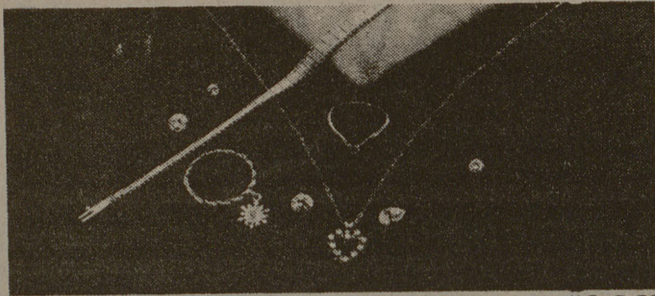


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# Texas free of Cotton worries

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

The loudest cheer by Texas fans came just before the third quarter kickoff when the public-address announcer gave the Rice-Houston score.

Rice had taken a 14-13 lead at halftime, renewing No. 13 Texas' bid for a Cotton Bowl berth.

The crowd became so noisy that officials momentarily delayed the game. Three plays later, Texas safety Jerry Gray intercepted his seventh pass of the year, tying a Longhorn record. The crowd went wild, sensing not only a possible comeback, but also a trip to Dallas on New Year's Day.

The Horn fans didn't have to worry about getting hoarse or making holiday travel plans. That brief moment was all they had to cheer about all night.

Not only did Rice eventually lose to Houston 38-26, sending the Cougars to the Cotton Bowl, but Texas suffered the embarrassment of losing to A&M 37-12 — the most points ever scored by an A&M team against Texas.

"Needless to say, tonight was a big disappointment for us," said Texas Head Coach Fred Akers. "We played hard, but not all that well."

Akers said the turning point in the game occurred after the Gray interception, when Texas kicker Jeff Ward had a 27-yard field goal blocked by A&M's Domingo Bryant.

"When things like that start happening, you know it's their night," Akers said. "It was the first time we've ever had a field goal blocked, and for the ball to just bounce in (A&M linebacker Scott Polk's) hands is incredible. I was proud of Rob Moerschell for chasing him down. But, that block and run just sealed the game. That would have cut their lead to 20-3, and we still had plenty of time to get back in the game."

Texas tight end William Harris agreed that the mood of the Horns changed after the blocked field goal.

"That field goal block and return really hurt us," Harris said. "It looked like we were going to score and get back in it and then it's gone. That was definitely a turning point. We had some success but just never seemed to be able to get anything going."

The Horns were in shock after the game. They didn't understand how the Ags could have completely dominated them.

"I'm as confused as everyone else about what happened to us tonight,"

