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# Owls make donation to Aggie campaign

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
 Sports Writer

The Rice Owls are so generous they could start a Southwest Conference goodwill service.

Saturday at Kyle Field, the Owls gave to the "needy" — Texas A&M that is. The Aggies needed offensive production and they needed a win. They got both.

Of A&M's 38 points, 28 were the result of typical Owl blunders.

Rice Head Coach Watson Brown said that's the way it's been all season for the Owls. Let's face it, Watson, it's been that way since 1963, when the Owls posted their last winning record, 6-4.

"It was the same ol' song, fifth verse," Brown said. "No consistency. All I do is walk in the locker room each week and hurt. So do the kids. It's the same thing over and over. It's frustrating and I don't like it."

Two key mistakes, a fumble on Rice's third play from scrimmage and a blocked punt on its next possession, put the Owls in a hole they never managed to crawl out of.

With A&M already leading 7-0, courtesy of the fumble recovery, Owl punter Steve Kidd went back to punt for the first time since injuring an ankle in September.

Aggie linebacker Mike Ashley went untouched through the Rice line and blocked the punt, giving A&M the ball on the Rice 30-yard line.

"When I got the ball they were all there," Kidd said. "I thought I could kick it over them, if I held it close. It's the first punt I've ever had

blocked and it flustered me the whole game."

Brown said the linemen were to blame for the blocked punt.

"My linemen changed their blocking scheme right at the last minute," Brown said. "It was a bust. It wasn't Kidd's fault."

In the second quarter, the Owl punt coverage team set up another Aggie touchdown, dashing any hopes of a Rice comeback. A&M's Jimmie Hawkins took a Kidd punt 68 yards for the score.

"I got clipped on that (return)," Kidd said. "My back still hurts. I thought for sure they'd throw a flag."

Before the end of the half, the Owls made two other crucial mistakes on their special teams.

A low snap, on a 41-yard field goal try, cost the Owls a shot at three points. Then, with time running out in the first half, A&M was forced to punt. But Rice was flagged for having 12 men on the field, giving A&M a first down and eventually a 40-yard field goal by Alan Smith.

Brown wasn't pleased with Rice's version of the Twelfth Man.

"I've never had a team that had 12 men on the field," Brown said. "Maybe someone will give us credit for trying to do anything to stop them."

Rice's offense didn't start moving the ball until the fourth quarter. Owl quarterback Kerry Overton, starting in place of injured Mark Comalander, directed an option attack that accounted for Rice's two late touchdowns.

"When the quarterback doesn't

execute, the team can't move the ball," Brown said. "Kerry was down and started moving the fence. He did some good things last half. We missed Mark Comalander, especially since he didn't play well the first half."

"Success brings confidence," Overton said. "I got confidence the game went on, but it was too late. I just need to turn the page sooner."

Except for two fumbles, freshman running back John Davis had a game, gaining 90 yards on 14 carries.

"I got more playing time than I usually do," Davis said. "Usually alternate backs. The offense never really got a chance to move because of the turnovers."

Although the offense performed as they have all season, the Owl offense showed vast improvement from last week's 30-12 loss to Tech.

"I thought we did alright," cornerback Dwayne Holmes said. "They got a lot of turnovers, we're supposed to stop them. We proved from last week, but we haven't put consecutive improvements together."

"I thought our defense played well," Overton said. "They play as bad as we (the Owl offense) made them look."

Rice, which owns a 21-game losing streak, still felt they gave Aggies the game.

"They weren't much better than us," Overton said. "I wish we play them again."

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## Aggies

(continued from page 9)

A&M running back Anthony Toney, who rushed for 49 yards on only 7 carries. "Besides that, we pretty much played an error-free game for the most part. If we do that, we can beat anyone in the conference."

Unfortunately, the Aggies didn't defeat just anyone — they beat Rice. Everybody knew they would.

The Owls have been labeled a passing team ever since the last ice age, but Rice Head Coach Watson Brown's run-and-shoot offense only completed five passes against a merciless Aggie secondary.

