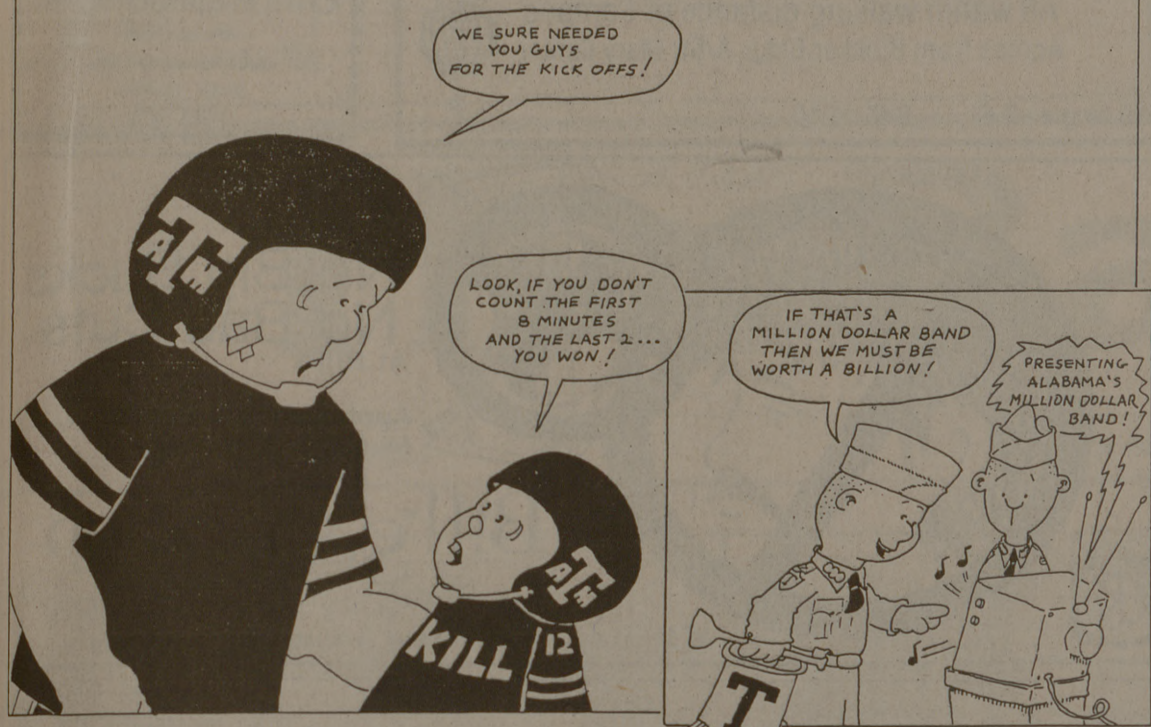


dp 1985



Ags must be on lookout for SWC half-pint heroes

The game was billed as a match-up of "possibly the two best linebackers in the country."

The opposing head coaches were once fraternity brothers and teammates on two national championship teams.

The "Spirit of Aggieland" was pitted against the "Legend of the Bear," before 74,678 onlookers in Legion Field.

So, amidst all the hype and hoopla of Texas A&M vs. Alabama, it seems only appropriate that the game was decided by a 5-foot-8, 163-pound bundle of kicking energy named Van Tiffin.

Yes, Van Tiffin — the place kicker who missed 40 percent of his attempts last season. The same guy whose career-best kick was a measly 47-yarder.

The same Van Tiffin whose name sounds more like a mass-transit system for Smurfs, than a big-time college game breaker.

"I felt comfortable," Tiffin squeaked after the game. "Everything was perfect — the snap, the hold, the blocking — everything."

Including the timing, Tiffin was describing the record-setting 57-yarder he kicked just before halftime to give the Tide a 10-3 lead. But he could have equally been talking about the 40 and 51-yarders he drove through the uprights in the second half to nail shut the lid on the Aggie coffin.

"Before the game, (Alabama) Coach (Perkins) came up to me in the locker room and said he felt a record coming on and, sure enough, he was right," Tiffin piped in.

For his "man-sized" efforts, Tiffin was recognized as the Chevrolet Most Valuable Player — not bad for a guy who could fit in the glove compartment of most Chevys.

But, rather than belabor the obvious "shortcomings" of A&M's 23-10 loss, the Aggie coaches would be wise to take a look at the rosters of upcoming opponents for other "tiny tots of terror" and prepare accordingly.

BRANDON BERRY Sports Writer

In the past three season-openers (coincidentally, all those of during the Jackie Sherrill era), trends have been set that the Aggies have had trouble shaking all season long.

Consider the facts:
• In 1982, A&M lost four starters to injuries and a 38-16 decision to Boston College and 1984 Heisman Trophy-winner Doug Flutie.

