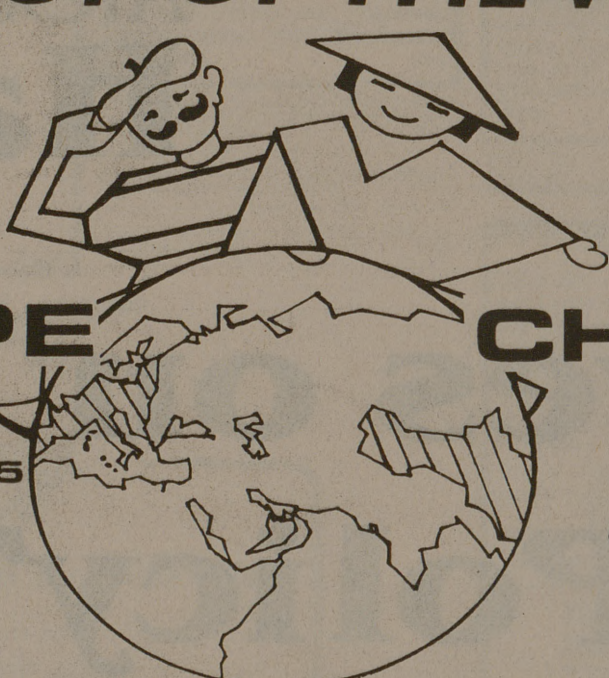
"I don't know what happened," Crenshaw said. "I'm a little numb but it was certainly a day. Like on No. 10, I once have hit 100 golf balls without making that putt."

"I was determined all day long that I wasn't going to go. Beginning with No. 13, the only thing I could do was be conservative."

"I hit my irons very well this week, my driver was good and the putts started dropping today. As my caddie told me, 'keep hitting the fairways, the greens,' and that's what I did."

It was the 10th career triumph for Crenshaw, who boosted his earnings to \$1,853,183, placing him on the all-time list.

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