

Sports

A&M shreds Rice behind record-setting Murray

By Danny Myers
Sports Writer

Even without starting linemen Matt Wilson and Marshall Land, quarterback Kevin Murray had enough time to play genie-mecnie-moe with his receivers Saturday as Texas A&M thrashed Rice, 45-10.

Analysis

Perhaps it wasn't a wise decision by the Owls, but they continuously blitzed during the game, and Murray continuously picked apart the Rice secondary to finish with 215 yards passing, despite being pulled in the third quarter for comrade Craig Stump.

Before making his exit, though, Murray threw career touchdown No. 41, making him the all-time Southwest Conference leader, passing A&M's own Edd Hargett and Southern Methodist University's Chuck Hixson.

He also became A&M's all-time passing yardage leader and moved into fifth in SWC history with 5,542 career yards, making Hargett step aside once again.

"It's always nice to set records but you have to remember that records are made to be broken," Murray said.

"You just have to keep it all in perspective. I'm just happy we won. I wasn't really up for the game, but I was definitely into it."

If setting the new standards made Murray the star of the offensive show, then there were surely some supporting actors worth taking note of.

Roger Vick powered over the synthetic terrain for 115 yards and one touchdown on 16 carries.

Keith Woodside gained 72 yards and a TD on only five totes. He also had three receptions for 20 yards.

Melvin Collins, a pleasant surprise for A&M, gained 82 yards on just seven carries including a fourth-quarter 44-yard touchdown run.

Overall, the Aggies piled up 295 yards on the run and 526 yards total offense.

The Owl's lumbering ground attack, on the other hand, could only grind out 60 yards averaging 1.6 yards a pop. But with a respectable

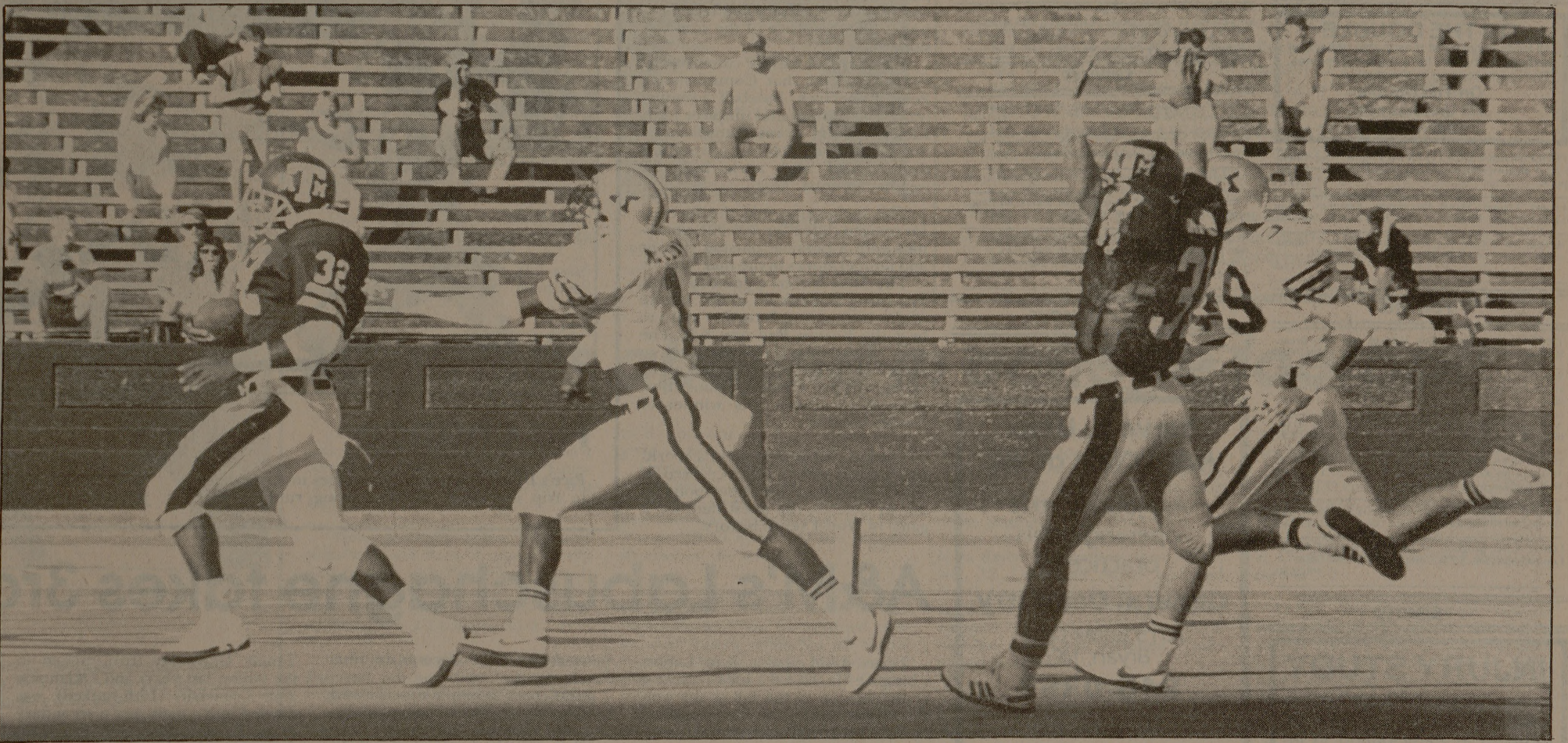


Photo by Tom Ownbey

Texas A&M's Lance Haverda (31) signals touchdown as Aggie freshman running back Melvin Collins (32) races into the end zone on this 44-yard