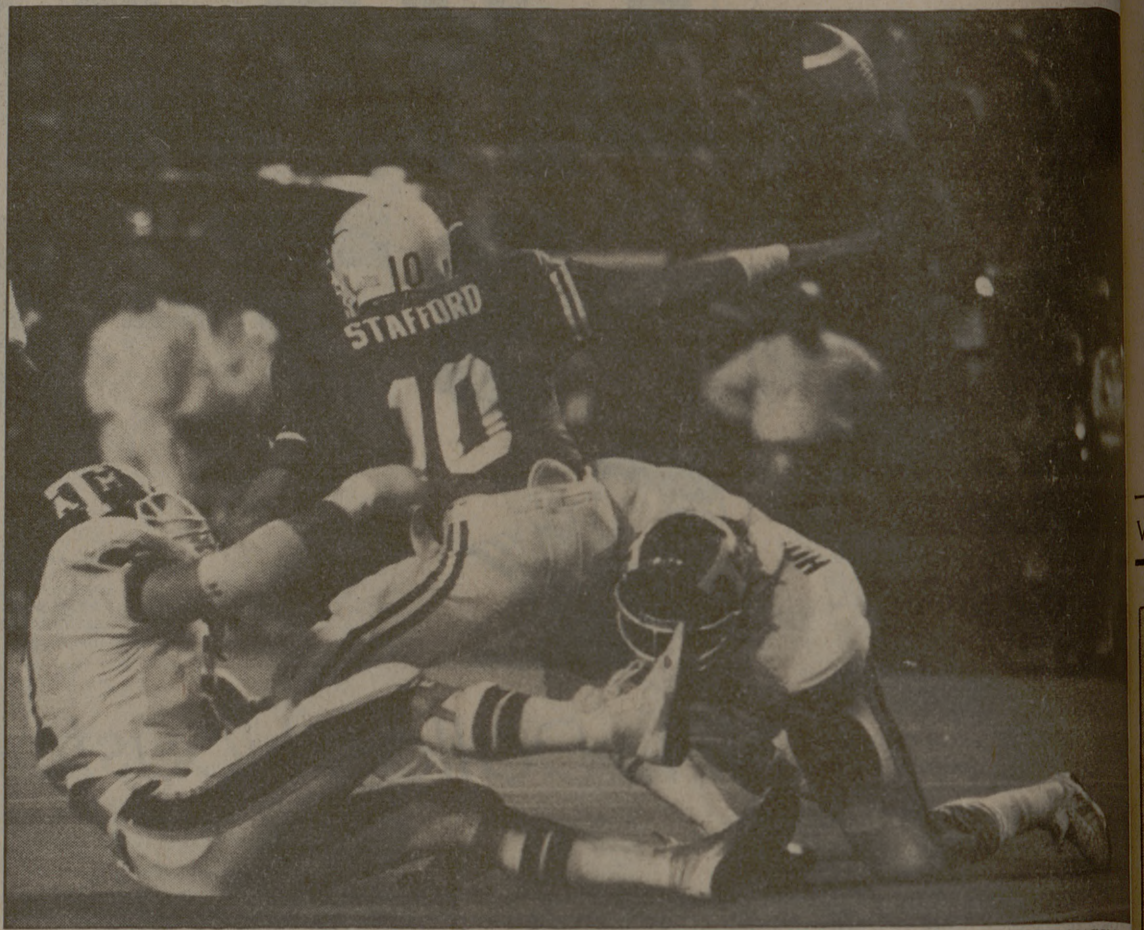


Photo by JOHN MAKELI

Texas quarterback Bret Stafford loses control of the ball after a jarring hit by A&M defenders. Stafford was knocked out of the game and Texas out of the Cotton Bowl.

Texas defensive end Blake Brawner said. "It seemed like we were going out there and playing our hearts out, but nothing seemed to go right."

"It's just a loss of words and a loss of heart," said Tony Degrate, Texas' All-American defensive tackle. "I'm still in shock over this, but A&M played awfully well. I really hate to lose and this hurts a lot."

"Back-to-back losses (Texas lost to Baylor 24-10 last week) really don't sit well," said Gray, the SWC's Defensive Player of the Year. "I guess A&M really wanted this one."

Not only were the Horn's egos bruised, but so were their bodies. The physical punishment they received from the Ags was apparent.

"We're held together with tape right now," Akers said. "Tony Edwards has a bad ankle. (Bret) Stafford got his bell rung, but he'll be all right. (Todd) Dodge has a badly bruised sternum and he hurt his knee."

The Horns were impressed with the play of the aggressive Ags.

"They have outstanding talent," Akers said. "If they'd have played like that all year, they would have won a few more games. It's really hard to see how they lost those games."

"They ran the football well and controlled the line of scrimmage. They got us in a position where we

had to pass on offense and blitz on defense. Craig Stump kept poise. I hope he doesn't have more games like that against us."

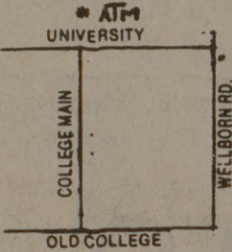
Despite the loss, Texas (7-3-1, 5-3) was extended an invitation to play Iowa in the first ever Freedom Bowl on Dec. 26 in Anaheim, Calif.

