

Intrastate battle won by Pokes

Dallas defense proves too much for Houston

Associated Press

HOUSTON — After it became obvious that neither Dallas kicker Rafael Septien nor Houston's Tony Zendejas would be the heroes Sunday, Cowboys quarterback Danny White and running back Tony Dorsett took matters into their own hands.

Septien missed four field goals and Zendejas missed one in the closely fought intrastate battle of National Football League rivals. Dorsett blasted 31 yards to the Oiler 1-yard-line and White completed a scoring pass to tight end Fred Cornwell with 1:47 left in the game to lift the Cowboys to a 17-10 win Sunday.

Dallas' aggressive defense kept setting the Cowboys offense up for a blowout with 12 quarterback sacks and four interceptions.

Houston Coach Hugh Campbell said the Oilers were overpowered. "They did a great job on their blitz and they had us outnumbered on every play," Campbell said.

It wasn't until Dallas' Everson Walls recovered a bobbled punt at the Dallas 25 late in the game that the Cowboys decided to win it.

Dallas Coach Tom Landry watched the scoring chances fade away and feared the worst.

"You usually lose games like this," Landry said. "When you miss scoring opportunities consistently, you'll usually lose the game."

The comeback helped ease Septien's misery after he missed four field goals, including two that hit the uprights, the last coming with 13:20 left in the game.

Zendejas also missed a 37-yarder with 6:04 left that would have given the Oilers a 13-10 lead.

In addition to losing 82 yards on 12 sacks, Moon also was intercepted four times, including twice by Ron Fellows. Randy White and Victor Scott each had two sacks.

Dallas improved its record to 3-1, while the Oilers fell to 1-3.

Rushing over 100 yards for the first time this year, Dorsett plowed into the middle of the Oiler line, cut back to his left and reached the 1 to set up the winning touchdown.

Dorsett finished with 159 yards rushing on 23 carries.

Tulsa 'keys' on future after A&M rout

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Sports Editor

Just after Texas A&M locked up a 45-10 victory over Tulsa Saturday night, the Aggies threw away the key — the key to the Golden Hurricane's locker room, that is.

Tulsa players and coaches were hovering around the grayish door as the grayish sky dumped rain on them like it had all game long. Then Tulsa Head Coach Don Morton asked, in a sort of what-else-can-go-wrong tone, "Who's got the key?"

Nobody knew, and only Tulsa cared, so the team waited.

More Tulsa players, and a handful of UT boosters, continued to assemble in front of the locked door. Some UT players limped. Others helped teammates who were injured by offering a shoulder to lean on.

It was obvious from the mood of the Tulsa players and coaches that The Hurricane had just been down-graded to a tropical storm.

Once Tulsa finally got inside the dressing room, it still looked for another key — the key to Tulsa's football future.

UT's four-game slate, against some of the best and worst the Southwest Conference had to offer, was finally over. The Hurricane came out of it with a record of 1-3, but the future independents accentuated only the positive of the tough schedule.

"We're just excited about the progression of our football program," Morton said, "although it's hard to say that after a 45-10 loss."

Not that hard. UT has four heavyweight bouts under its belt and two left — Oklahoma State this week and Florida State down the road. With that kind of game experience, UT should cruise through the Missouri Valley Conference, which will disband after this season.

