

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M fullback Roger Vick (#43) meets a wall of UTEP defenders in his effort to find running room downfield.

Underrated Miners get the shaft

UTEP shocks sluggish Aggies

By ED CASSAVOY
Sports Editor

The two maroon and two white balloons floating lazily out of the stadium seemed to symbolize the attitude of the 42,000 plus fans sitting in the stands quietly — no big deal.

The A&M vs UTEP game was supposed to be little more than a tune-up match for the Aggies. It wasn't.

UTEP received the opening kick off and promptly marched 53 yards in eight plays to the Aggie 20 yard line. UTEP had to settle for a field goal, but that didn't seem to matter.

You could almost hear one of those maroon balloons popping

somewhere in the overcast Texas sky.

The Aggies pulled ahead 7-3 after recovering a UTEP fumble and everyone knew things were going to turn out all right. Now the A&M points would start clicking up on the scoreboard quicker than you can say Cotton Bowl.

The fans at Kyle Field were expecting to see some stellar quarterbacking and they certainly got their wish: Miners' sophomore quarterback Sammy Garza played an excellent game. Garza completed 16 of 32 passes for 227 yards and two interceptions.

After the game Garza said about

Murray, "I didn't think he was that great, after hearing all that stuff on him all week."

A&M quarterback Kevin Murray had a more frustrating afternoon, completing 16 of 26 for 204 yards and three critical interceptions.

The quarterbacks' statistics are misleading in the sense that Garza seemed to be in control of the direction of the UTEP offensive plan, while Murray had to contend with dropped passes, fumbles and defensive pressure.

Garza seemed happy with the Miners' game and, though disappointed by the freak ending said, "A&M is supposed to be one of the

better teams and we gave them our best shot, and we're in the WAC and they're in the SWC."

The feeling in the Miners' dressing room was one of muted satisfaction. Cries of "We're winners" swirled in the stifling hot dressing room.

A more poignant moment was trying to talk to the field goal kicker, Hugo Castellanos, who was already packing his sweaty equipment into his bag as if to bury the memories of the game as quickly as possible.

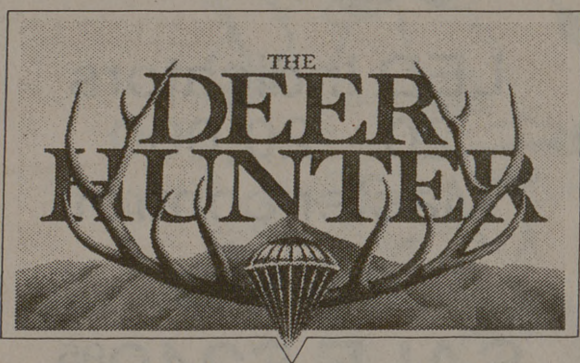
Castellanos stood near the door to the showers, head down, a nearly see page 16 MINERS



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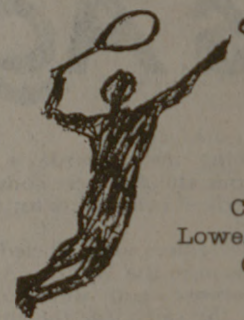
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