

## Fat lady ends Sherrill's upset bid

By TRAVIS TINGLE  
Assistant Sports Editor

IRVING — Whoever the football guru was that once said, "The opera ain't over, 'til the fat lady sings," must have had Jackie Sherrill and Texas A&M in mind.

In A&M's 28-20 loss to SMU Saturday, the "fat lady" belted out her song of doom and gloom for the Aggies with 1:01 left to play in the third quarter.

It was then that Aggie quarterback Craig Stump was jostled by Mustang linebacker Anthony Beverly and fumbled the ball during the SMU 19-yard line. A&M's defense had contained...no...dominated the No. 19 Ponies' high-powered veer offense for nearly three quarters. Barring a total defensive breakdown or a Texas Stadium earthquake, there was no way SMU could drive 81 yards for a touchdown against A&M.

Quicker than you could say, "Mockingbird Lane's Miracle Mustangs," SMU quarterback Don King put the Ponies in the endzone in just five plays.

The only "shaking" in Texas Sta-

dium after that was the Aggie defense — they were beginning to break.

At that point, football's most intangible element reared its ugly head — momentum. A&M had it for nearly three quarters, but now that the A&M lead had been cut to six, the Ags' favorite son "Mo" had run off to the Mustangs. Mo never made it back to Aggies' sideline.

Sherrill couldn't explain Mo's untimely departure, but he knew that when the Ags lost him, things literally got out of Stump's hands.

"When we fumbled the ball, that was definitely the turning point of the game," Sherrill said. Any time you have a momentum change, it really makes a difference. You'll find there's a lot more scoring after turnovers than after normal changes of possession.

"There's no question this game is a step forward. But you're looking for the W's, not the L's. If we were playing poorly, it would be different. But we've been playing well each game. I give the players a lot of credit. They played hard again today. The young

players will remember how hard we played. Is our day coming? Yes. Have we had a lot of bad luck? Yes. I'm just trying to smile a little bit right now."

Sherrill hasn't had much to smile about lately. A&M's defense, led by Johnny Holland and Ken Ford, provided Sherrill with a chance to flash his "pearlies" for a change. The Aggie offense, however, continued to give Sherrill gray hairs.

The Aggies had first-and-goal at SMU's six-yard line and at the eight during the first half. Both drives sputtered inside the three, prompting Sherrill and his staff to settle for Alan Smith field goals rather than gamble on fourth down.

The cliché states that hind-sight is 20/20, but A&M Offensive Coordinator Golden "Pat" Ruel said the Aggies' decision not to gamble was made with their heads, not their hearts.

"We should have gotten the thing in the endzone," Ruel said. "We made the right coaching move. There's no way of knowing that those plays would turn out to be so

critical. We are just not a great football team yet."

On both fourth-and-goals, the Aggie offense squad looked to the bench and pointed in unison toward the goal line. The A&M coaches hesitated, but sent Smith in to get six easy points, instead of 14 hard-earned points.

Stump, who turned in his best showing as a starter in completing 14 of 25 for 207 yards and two touchdowns, said the offense would have like to have gone for the touchdowns, but they respected the coaches' decisions.

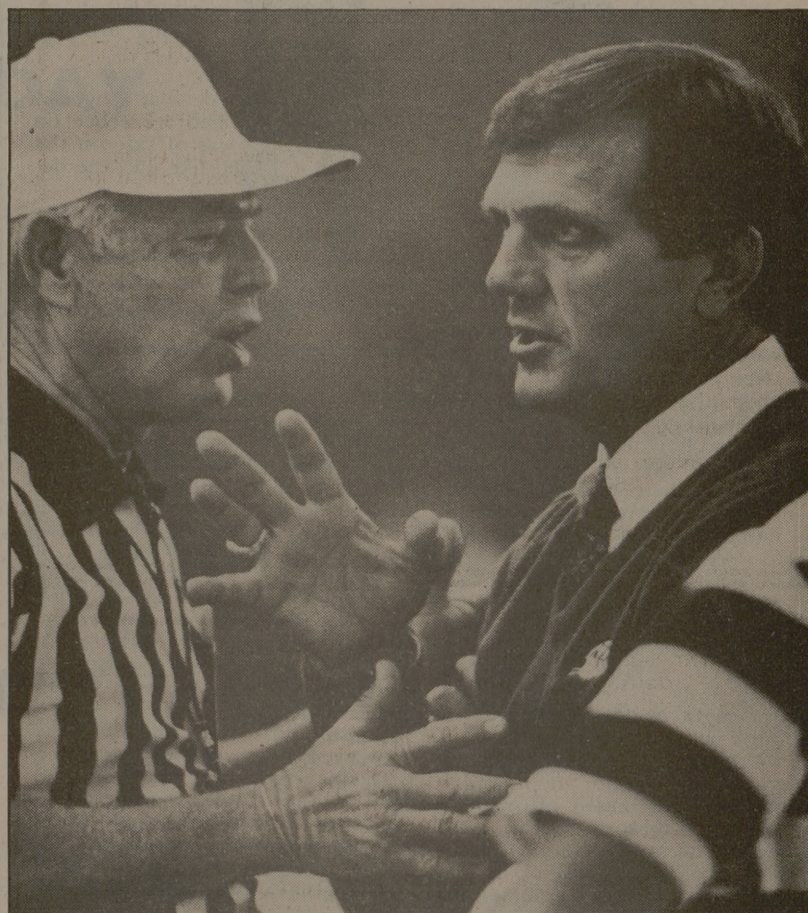
"Whatever the coaches want, we do it," Stump said. "We just wanted to get points on the board at the time."