They proceeded to lose Gary Kubiak (broken leg), as running back Eric Dickerson (as in NFL All-Pro "Eric the Great") ran wild for 215 yards in a 47-9 loss to SMU.

The names and scores changed, but the 1982 A&M football losses were characterized by two factors — injuries and Heisman-worthy performances.

• In '83, the Aggies opened with a loss to California in the closing seconds due to defensive lapses in the secondary (Gale Gilbert passed for 260 yards) and had last-minute play-calling (Jimmie Hawkins was tackled in the end-zone on an ill-advised sweep play with 10 seconds remaining for a game-losing safety).

• A 45-13 loss to Texas, as seldom used back-up "Horn" quarterback, Rick McIvor, passed for 130 yards and 31 points in one quarter. Add to that a last-minute 10-7 defeat at the hands of SMU, when Jimmie "deja-vu" Hawkins was stopped on fourth-down-and-inches and the '83 season could be easily characterized as a year of shaky pass defense and crucial offensive collapses.

• Last season, highly-favored A&M sleepwalked through three quarters against Texas-El Paso and escaped with a 20-17 victory. The win came only after a game-tying UTEP field goal hit the goalpost and landed impotently on the Kyle Field Astroturf with 15 seconds to play.

Ensuing losses to underdogs Texas Tech and Baylor, along

with come-from-behind wins by SMU and Houston categorized 1984 as the year of the underdog and come-from-behind losses.

Therefore, A&M's loss to Alabama last Saturday was more than just the first game of the '85 season for the Aggies. It was the stage-setter for what appears to be the "Year of the Small Man."

The list of candidates likely to cause trouble this year begins in Lubbock with "Titanic" Tyrone Thurman of Texas Tech, who tips the scales and scrapes the rafters with his mighty 5-2, 128-pound frame.

Thurman won last week's game against Tulsa with a 20-yard TD reception from Tech quarterback Aaron Keese (another Conan look-alike at 5-11, 170) with 30 seconds remaining. Don't be fooled, however — their best is being saved for Oct. 5, when the Aggies come to town.

And how about Eric Metcalf, that 5-9 freshman speedster at Texas?

Aggie coaches will try to make us believe that they're really worried about the Edwin Simmonses and Ty Allerts, but Metcalf will prove to be the real Thanksgiving spine-tingler against the plump A&M turkeys.

The precedent of "half-pint heroes" has already been set in Alabama, and the Aggies would be wise to roll with the Tide.

Rather than concentrate on size, speed or quickness, A&M should field a team comprised of their best leapers. In any crucial situation, they could simply jump over or onto the heads of their enemies like a housewife squashing cockroaches — sorry, Darrell Royal.

Rather than sending game-films to opponents, the Aggies could send elevator cleats.

And rather than just accepting the inevitable, for the first time in four years, A&M could adjust to trends employed by rival players and coaches.

Because if they don't, past experience says the '85 season will be filled with record-setting kicks, catches and laughs from under-sized feet, hands and vocal cords.

Tigers still No. 1 team in AP poll

SMU, Arkansas remain only Top 20 SWC reps

Associated Press

Auburn and Oklahoma remained 1-2 Monday in The Associated Press college football poll, while USC moved up to third place and Michigan ousted Notre Dame from the Top 20.

Auburn celebrated its first week as the No. 1 team by defeating Southern Mississippi, 29-18, Saturday. The Tigers received 23 of 60 first-place votes and 1,137 of a possible 1,200 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and sportscasters.

Oklahoma, which hasn't played yet, also received 23 first-place votes but only 1,125 points. The Sooners open Sept. 28 at Minnesota.

USC did not play over the weekend, but the Trojans moved from fifth place to third with six first-place votes and 1,010 points. Florida, which had been third, slipped to 11th place after blowing a 28-7 lead and settling for a 28-28 tie with Rutgers.

Iowa opened its season by crushing Drake, 58-0, and jumped from fifth to fourth with five first-place votes and 998 points. SMU had the week off and climbed from sixth to fifth place. The Mustangs received the remaining three first-place votes and 913 points.

Florida State, also idle, rose from seventh to sixth with 850 points. Ohio State climbed from ninth to seventh with 761 points by shading Pitt 10-7. Oklahoma State struggled to beat North Texas State, 10-9, but held onto eighth place with 697 points.

LSU defeated North Carolina, 23-13, and shot from 12th place to ninth with 682 points, and Penn State rounded out the Top 10, rising from 11th to 10th with 610 points after downing Temple, 27-25.

The second 10 consisted of Florida, UCLA, Brigham Young, Arkansas, South Carolina, Alabama, Maryland, Nebraska, Michigan and Illinois.

Last week, it was Penn State, LSU, Notre Dame, Arkansas, South Carolina, BYU, Maryland, Nebraska, Illinois and Alabama.