After the game, the players and coaches discussed it and decided to accept a bowl bid that has been surrounded by controversy. Perm State had already turned down a possible invitation to the Freedom Bowl at nearby Cal-State Fullerton. In the season, desired a bid to the Freedom Bowl but weren't considered.

Sorry, No vacancies this semester. However, We're taking application deposits for a waiting list for Spring, Summer & Fall of 1985.



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## IM Gameplan

### ENTRIES OPEN

**BASKETBALL-B-ball** is back and it's hotter than ever. Entries close Tuesday, Dec. 4 for Intramural Basketball. Play begins Jan. 21, 1985 in all four classes: A, B, C & D (Recreation). Competition will consist of Round Robin leagues with a single elimination playoff tournament. IM Basketball will be reffed under National Federation of State High School Association Rules with Intramural exceptions. Sign up early in Room 159 E. Kyle. Entries are limited! \$25 entry fee per team.

### Preseason Basketball Tournament-

Basketball players must be in heaven this month! Entries close Dec. 14, 1984. Tournament play begins Tuesday, Jan. 17 and winds up Sunday, Jan. 20. Schedules may be picked up Monday, Jan. 14 at the IM-Rec Office. Classes A and B level competition. Men's, Women's, CoRec divisions will be played. No awards will be given. A \$5 entry fee will be charged.

### 3-ON-3 TOURNAMENT-

What is it about Basketball that generates all these tournaments? Entries are still being taken for the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Enter early since only a limited number of spaces are available. Tournament dates are Jan. 14, 15 and 16. Competition consists of single elimination tournament play. T-shirt awards will be given to the winners of classes A and B. Also, the top two Men's A teams will be given the opportunity to go on to the regional level of a national 3-on-3 tournament in Arlington. There is a \$5 entry fee.

### OUTDOOR SOCCER-

We've moved it back outside folks. Entries close Tuesday, Dec. 4. Play begins Monday, Jan. 14, 1985 at the Penberthy Intramural Complex. Classes A, B and C are Round Robin leagues with single elimination playoffs. Class D is a 4-game Round Robin with no playoffs. No team may have more than one TAMU Soccer Club player on its roster. Any team having a Soccer Club member must play Class A. Awards given to Class A & B champions. A \$20 entry fee must be paid at registration.

## TEAM CAPTAIN'S MEETINGS

The team captain's meetings are short, thirty minute sessions which provide captains with: current intramural procedures, new rule changes, rainout procedures, playoff schedules, rescheduling games and how to file a protest.

A question and answer session is included in the meeting. Between the informational and question and answer questions thus hopefully eliminating the possibilities of your team forfeiting an important game. Schedules are also given out to help you keep track of game dates, locations, and times. The captain's meetings enable your team to be better informed, more responsible, and to enjoy intramural activities. If for some reason you are unable to attend a team captain's meeting, be sure to drop by the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, in 159 East Kyle.

## OFFICIALS NEEDED

Officials are needed for Outdoor Soccer and Basketball. Anyone interested should contact the Intramural Office at 845-7826.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored each Monday in the Battalion by your local McDonald's<sup>®</sup> Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall and on Texas Avenue. Stories are written by members of the Intramural Staff, graphics are by Joel Hickerson, and photos are by Tom McDonnell and Marcy Basile.



Jump! on over to the IM-Rec office and sign-up your basketball team. Entries are limited.



IM-Rec Sports needs officials for next year's Basketball and Outdoor Soccer seasons.

## BASKETBALL NEWS

This years basketball will be played under some new rules. The most noteworthy is the ruling on dunking. **DUNKING IS ALLOWED IN CLASS A PLAY ONLY!** If you dunk, don't sign up for any other class. Officials are still needed for basketball. The hours are good and the pay is competitive. Join intramurals -for the fun of it.