

## Sherrill utilizes Aggs' relief pitcher

By **TRAVIS TINGLE**  
Assistant Sports Editor

It's funny how one big play can change a coach's game plan — even make him change quarterbacks in midstream.

In the third quarter of Saturday's game, Iowa State quarterback Alex Espinoza exploited a one-on-one situation between All-America split end Tracy Henderson and Texas A&M's Wayne Asberry and connected with a 71-yard scoring strike.

That touchdown cut A&M's lead to just seven points with a whole quarter of football remaining.

So like any good baseball manager, Sherrill pulled Stump from the bullpen and hoped he could post a save and hand Murray the win. The Texas Rangers could take a few lessons from "Sparky" Sherrill.

"At 17-10, I felt like at that time we weren't doing anything offensively and they weren't doing anything either," Sherrill said. "When they scored I had to make a decision. But now it's 17-10 and they had the momentum. We had to do something. At that time I felt like I had to play Stump. Because if the game got tight and we had to throw the ball every down, I wanted Kevin (Murray) fresh."

Sherrill said Stump was supposed to generate the ground game and drain time off the clock. Not even Sherrill expected Stump to have to throw as much as he did.

"At that time we were going to run the option," Sherrill said. "We felt like they could not defend the option, being from the Big Eight. I didn't want to throw the ball. But on those third and long situations we had no choice."

Sherrill was pleased with Stump's poise on the field.

"The relief pitcher always has the advantage," Sherrill said. "You take a quarterback off the bench, he always has the advantage unless things are going great. He has the advantage psychologically. He has the advantage crowd-wise."

The Port Arthur Jefferson product completed 8 of 11 passes for 100 yards and two touchdowns, convert-

ing on six out of six third down situations. Sherrill didn't know quite what to say about Stump's passing.

"He completed most of them," Sherrill said. "I mean what can you say about a pitcher who throws strikes?"

What can you say about a pitcher who gets pulled in the seventh inning because he loads the bases with the winning run on third?

You can say that Kevin Murray is looking forward to his next start on the mound.

Murray didn't have that bad of a game statistically. He completed 11 of 26 passes for 141 yards and was intercepted only once. Murray's problems lied with Iowa State's nine man front defensive scheme which had him scrambling in every passing situation.

Sherrill took the blame for Murray's performance.

"We didn't do a very good job with Kevin. I'm talking about from the (coaches) press box all the way down," Sherrill said. "If you guys (sports writers) are going to try to write that Stump was the savior of the day, no that didn't happen. Stump came in and we didn't make some of the same mistakes that we made with Kevin, but that's not because of Stump, it was just because our offense started doing some things."

Six third down conversions were really made, not because the quarterback did anything extra special, but because the receivers (Shea Walker, Jimmy Teal and Jeff Holley) made some good efforts."

Sherrill quickly dispelled any ideas about a quarterback controversy, ala the Dallas Cowboys, with one sentence.

"Kevin's the quarterback," Sherrill said.

When reporters asked Stump if he expected to start next week against Arkansas Atate, he echoed Sherrill's sentiments.

"No," Stump said. "Kevin's the starter. Like Kevin said, in the third quarter the offense was moving a little slow, but you can't blame Kevin for everything that happened."

