



Photo by PETER ROCHA

Slip Slidin' Away

Texas A&M punter Todd Tchantz (4) gets his legs knocked out from under him by a Baylor defender after chasing a high snap from center back to the goal line. Tchantz was swamped at the A&M two-yard line, setting up a Baylor touchdown in

the third quarter of the Aggies' 20-16 loss to the Bears Saturday in the true Battle of the Brazos. Baylor defensive end Ervin Randle (49) leads the Baylor charge against Tchantz. The Aggies (3-3, 0-3) host fellow cellar dweller Rice Saturday.

It's Millertime in Aggieland

TONY CORNETT

Sports Writer

Excuse me just a minute. I'm wiping the "dog poopie" off of my shoes.

Once again my shoes suffered the most during a football loss at Kyle Field. For Texas Tech it was my Top-Siders. This time, for Baylor, it was my Nike Avengers. They were new too. Yes, I stayed through the entire game with the rest of the hopeful Aggie crowd.

You may or may not remember comedian Steve Martin's line that you're supposed to use when you break up with someone.

"I break with thee, I break with thee, I break with thee and then you throw dog poop on their shoes. I notice you have a little dog poopie on your shoes."

Well, I think the football program — good old "Campaign '84" (That's what this year's gridiron effort is called.) — has finally left Aggie fans disillusioned.

We're past the halfway mark in the season and somewhere along the line you have to get tired of the same old stale excuses used after last Saturday's game. It gets old hearing about what the Aggies did right during a losing effort.

Just once I'd like to see a coach throw up his hands and say he screwed up or plead ignorance, or something. Maybe he could toss in a few expletives. Anything.

I think that if I hear that the Aggies "did some good things" after another unsuccessful effort, I'm going to erp a \$2.25 Kyle Field hotdog. At this rate, the Aggies will have a great post-season team, but nobody will know it.

Earlier in the season, when the Aggies coolly eased by three teams of presumably lesser ability, Jackie Sherrill said the important thing about the games was the mark that went into the win column. And ten years down the line nobody would

look to see how close a game it was, or how it was won.

The same rule applies for the last three games. Ten years from now nobody's going to look at those losses in the stats column and remember, "Say, didn't we do 'some good things' in that game?"

The anxious part of the season is over. Heck, the season is over. The tenseness of the past weeks is over.

Relax.

You don't have to wonder about the Southwest Conference championship or that bothersome road trip to a Bowl game. You can now stand in the stands and be a part of a real Aggie tradition: watching the Aggies snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Over and over again. It's been going on for years.

Whether the Aggies were ranked in the polls higher than they should have been early in the season or not, or whether they are as good as they were supposed to be and just flat haven't panned out, is a moot question. All I know is that the fans didn't get what they thought they were going to get.

If that isn't bad enough, only a handful of high school recruits have been showing up to visit the A&M campus and tour the football facilities on home game weekends. Only six of the 31 prospective recruits confirmed, managed to show last weekend. They are the future that the Aggies put so much stock in. Is Sherrill's recruiting charm going sour on top of all of the other problems the team is having?

Go to the games. Yell, scream and holler. The team deserves it. They need it. The Aggie fans have fun doing it. Relax. The serious part is over. It's Millertime.

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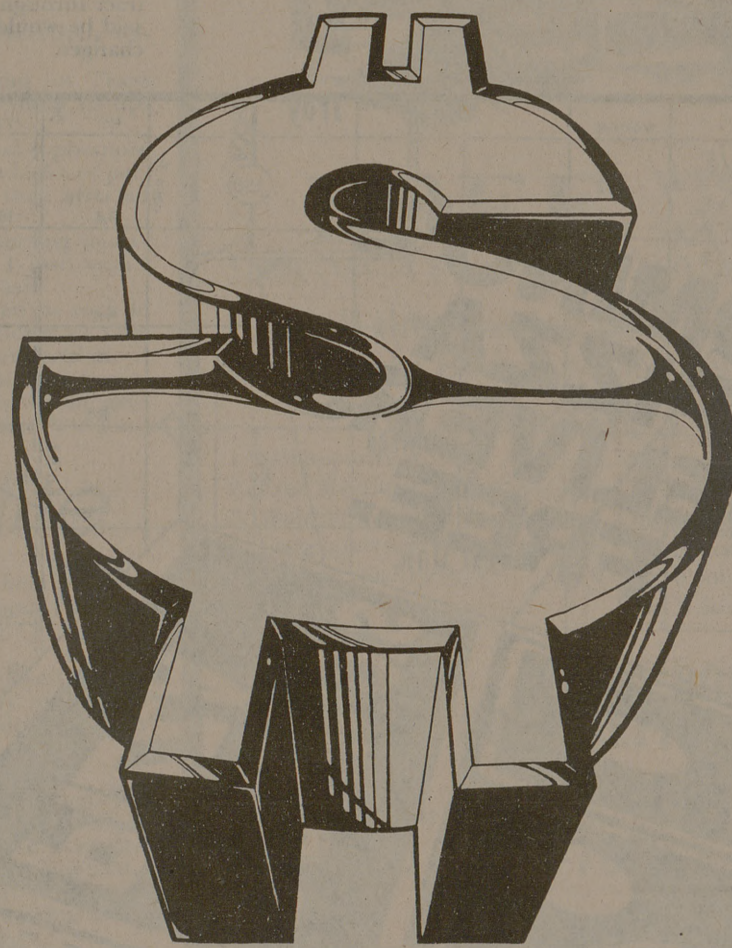
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