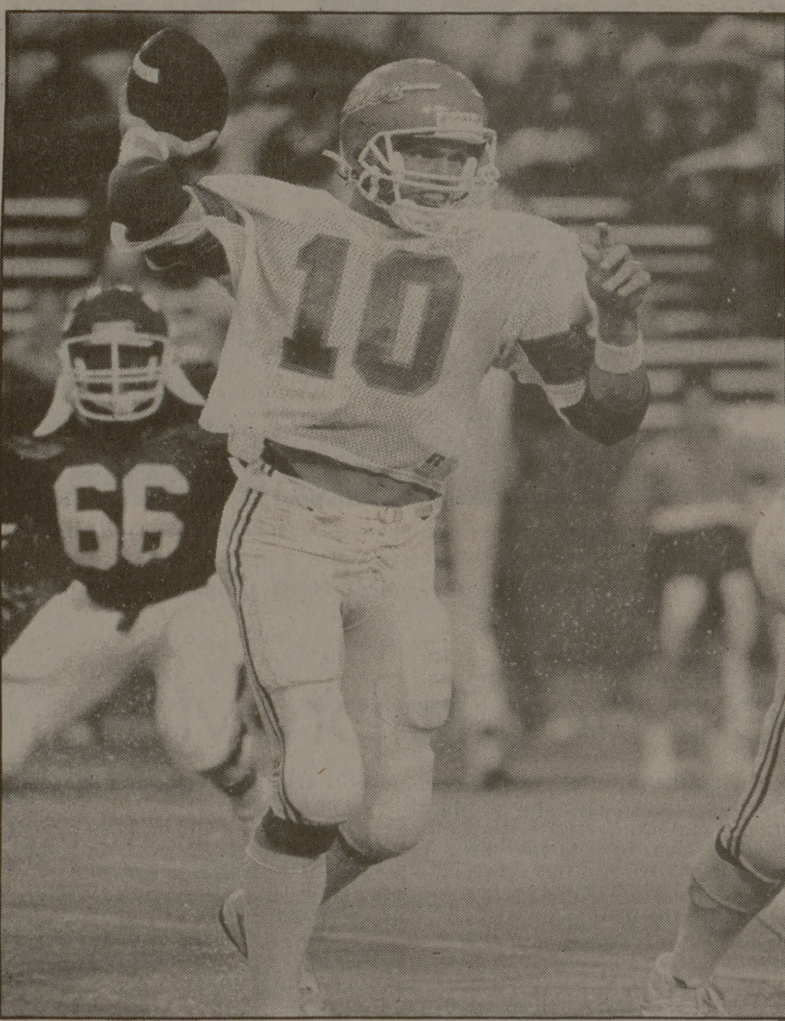


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Tulsa quarterback Steve Gage couldn't find the key to unlock the Texas A&M defense Saturday. Although the junior completed 10-of-16 passes for 98 yards, he could only lead TU to 10 points. The Aggies, meanwhile, piled up 702 yards of offense and 45 points.

Tulsa should cruise, that is, if it scores better in the MVC than it did in the SWC. Last week, Arkansas shut out

Tulsa, 24-0. Prior to that, UT lost to Texas Tech, 21-17, in the closing minutes. However, in its season-opener, the Hurricane de-

feated Houston, 31-24, and amassed 431 yards of total offense.

Well, against A&M, UT's offense wreaked the same kind of havoc it had against UH three weeks ago. The Hurricane rolled up 360 yards of total offense — 262 on the ground, including a 176-yard rushing performance by halfback Gordon Brown.

Now usually 360 yards would be enough offense to beat just about anybody, maybe even the Indianapolis Colts.

But it wasn't enough against A&M on this particular Saturday.

The Aggies racked up 702 yards of total offense, with the passing of A&M quarterback Kevin Murray accounting for 309 yards alone. The Aggies' 702-yard effort was the second best output by a SWC team just behind Arkansas' 859 yards against Pittsburg, Kansas State in 1936.

"We knew they (A&M) had a good passing team coming in," said Morton, who is in his first year at Tulsa, "but they showed tremendous balance offensively with their running attack also. You have to give A&M a lot of credit. They executed well and we were very impressed. We're not going to make any excuses."

If the Hurricane were to make excuses, you can bet they would have centered on UT's four fumbles and four-of-14 third-down conversion ratio.

"It was frustrating for our offense when we could move the ball and not score any points," Morton said. "It's frustrating for any offense not to score points when you have the opportunity. We certainly need to improve upon that. They (A&M) just had a lot of athletic ability on defense."

UT flanker Ronnie Kelley seemed a little more bewildered than his coach was at Tulsa's lack of lights on the scoreboard.

"I'm disappointed in a way," said Kelley, who led the Hurricane with six catches for 58 yards. "We gave 110 percent on offense, but came up short. We had some mental mistakes and letdowns and A&M just took advantage of it."