"We surrounded them," Sherrill said. "They started running the option because we were really defending the pass. Our game plan was

stopping the pass, so we didn't concern ourselves with stopping the run."

The concern now shifts to the future.

Coming off the exciting "Rice Bowl," the Aggies must improve their defensive strategy against the SMU Mustangs this Saturday. Every area of the Mustangs' offense warrants concern — SMU can run and pass equally well.

"We'll have to play as well as we have all year against SMU," Sherrill said. "They'll be ready to play regardless of what happened in Austin."

"Are you going to tear'em up?," a sports writer joked.

"We won't miss the kickoff, if

that's what your asking," Sherrill said.

"Is this victory the turning point of the season?," said another.

"If we had beaten Texas today, it would be different," Sherrill said. "I'm not taking away from Rice, but we were ready to play before we went on the field. The laxity and the concentration were just not there."

"What about your Douglas Arthur attitude of 'I shall return' after the last beating the team suffered in Dallas?," asked another writer.

"If you're going to come in and put knots on my head, I'm to remember who put them there," he said. "You repay those. That's the way I've always felt."

## Dallas spells relief: W-H-I-T-E

United Press International

IRVING — Quarterback Danny White, returning to the starting lineup after spending the first half of the season in a backup role, threw for 219 yards and two touchdowns in the first half Sunday to spark the Dallas Cowboys to a 22-3 decision over the Indianapolis Colts.

Dallas remain atop the NFC East with a 6-3 record while the Colts fall to 3-6 caused by a mistake-prone effort that included two fumbles and an interception in the third quarter alone.

Dallas Coach Tom Landry chose Gary Hogeboom over White to start the season, but after Hogeboom suffered through a series of ineffective performances White was named to start against the Colts.

White responded with an out-

standing first two quarters and the Cowboys, taking advantage of a series of Indianapolis miscues, turned conservative in the second half.

In addition to a steady performance from White, Dallas running back Tony Dorsett gained 104 yards (his first 100-yard effort of the season) to move past the 9,000-yard mark for his career. Dorsett, however, fumbled twice in the first quarter to slow down the Cowboys' offense.

White threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to Tony Hill early in the second quarter and hit tight end Doug Cosbie with a 5-yard scoring pass with just nine seconds left in the half.

Rafael Septien then contributed field goals of 19, 19 and 24 yards in the second half, all of those set up by major Indianapolis errors.

During the third period, the Colts' Nesby Glasgow fumbled near his own 15, Dallas linebacker Hegman intercepted. Mark Hammann at the Colts' 22-yard line an interference penalty against Randle gave the Cowboys the field position 3-yard line.

On each occasion, however, Colts kept Dallas out of the zone.

Indianapolis avoided a 10-0 lead with a 52-yard, fourth quarter goal by Raul Allegre.

White, who helped rally the boys past New Orleans last week, finished with 21 completions in 26 attempts for 262 yards.

The first half was thrashed inated by the Cowboys, even though they lead only by a touchdown late in the second quarter.

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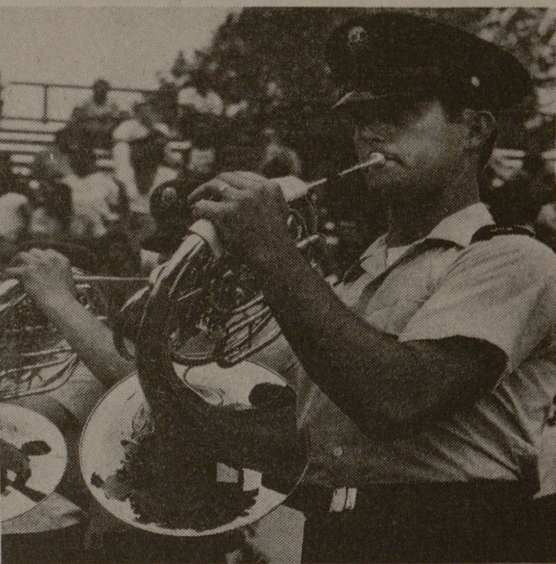
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