

# Sports



## Big plays should be the norm when A&M, UH tee it up

By BRANDON BERRY  
Sports Writer

Watch out. Hide the women and kids. The Cougars are coming to Kyle Field.

Yep. One-and-three meets 3-1. The nation's eighth best offense meets the eighth best defense in the Southwest Conference.

Since there are nine teams in the SWC and 122 Division 1 teams in the nation, you figure out why A&M should be scared going into the Saturday's 2 p.m. showdown with Houston.

A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill already has.

"They've (Houston) made some mistakes, some mental mistakes, that have cost them some touchdowns," Sherrill said Tuesday at his weekly news conference. "Defensively, I still feel that they have potentially the best defense in the conference. And offensively, no one has really stopped them yet. They make a lot of big plays."

So how dependent is UH's offense on the big play?

Four games into the season, the Cougars have run 377 offensive plays and have faced third down-and-less-than-three yards only three times.

That's once every 126 plays. That's less than once per game.

That's a big play offense.

"The difference between this year's Houston team and the others we've faced in the past is (UH quarterback) Gerald Landry," Sherrill said. "He has so much speed and quickness back there. Landry is a very, very good option quarterback."

Running the "quadruple option veer," Bill Yeoman's teams have won 156 games, four SWC championships with subsequent Cotton Bowl appearances and have compiled the 17th winningest record in college football.

And this year's Cougs are no different.

UH is again ranked among the nation's leaders in total yardage (34th) and rushing yardage (12th). And they've done it without last season's leading rusher, Raymond Tate, who was injured in the Cougs' first game, but is expected back against the Aggies.

"Against Baylor, they moved the ball, but they fell behind early when they got caught in two busted coverages," Sherrill said. "You take away the big plays against them and they have a lot more wins."

But if pigs could fly, we could shoot down breakfast in the morning.

In losses to Tulsa, Washington  
See See Aggies, page 13

The Texas A&M defense looks like falling dominoes as it pounces on this Texas Tech fumble. Tech split end Eddy Anderson (1) is left

wondering where the ball went as A&M linebacker Johnny Holland scoops it up. A&M hosts Houston Saturday at 2 p.m. in Kyle Field.

Photo by JOHN MAKELY

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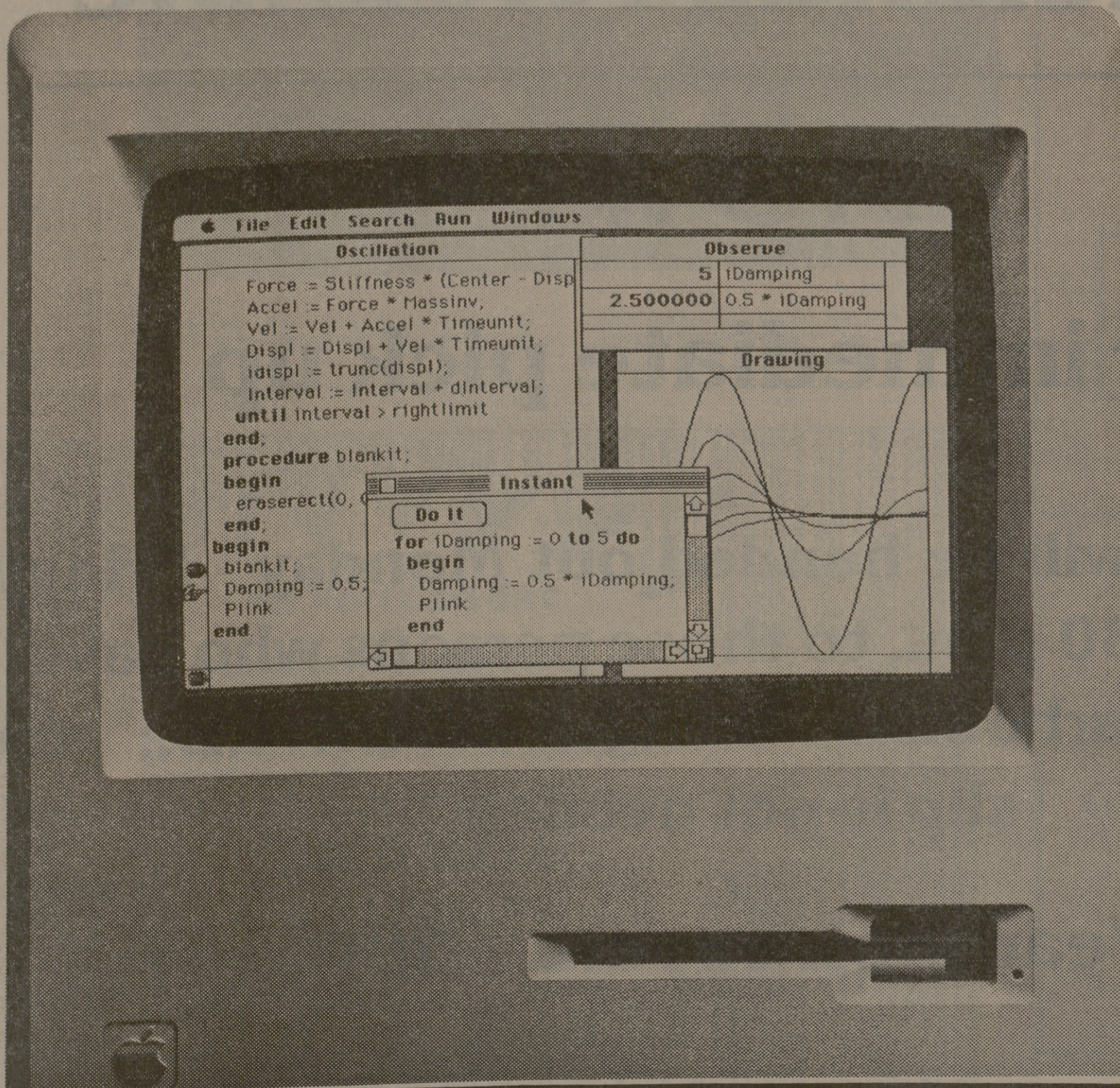
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