Tulsa quarterback Steve Gage said the Hurricane offense executed its running game as planned, but blamed "costly mistakes" for UT's lack of scoring.

"Really we ran things like we wanted to, except for a few mistakes — fumbles, penalties, etc. — that really hurt us," said Gage, who passed and ran his way for 144 yards and scored Tulsa's only touchdown. "We had good play selection tonight. We just made some crucial mistakes at crucial times and I guess I'm mostly to blame for that."

"We won't change our game plan for anybody. Third-and-long is a bad down for us, but we weren't third-and-long that much. . . . We were second-and-short mostly and that's what makes it (only scoring 10 points against A&M) frustrating."

Things won't get any less frustrating for Tulsa, though.

The Golden Hurricane takes on in-state rival and No. 8-ranked Oklahoma State this week.

You had to look hard to find any "OSU worries" written on Coach Morton's face, but they were there.

"It's important to keep everything in perspective, though. Once it's (the game) done, it's done. It's history. The encouraging thing is that our team unity is as strong as its ever been."

A&M spikers make switch against Lamar

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M volleyball team proved what a difference a year, and hard practice, makes.

After several up and down weeks of inconsistent volleyball, the Aggies decided it was time to play up to their No. 16 ranking. A&M wasted little time with Lamar Friday night, winning 15-13, 15-2, 15-12.

"We played well," said A&M Coach Terry Condon. "That's the best we've played in awhile. It's really the first time we've started off a match playing well."

Maybe the Aggies, now 9-3 on the year, played better because of Condon's harder practices last week. Condon said the Ags needed the hard workouts to regain some intensity and consistency.

"I think it helped," Condon laughed. "It was a little rough, but we needed it. We needed to get the work back into our systems."

Or maybe the improvement shown by the Aggies proved what a strategist Condon is.

Condon switched setters Lesha Beakley and Chris Zogata before the match. Beakley now sets Sherri Brinkman and Margaret Spence more often, and Zogata sets Stacey Gildner and Stacey Smith.

Last year against the same Cardinals, the Aggies did the same thing with the same results.

"Did we really?" Condon asked. "I don't even remember that. I think (the change) helped a lot. They feel a lot more comfortable with the setters like this. It was a good switch."

The move certainly brought All-American Sherri Brinkman to life.

"We really faked them out, didn't we?" Brinkman laughed. "What a coaches' strategy. Lesha and I can communicate well, especially lately. We were getting the communication out there. Lately we've been slacking off. Everyone was getting testy."

"I do like Lesha setting me. Maybe that's all we needed; I don't know."

It was the first time Brinkman has played well for an entire match, hitting a remarkable .500 percent with 17 kills.

"Yes, wasn't it?" Brinkman said. "I had to have fun out there. I was so completely down on myself. Actually my friends helped a lot. I was more or less relaxed for the entire match."

Condon said Brinkman's return to form will do nothing but help the Ags' outside hitters.

"Sherri's getting back in the flow," Condon said. "She was out of sync when she came back from the World University Games. It's taken a little time. When she has a good game, it opens up the outside hitters."

Outside hitters Spence, Gildner and freshman Cheri Steensma seemed to be helped by Brinkman's resurgence in the "new" lineup.

"We were a lot more relaxed," said Spence who had 11 kills for a .296 hitting percentage. "Things really clicked better. We are finally starting to have fun on the court."

As for the other outside hitters, Steensma was brought in for Gildner, when the junior encountered a few problems in the first game. Steensma seemed to rejuvenate the Ags, as she hit .333. Gildner came back to life in the second game and hit .250 overall.