run. A&M's 45-10 triumph over Rice Saturday was its 13th straight victory at Kyle Field, one shy of the all-time Kyle Field win streak.

230 yards passing, Rice totaled 290 yards offensively.

"We gave up over 400 yards last week so I'm satisfied with 290," said Aggie linebacker Todd Howard.

A&M head coach Jackie Sherrill said he saw improvement in a lot of areas.

"We were better today than we were last year, and Rice was better today than they were last year," he said.

One area that is certainly im-

proved over last year is the kicking game. Scott Slater now has hit 15 of 18 field goals and is perfect inside 40 yards.

He drilled three through the uprights against Rice including a career long 51-yarder.

Slater said he felt like he might get a chance at a long one with the wind blowing the way it was in Kyle Field.

"I kicked one before the game which was 65 yards, so I felt pretty confident on the way out," he said.

"The very first game of the year I was nervous, but since then I've really been confident and I know I can kick the long ones."

The game was virtually over at halftime. The first quarter ended with the score knotted up at 3-3, as both teams exchanged field goals even though A&M dominated statistically.

In the second quarter, however, the Aggies lit up the scoreboard with 21 points.

Vick capped a four-play, 53-second drive with a 4-yard touchdown plunge.

Then, after a Rice punt and a series of Murray passes, right guard Jerry Fontenot made a good block that sprung Keith Woodside for a 33-yard touchdown.

Finally, on the Aggies' next possession, Murray threw a 26-yard record-setting strike to flanker Rod Harris to break the game open at 24-3.

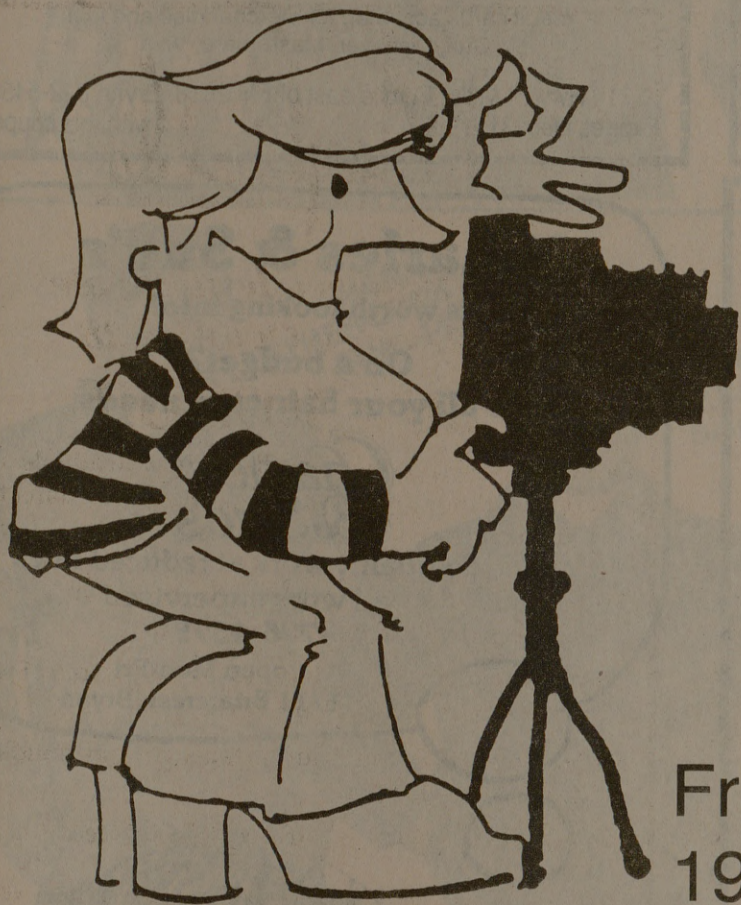
After a couple of Slater field goals in the third quarter made the game 30-3, the second- and third-string teams went the rest of the way for A&M.

"As a whole, you look back at the game, and our game plan was to play a lot of people, and we did it," Sherrill said.

"In a game like this, if you leave your first team in there, it doesn't really serve any purpose."

Freshman & Sophomores

Oct. 6-Oct. 31



GET SHOT!

Freshmen and sophomore photos for the 1987 Aggieland will be taken from Oct. 6 until Oct. 31 at AR Photography, 707 Texas Ave., across from the A&M Polo Field.

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