A&M fullback Roger Vick didn't

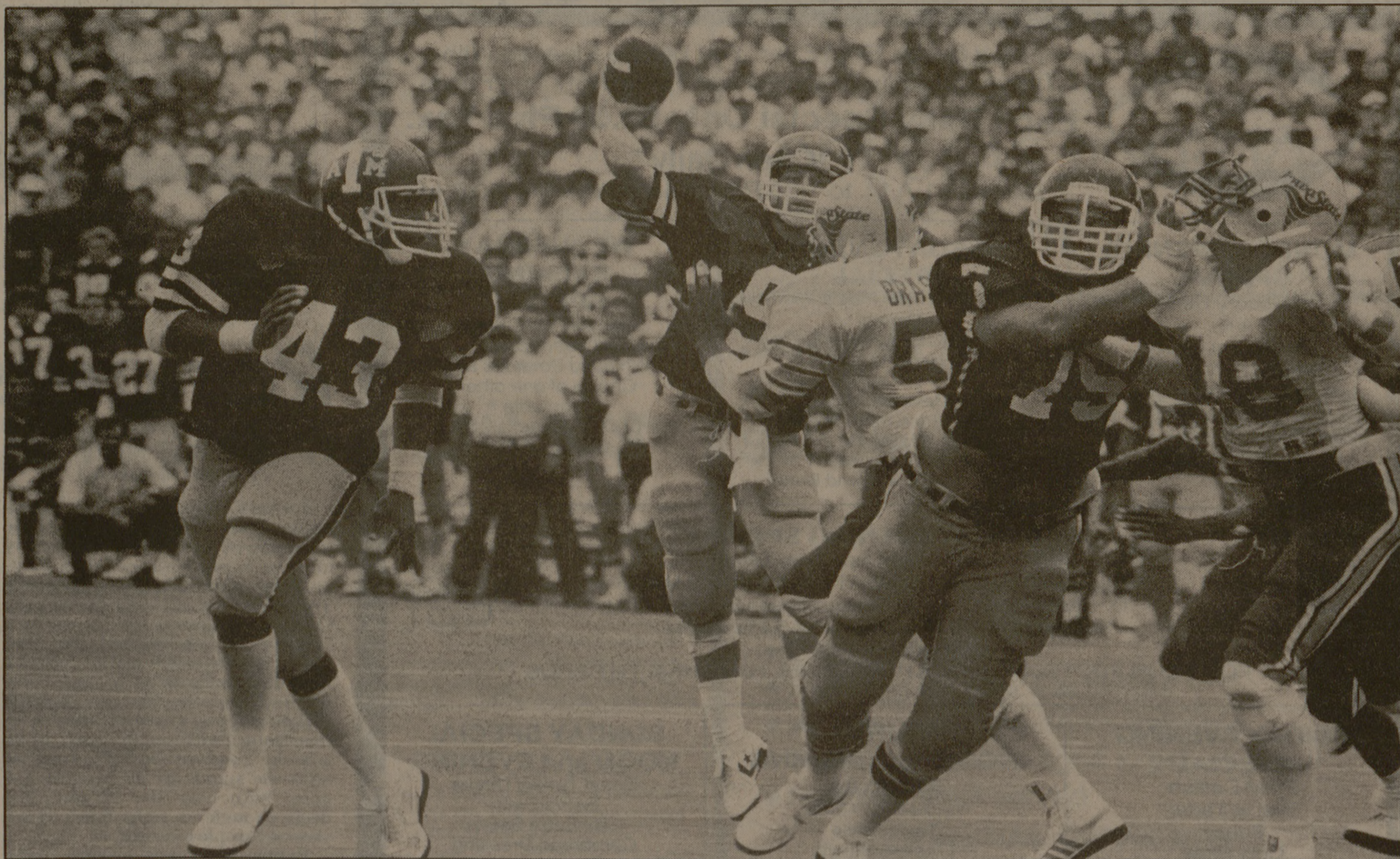


Photo by **BILL HUGHES**

**Texas A&M quarterback Craig Stump fires the ball to a receiver downfield during the Aggies' 38-17 victory over Iowa**

**State Saturday at Kyle Field. Stump replaced starter Kevin Murray and passed for two fourth quarter touchdowns.**

want to choose a favorite, when asked if Stump's presence sparked the offense.

"Well, Kevin and Stump are two great quarterbacks, there's no doubt in my mind," Vick said. "I really can't say what the deal was, but we

just had to pull ourselves together and play."

Murray made no excuses for his lackluster play.

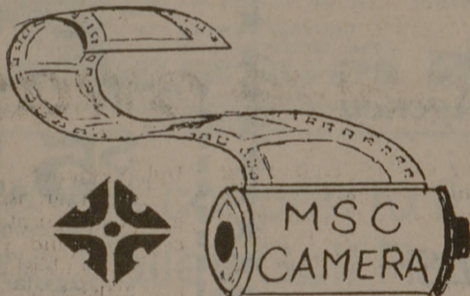
"Today was just a bad day for me," Murray said. "It's just one of those things, you can't always have a great day. In the third quarter when

they started to take control of the game, coach (Sherrill) told me he was going to give me a rest. The protection broke down quite a bit, but it's nothing we can't straighten out."

Did Sherrill see any improvement in the Aggs from the UTEP scare?

"The biggest improvement I saw

came after 17-10," Sherrill said. "We had a chance at that time to become a football team or not. I think our players made a decision to do some things. Offensively and defensively we played together. All of a sudden we went from 17 points we scored 38."



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7:00 p.m.  
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6:30 Registration & Refreshments

7:00 Sessions - Problem Solving

Communication

Stress

Leadership Ethics

Motivation

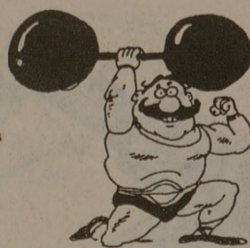
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