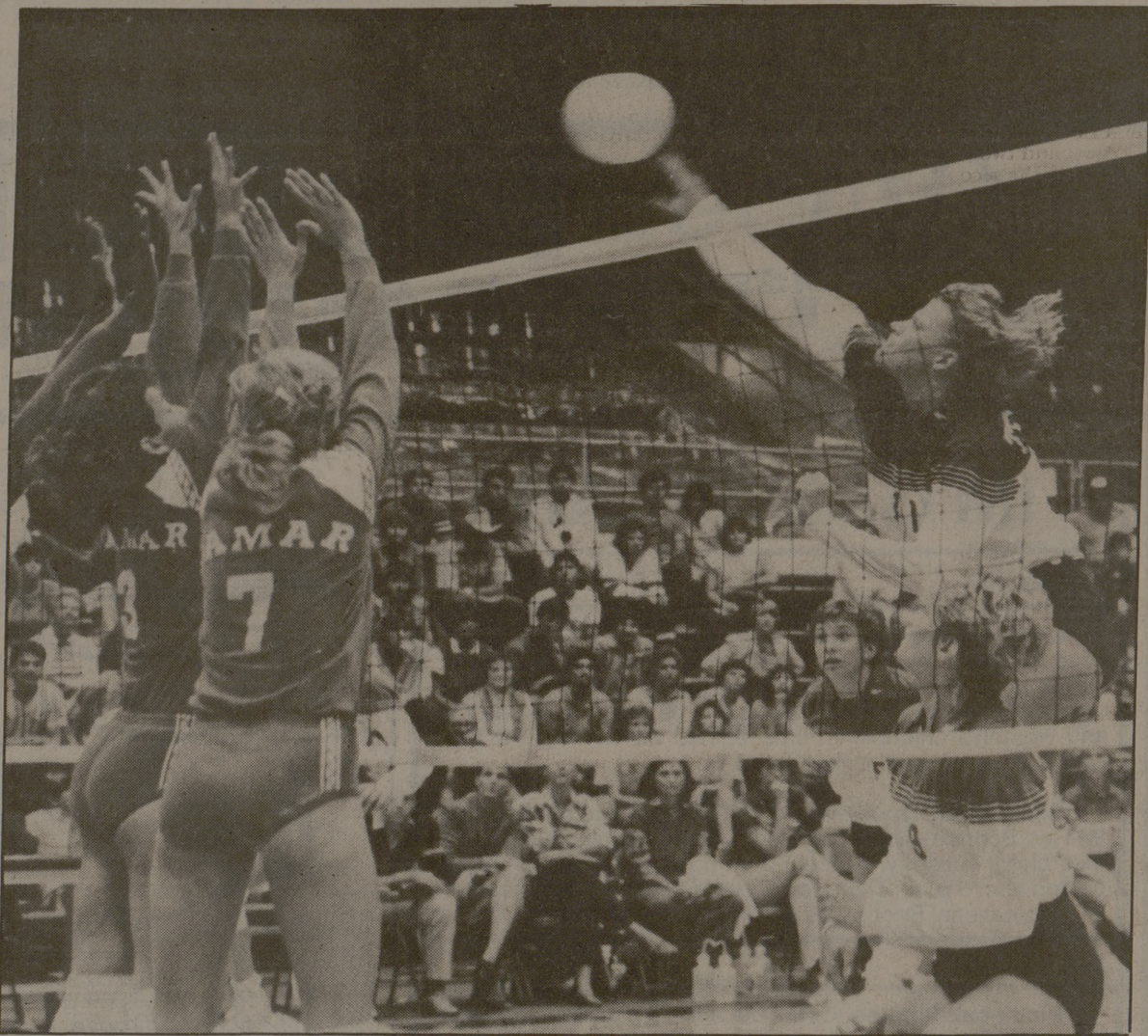


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Sherri Brinkman (11) did almost everything right Friday night. Here, the middle blocker even manages to get one past three Lamar players. Brinkman led the Ags to a 15-13, 15-2, 15-12 win.

Other Sunday NFL scores: (Home team in capitals)

- L.A. RAMS 17
Atlanta 6
- Cleveland 21
SAN DIEGO 7
- ST. LOUIS 43
Green Bay 28
- N.Y. JETS 25
Indianapolis 10
- L.A. Raiders 35
NEW ENGLAND 20
- Miami 30
DENVER 26
- Minnesota 27
BUFFALO 20
- New Orleans 20
SAN FRANCISCO 17
- N.Y. Giants 16
PHILADELPHIA 10 (ot)
- KANSAS CITY 28
Seattle 7
- DETROIT 30
Tampa Bay 9
- CHICAGO 45
Washington 10

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