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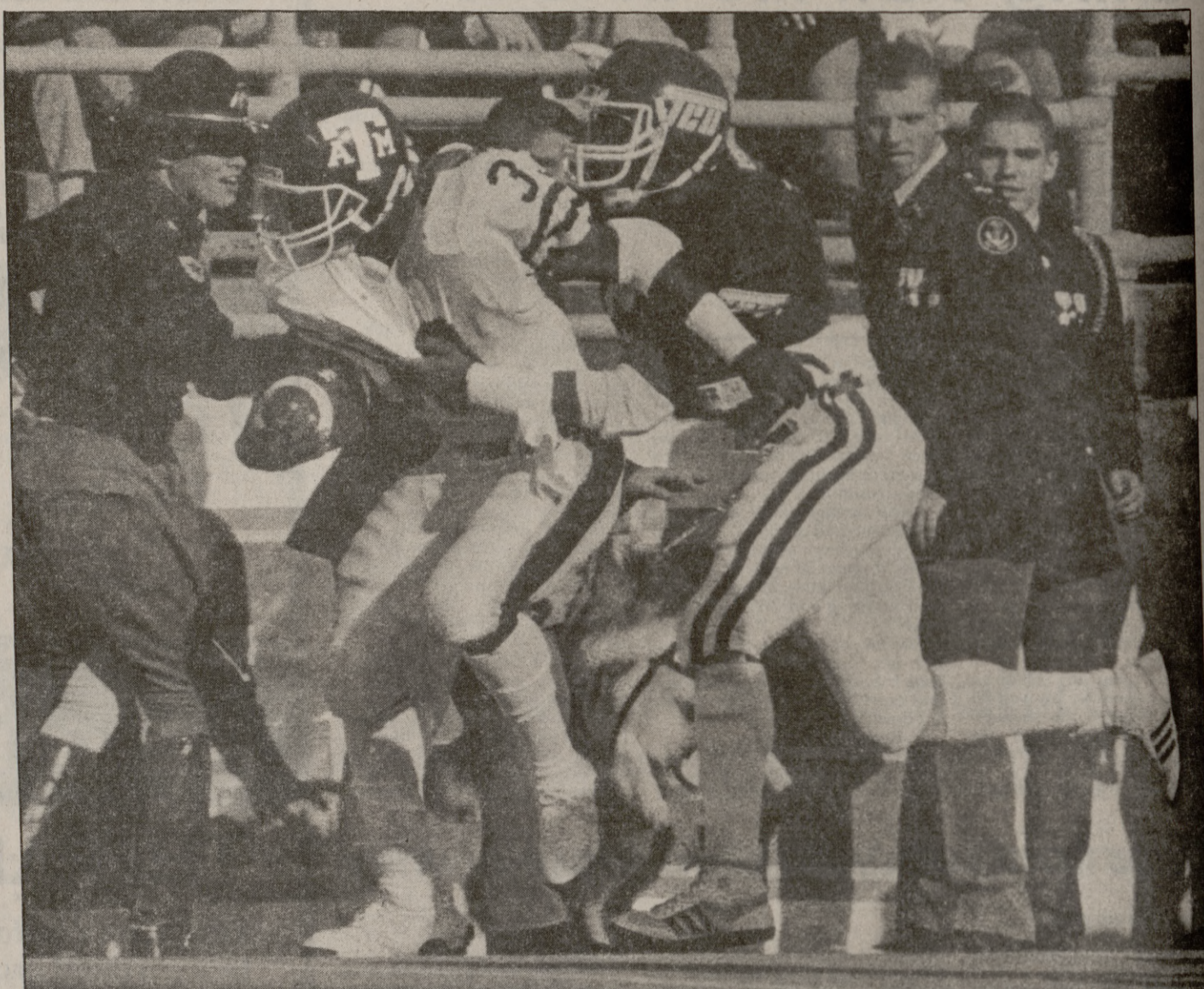


Photo by JOHN MAKELY
Texas A&M running back Keith Woodside (left) on the importance of A&M's rivalry with Texas — "The first thing they told me when I got here was that if we don't do anything else the whole season, just beat Texas. Right now it's do or die (for the Cotton Bowl berth)."

Ags, 'Horns to vie for Cotton

By PETE HERNDON
Sports Writer

For the first time since 1943, rivalry for more than pride

It's finally here — Texas A&M vs. Texas. And this year there's more on the line than just bragging rights. The Southwest Conference's representative to the 50th Annual Cotton Bowl will be decided Thursday night at Kyle Field when the No. 15 Aggies host the No. 18 Longhorns. The game's kickoff time has been switched to 7:15 p.m. and ESPN will provide television coverage of the 92nd meeting between the conference rivals. Both teams sport identical records of 8-2 overall and 6-1 in the SWC.