Tailback Thomas Sanders, who led the Ags in rushing with 67 yards, said he was confident in both goal line situations.

"I felt like we could have made both of them, if we had gone for it," Sanders said.

Though Sherrill's hair turned

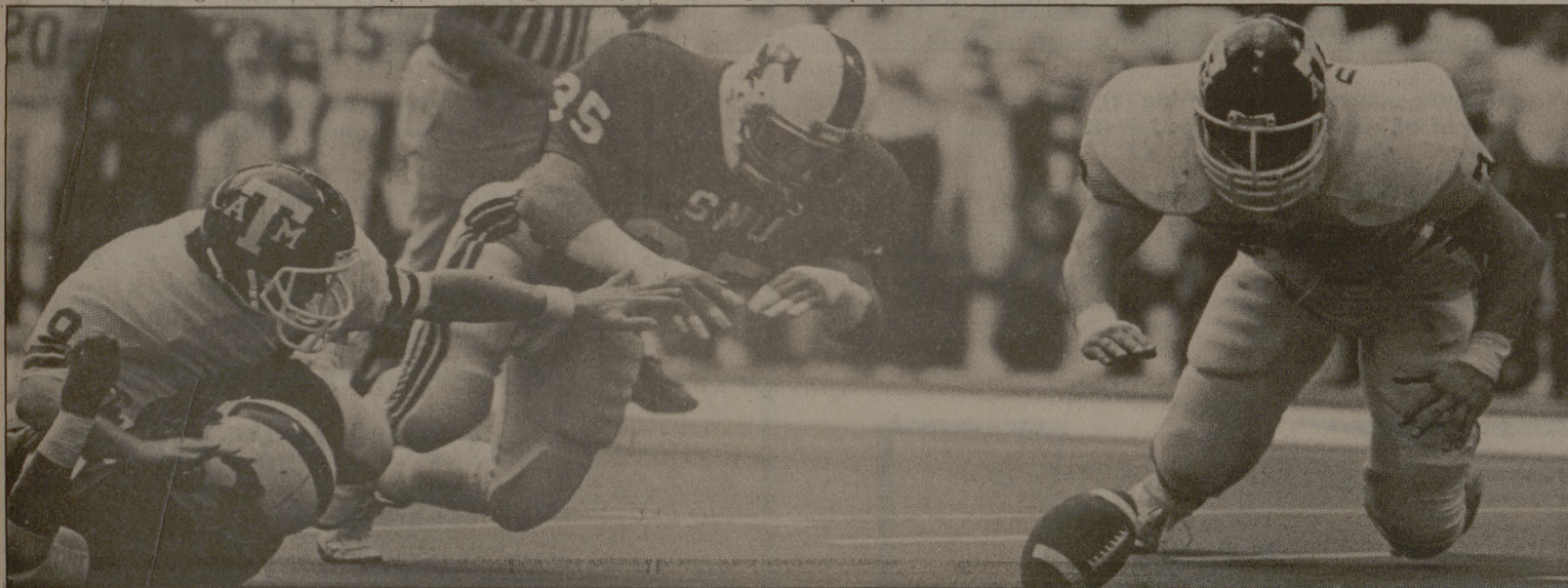
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Photos by

PETER ROCHA and JOHN MAKELY

Above, A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill tries to get an official to see things his way during the Aggies' 28-20 loss to SMU Saturday at Texas Stadium. At left, A&M quarterback Craig Stump (9) is wrapped up by SMU linebacker Anthony Beverly and fumbles the ball during the Ags' last major drive at the end of the third quarter. A&M's Matt Darwin (78) and SMU's Monte Goen (35) dive for the loose ball. Goen, however recovered for the No. 19 Mustangs (5-2).



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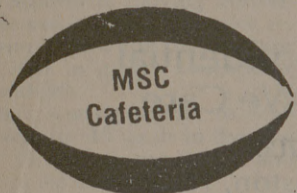
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Issue	Phil Gramm	Lloyd Doggett
Federal Tax Increases	Against	For (Houston Post, 4/3/84) (Houston Chronicle, 5/1/84)
Authorizing The Legislature To Pass A State Income Tax	Against	For (Four Votes, 1974 Texas Constitutional Convention)
Amnesty For Illegal Aliens	Against	For (Corpus Christi Caller, 5/16/84)
The "Gay Rights Bill" With Affirmative Action For Homosexuals	Against	For (San Antonio Express, 5/27/84) (Dallas Morning News, 8/8/84)
Probation For Violent Criminals	Against	For (Three Votes, Texas Senate, 1977)
Death Penalty For Murder Committed During Robbery, Rape Or Terrorism	For	Against (Daily Texan, 12/7/74)
Balanced Budget Amendment To The Constitution	For	Against (Abilene Reporter News, 4/29/84) (One Vote, Texas Senate, 1977)
Right-To-Work Guarantees	For	Against (Three Votes, 1974 Texas Constitutional Convention) (One Vote, Texas Senate, 1975) (One Vote, Texas Senate, 1981)
President Reagan's Grenada Rescue Mission	For	Against (Houston Post, 3/3/84)
Strong National Defense With The B-1 Bomber And The MX Missile	For	Against (Dallas Morning News, 3/21/84)

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