Michigan defeated Notre Dame, 20-12, and cracked the Top 20 for the first time since the sixth of last season's 16 polls.



AP Top 20 POLL

The Top Twenty teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and season record:

1. Auburn (23) — 2-0-0
2. Oklahoma (23) — 0-0-0
3. USC (6) — 1-0-0
4. Iowa (5) — 1-0-0
5. SMU (3) — 1-0-0
6. Florida State — 2-0-0
7. Ohio State — 1-0-0
8. Oklahoma State — 2-0-0
9. LSU — 1-0-0
10. Penn State — 2-0-0
11. Florida — 1-0-1
12. UCLA — 1-0-1
13. BYU — 1-1-0
14. Arkansas — 1-0-0
15. South Carolina — 2-0-0
16. Alabama — 2-0-0
17. Maryland — 1-1-0
18. Nebraska — 0-1-0
19. Michigan — 1-0-0
20. Illinois — 1-1-0

Others receiving votes: Tennessee, West Virginia, Air Force, Virginia, TCU, Georgia Tech, Kansas, Texas, Clemson, Arizona, Michigan State, Notre Dame, Rutgers, Miami (Fla.), Army, Bowling Green, Texas Tech, Stanford, Georgia, Pittsburgh, Purdue.

Aggie golfers only 6 shots off lead in fall SWC tourney

LUFKIN — The Texas A&M golf team is in second place, six strokes behind Houston, after the first round of the Southwest Conference Commissioner's Cup Golf Championships.

The SWC Commissioner's Cup tournament, the first outright competition between conference schools thus far in 1985-86, began Monday at Crown Colony Country Club in Lufkin.

As expected, the defending champion Cougars hold a slight lead after 36 holes of play.

Perhaps a little more surprising, however, was the fact that A&M shot a solid 344 to fall into second behind the Cougars, who shot a combined 338. The Aggies and Cougars were followed by Arkansas (346), SMU (356), Rice and TCU at 357, Texas (364), and Baylor and Texas Tech at 367.

Baylor's Jerry Smith and Neal

Barfield both shot 64's to lead the best-ball competition during 18 holes Monday morning. After 18 holes of alternate shot competition in the afternoon, the leaders were A&M's Jorge Coghlan and Roy Mackenzie with a low of 67.

After the morning session, Houston and TCU were tied at 201. Three shots back at 204 in a tie for third were Arkansas and A&M.

Houston has won 10 fall championships, including the past five.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY

SPEAKER FROM
TEXAS LAW SCHOOL

301 RUDDER AT 8:30
TUES. SEPTEMBER 17
INFO ON MOCK LSAT

FOR MORE INFO. CALL KIM 764-7994

Twin City Church of Christ GOSPEL MEETING

September 15-20

7:30 p.m. - Monday thru Friday

James W. Adams, speaker
Lufkin, Texas

810 Southwest Parkway College Station

ENGINEERS

Tucson Electric Power Co.

is an investor-owned utility located in Tucson, Arizona. Continuing growth has created many career opportunities for graduates interested in the electric utility industry. If you are an engineer — mechanical or electrical — we can offer you a motivated and challenging work environment, an excellent salary and a full range of company paid benefits.

We'd like to tell you more about our company. Our representative will be on campus Mon., Sept. 23. Please contact your placement office for more details.

P.O. Box 711
Tucson, Arizona
85701

Tucson
Electric
Power

An equal opportunity employer M/F

GALLERY NISSAN

10% Student Discount

Discount is on all parts & labor on Nissan Products only. We will also offer 10% discount on labor only on all non-Nissan products.

Student I.D. must be presented at time workorder is written up.

We now have rental units available for service customers
1214 Tx. Ave. 775-1500

INTERURBAN



Join us Tuesday nights for
MEXICAN BEER NIGHT!
DOS EQUIS, TECATE & CORONA



Only ONE DOLLAR
from 5:00 pm until close

The INTERURBAN
505 University Dr.

"an aggie tradition"

CHRISTY'S FLOWERS and gifts

Aggie Mums
and Flowers

\$2.00 Student Discount!



Now at a new location
4001 E. 29th in
Carter Creek Center
Next to Winn Dixie

Call Us
846-1715

RAMADA

DAILY LUNCH BUFFET

Bring a friend and enjoy a variety of delicious salads, entrees, vegetables, and desserts.

Located at Texas and University Dr. across from TAMU

Locally owned and operated

- 6000 sq. ft. Convention Center
- Small Conference Rooms
- Penthouse for Entertaining
- Campus and Airport Courtesy Van
- 16,000 sq. ft. Sun and Fun Dome
- Airport Catering Service

Rooms available for football games
409-696-4242



845-2611