

Sherrill's Aggs let sleeping Frogs lie

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Assistant Sports Editor

With 1:24 remaining in Saturday's game, Texas A&M's Ray Childress jarred the ball loose from TCU's Anthony Gulley on fourth and four at the Horned Frog 12-yard line. That play helped A&M preserve a 35-21 upset victory over 17th-ranked TCU — a team that looked as if it still hadn't awoken from its nightmarish experience against Texas last weekend.

During the same series, Aggie deep snapper Shawn Walker offered some consoling words to the purple Cinderella Boys from Fort Worth, who watched themselves fall from Cotton Bowl contention.

"Bluebonnets ain't so bad, baby," Walker shouted from the sidelines. What Walker's statement meant, was that A&M's upset of TCU sent the Horned Frogs on their merry way to face West Virginia in the Bluebonnet Bowl instead of picking cotton on Jan. 1.

Even A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill came up with a catch phrase to describe the Aggies' first 1984 win over a Division I-A team with a winning record. The Aggies defeated Arkansas (6-5) in 1983.

"Twelve dozen raw," Sherrill said to sports writers as he left the post-game press conference. "You guys will have to figure it out. And don't ask the players what it means either. That's enough for me. These (players) are more important (to talk to) than I am."

Twelve dozen raw? Is Sherrill gone yet? Sorry coach, it's too tempting. What does it mean Johnny Holland?

"I don't really know what it means," Holland said. The A&M linebacker intercepted two TCU passes on Saturday. "Maybe (Sherrill) meant that we've beaten TCU 12 times in a row now."

Childress, who played in his last game at Kyle Field, helped erase any doubts about the twelve dozen raw scenario with his post-game statements.

"TCU said this game was going to put them in the Cotton Bowl," Childress said. "They haven't beaten us in 12 years. I've never lost to them and I never will."

Childress led the Aggie defense with 14 tackles, 10 unassisted and three for losses. Sherrill praised Childress, a sure choice for All-Southwest Conference honors, in simple terms.

"There's not a better player in the country right now," Sherrill said of the senior from Richardson.

TCU Head Coach Jim Wacker used every word in his gung-ho vocabulary except his favorite, "unbelievable," in describing Childress' play Saturday.

"Texas A&M has some super football players, but we haven't gone up against anyone like Childress," Wacker said. "He's been playing all year like a man possessed. We just couldn't block him, especially late in the game when it was still 28-21."

TCU tailback Kenneth Davis said Childress and Co. wreaked havoc in the Horned Frogs' backfield. The Aggies sacked TCU's quarterbacks seven times for 42 yards in losses.

"They were definitely motivated today," Davis said. "Ray Childress just played like a madman all day long."

Although Davis rushed for 141 yards on 21 carries, A&M's defense never really let the nation's second leading rusher get loose.

"Our defensive game plan all around was excellent," Sherrill said. "We took away what they do best. We stopped their option (veer), if that's what you're asking."

Saturday's game not only extended A&M's winning streak over TCU, but it gave the Aggs their biggest victory since Sherrill arrived three years ago. Sherrill said the players deserved more credit than he did.

"It's not a big win for me," Sherrill said. "It's a big win for our players. (TCU) had a lot more incentive to

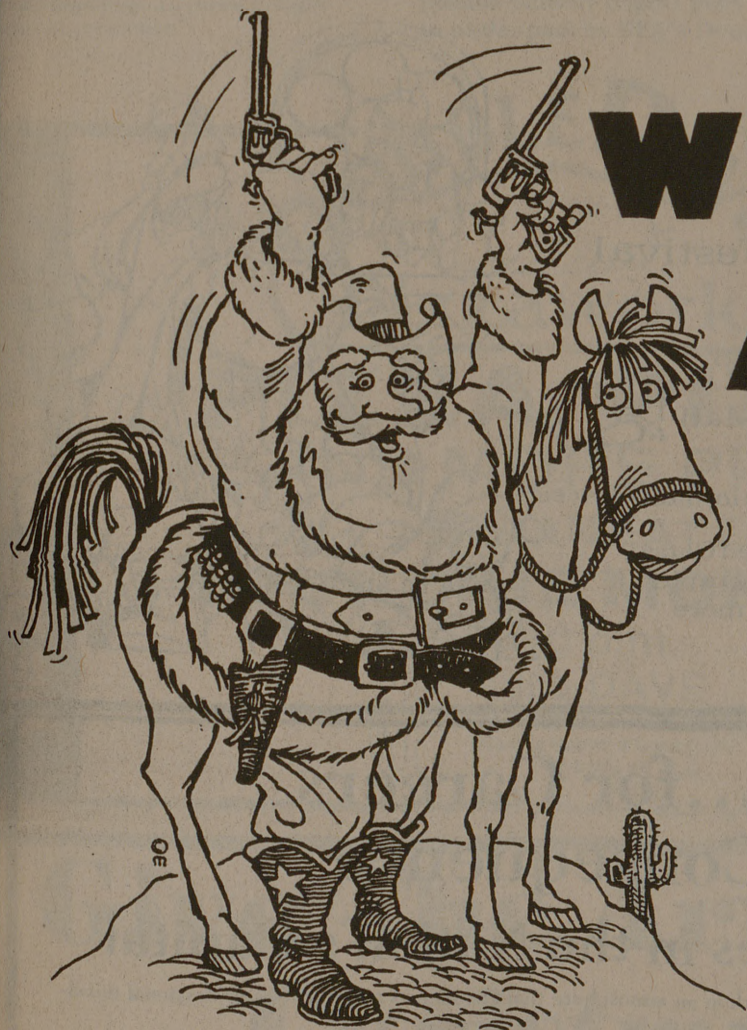


Photo by DEAN SAITO

TCU running back Tony Jeffery (right) reaches out for a loose ball fumbled by Horned Frog quarterback Anthony

Gulley (left), as A&M's Johnny Holland (11) goes over the top. A&M upset TCU 35-21 in front of 38,209 fans Saturday.

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What's The Holdup? Are You Waiting for Christmas?

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