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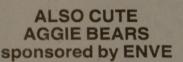
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Murray overcomes troubles to become one of the best

By Homer Jacobs

Call him the Comeback Kid. Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray has made a habit of overcoming just Viewpoint about every-

thing that's been thrown at him.

Injuries. Allegations. 17-0 deficits. You name it . . . Murray has

whipped it.
When Murray had his ankle bent over backward while diving for the end zone in 1984 against Arkansas State, many thought his playing days were over. Murray had other ideas.

Even though his ankle still is held together with pins, and his 4.4 speed.

together with pins, and his 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash has slipped a bit, Murray is on the verge of a recordbreaking season.

With one more touchdown pass, Murray will become the all-time leading Southwest Conference quarterback in that category with 41. And he still has another year left

After the injury problems, came the hoopla last year by WFAA-TV in Dallas about his alleged illegal car

The untimely allegations oc-curred just before the Aggies made their first Cotton Bowl appearance

In leading A&M to a 36-16 victory over Auburn, Murray adeptly threw for a Cotton Bowl record 292 yards, besting the likes of Roger Staubach and Joe Theismann, who are considered Cotton Bowl immortals.

Expectations were high this sea-son for Murray and the Aggies. When A&M stumbled against Loui-siana State, the criticism of his abili-

ognition submerged.

A&M coach Jackie Sherrill says the expectation factor is the cause of Murray's "no respect" stigma.

played well.

Then came the game that all Aggies had been waiting for all year — the game when Murray would come

And how appropriate that the Murray said he was a fighter and game was against Baylor, the last

would not let the media affect his

He was right.

Even though Murray was unjustly denied the Most Valuable Player award in that game, he was propelled onto the national scene as a Heisman Trophy hopeful for 1986.

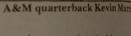
ties resurfaced and the national rec-

"If the first game of the year (LSU) had been different, then Kevin would be getting a lot of recognition, Sherrill said. "But it wasn't.

"So consequently we didn't beat LSU because Kevin didn't play well. "Well, that's not true at all. Kevin

"It was that we didn't play well around him.'

back and unleash on some team.



team that put a dent in Murray's

Murray performed Heisman winning touchdown in the moments of a game against as Baylor team. The performe earned him The Associated him

SWC Offensive Player of the Simply put, Murray is the quarterback west of Miami.

If, by chance, A&M reac Cotton Bowl and draws the Hurricanes as an op wouldn't that be a matchup? I can just see the Cotte marquee.

Sherrill: Ags close to expectations

By Ken Sury

Everybody has expectations. While Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill sees his team beginning to meet his expectations, Rice football coach Jerry Berndt has been disappointed.

At Sherrill's press conference Tuesday, Sherrill said the biggest improvement for the Aggies in its 31-30 win Saturday over Baylor was the consistent play by the front line

on offense and defense.

He said the offensive line did a good job in protecting quarterback Kevin Murray. He also said the group of left end Rod Saddler, right end Jay Muller and nose guard Sammy O'Brient definitely played physical football.

But Sherrill said the team can't

"Well, of course that's behind us. Everybody's asking the same question, 'Can you keep them mentally up?' I think our football team is one that's been around. . . . Each week is a different challenge, a different ball

"Sometimes the big games are overrated and you get all tied up into it because you end up playing your opponent instead of playing yourselves. It doesn't do us any good to play our opponent if we're not ex-

to play our opponent if we're not executing (plays properly)."

For Berndt, the Owls, now 2-4, didn't play the kind of game he wanted as his team had seven turnovers in their 49-21 loss to Texas Tech. The teams were tied 21-21 after three quarters before Tech began its scoring binge to bury Rice.

"I'm disappointed," he said. "I felt we'd be farther along at this point.