Even without anything at stake, Aggie fans measure their team's success by how well they play against the Longhorns.

Sophomore running back Keith Woodside, who was chosen ESPN's Most Valuable Player for his 107-yard rushing in A&M's 19-17 win over Southern Methodist, said he learned how important the A&M-Texas game was when he came to Aggieland.

"The first thing they told me when I got here was that if we don't do anything else the whole season, just beat Texas," Woodside said.

But Cotton Bowl berth and the outright SWC championship adds even more to A&M's annual season finale.

"Right now it's do or die," Woodside said. "If we win, we go to the Cotton Bowl (to face Auburn), but we've got to beat Texas first. Then we can worry about winning the Cotton Bowl."

And just what will the Aggies have to do to beat the 'Horns Thanksgiving Night?

Doug Williams, A&M's 300-pound offensive guard, said the Ags will try to do what they've done all year — move the football.

"I've been watching Texas (game) film all year long," Williams said. "I've kind of been looking forward to this game. They blitz, they cover the pass well and they run to the ball. We've got to establish the running game again and hopefully Kevin (Murray) will have the passing game going. Talent-wise, there's nobody that can match us. Why make excuses? We should move the ball."

Williams said the credit for A&M's rejuvenated offense can be given to offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee and offensive line coach Joe Avezzano, both newcomers to Coach Jackie Sherrill's staff.

"Avezzano and Amedee, you can put those two men together and I'd say they've had a 99.9 percent impact (on the offense, compared to last year)," Williams said. "They've got a new philosophy for us and it's working. I've got to give all my credit to Avezzano because he made me what I am today."

Avezzano may have made Williams, but the All-American candidate has returned the favor by helping to make the Aggies' line one of the best in A&M history. The Aggies need to gain just 53 yards against Texas to break the school record for total offense in a single season.

Quarterback Kevin Murray and wide receiver Jeff Nelson also have a shot at moving up in the A&M record books.

Murray needs only three comple-

tions against the Longhorns to become the Aggies' second all-time completion leader. Edd Hargett, the current record holder, was the quarterback who last led A&M to a Cotton Bowl — a 20-16 victory over Alabama in 1968.

Nelson needs just one reception to become A&M's second all-time leading receiver. Six catches Thursday would tie him with Barney Harris for the top spot.

But Murray said he and Nelson won't be worried about the record books against UT.

"This is a team game," Murray said. "When the team's doing well, then you're happy."

Murray also downplayed the fact that Texas, which leads the series 23-5, is the team that stands between A&M and a SWC title.

"It's just another game on the schedule, but this time it's for all the marbles," he said. "One of the keys for us will be not turning the ball over — not giving them anything easy. We just have to run the ball well."

Murray also said Amedee was responsible for turning the Aggies of-

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Faust quits as Notre Dame's losingest coach

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Gerry Faust took the blame Tuesday evening for Notre Dame's lackluster football performance and said his decision to resign as coach will allow the university to move quickly to find a successor.

Faust announced his resignation earlier Tuesday after five years of criticism and frustration, and three days after becoming the losingest coach in Notre Dame history.

"If you're going to put the blame

somewhere, put it on the coach. That's where it ought to be," Faust told reporters at a news conference. "We got started on the wrong foot five years ago and never did bail out of the thing," he said.

Faust, 50, owns a 30-25-1 record at Notre Dame, including a 5-5 mark this season after consecutive defeats by top-ranked Penn State and No. 13 Louisiana State the last two weeks.

Those two defeats made him the losingest coach in Irish history. Before Faust, Joe Kuharich had the

most losses, going 17-23-0 from 1959 to 1962.

Faust's resignation Monday came as a shock.

"It's best for me to resign now and give the university an opportunity to get another coach before recruiting starts next week," Faust said. "It's best for the university, best for me, best for my family."

Faust said he would consider a coaching offer from another Division I school, but has received none thus far. "I'm going to sit back for a couple of weeks and hope I get some

calls, maybe in the business world, the coaching world, and evaluate things and go from there," he said.

Athletic Director Gene Corrigan denied a rumor that Minnesota Coach Lou Holtz had already been offered the job. Holtz, whose son attends Notre Dame, recently said he wouldn't leave Minnesota for any coaching job except Notre Dame.

But Corrigan said a successor might be chosen by Monday.

In addition to Holtz, coach-

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