And I'm not just talking about vi

team by emphasizing the nego-

things."
Berndt said although he A&M is vastly superior to Rice, the players know it, the Owlson play with a defeatist attitu

"You have to talk a win Berndt said. "We're not going: we're going up to try to wil

Aggie Notes . . . Si A&M offensive tackle Ma will not play Saturday d and knee injuries. Listed a for the game are reserve backs Matt Gurley and Ira with ankle injuries and safety Kip Corrington, w

Brothers play for A&M, Baylor

Berry family has divided loyalte

COLLEGE STATION (AP) - In 1983, Baylor tied Texas A&M 13-13 in Waco, and among the 40,000 at the game, probably the only fans who went home happy were the Powell Berrys of Abilene.

Their son Greg was a linebacker for the Aggies and another son, Ray, was a linebacker for Baylor.

Saturday, the Berrys, along with 23 other relatives, mostly former Aggies, sat in Kyle Field watching another Baylor-A&M confrontation and again, it was hard for them to show their emotions

Ray Berry is still linebacking for Baylor, while his brother, Dean, is a member of the A&M 12th man team used on kickoffs.

The Berry clan once again had to swallow their Aggie pride and not yell for one team. The only way some could see the game was to get tickets from Baylor and sit on the Bears' side of the stadium. It's not as easy to root for the Aggies there. Grandparents' L.A. and Hazel Berry of Snyder got to sit on the win-

ning side because Dean got their

It probably wasn't easy for Ray to get the other tickets, knowing how deep the Aggie blood flows in the

Yet, his father, Powell Berry, secretly hoped the Aggies' Scott Slater would miss the extra point with 3:48 'That would have been perfect for us," Powell said, but Slater made it and the Aggies won, 31-30, mak-

ing the partisan crowd of over 74,000 happy.
"My brother (Phil) went to Texas Tech and of course, Ray is at Baylor. Otherwise, most members of the family on my side and my wife's side went to A&M," Powell said.

The relatives came from Snyder, Fort Worth, Houston, Liberty, Corpus Christi and of course, Abilene.

"Being an Aggie, I had to stand and sing the Aggie War Hymn, but I also sang the Baylor fight song, too,"

The most popular relative was Tim Mebane of Snyder, whose shirt had "Ray Berry, Baylor University" written in green on the back and "Dean, Texas A&M," on front. Others wanted one ers wanted one.

Frankly, Ray's mother is glad the brothers won't be playing against each other any more although Dean has one more year. Ray doesn't.

'We yelled for Dean when he was in there on the kickoffs and we



Baylor senior linebacker Ray Berry (57) has two big ties to football. Older brother Greg played linebacker at A&M from to 1983 and other brother Dean is on the 12th Man kickoff team.

yelled for Ray when he was playing," she said. "It's been an exciting week for us, mainly because we were going to see friends and relatives.

When Ray was in high school at Abilene Cooper, he was recruited by then A&M coach Tom Wilson. But, Wilson was fired and when Jackie Sherrill came in, Berry was not as high on the list.

By the time Ray's name came up, the Aggies were out of scholarships. Powell Berry grew up at Snyder and one of his classmates was the sister of Baylor coach Grant Teaff. Powell also knew the Teaff family.

Teaff recruited Ray and won a player he now regards as the second best linebacker he's ever coached.

No. 1 is Mike Singletary, now with the Chicago Bears in the NFL.

Ironically, Greg's wife Carrie graduated from Baylor and no doubt she had a strange for the second sec

doubt, she had a strong feeling for Ray on Saturday. Deep down inside, so did all the relatives.

"I didn't know much about Baylor until Ray went there, but I'm highly pleased with the treatment he's received," Powell says.

It looks now that Dearlonly member of the boy wear a Cotton Bowl that ring. He won one last year Saturday's win, A&M tool big step, in returning big step in returning to New Year's Day.

But Dean never flaun before Ray or older brot

"I could never do the said. "They're the reasoning. I watched them play

years and decided to go "I'm glad we won, bleeds for Ray. He pla out. Every day this week different people would heard from my brother

Ray and his uncle Philm Aggies, but they're sill family reunions. Blood this family, even if it's notal and white.

And Powell showed his took Saturday. His shirt had be A&M maroon and the Bay

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chramm rmer lin "It's th hat is cau soar,"

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Lafayette, all is a da ore shou langerous ificant nu

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