

Miami's 51-7 demolition of Hogs shows that experts can be wrong

By Doug Hall
Assistant Sports Editor

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Before Saturday's Miami-Arkansas game here, one of the local newspapers ran a full page of predictions on the game, quoting people who presumably were "in-the-know."

Of the nearly thirty people interviewed, which included Southwest Conference coaches, sportswriters, athletic directors and other personalities, only two cast votes with the visiting Hurricanes.

Oh well, so much for home-town sentimentality.

Using the strong arm of sophomore quarterback Steve Walsh, the latest in the seemingly endless string of Miami top-gun signal callers, the Hurricanes amassed 525 yards of total offense in the 51-7 defeat against a defense that was supposed to be tops in the SWC.

Analysis

Meanwhile, the Hogs' vaunted flex-bone offense spent the afternoon mired in a Miami swamp. Junior tailback James Rouse, an all-SWC pre-season pick, scored Arkansas' only points of the day with a 7-yard run in the game's closing minutes.

At the day's long end, Arkansas had mustered only 198 yards in offense, with 80 of those coming in

their scoring drive. Neither senior quarterback Greg Thomas nor freshman Quinn Grovey could successfully direct Coach Ken Hatfield's offense, a sign that doesn't bode well for the team which was supposed to be the SWC savior.

As if the 44-point thrashing weren't enough, it had to come at the hands of a former Razorback. Miami coach Jimmy Johnson, who has been much maligned over the last few seasons for not controlling his free-spirited teams, is a former team mate of Hatfield's at Arkansas.

And it wasn't as if Johnson tried to run up the score. The Hurricanes used eight consecutive offensive series to build an insurmountable 38-0 halftime lead. Against a flex-bone team, which specializes in ball control offense and defensive pressure, that lead might as well have been 103-0.

That score, incidentally, is the total by which Arkansas fell to Oklahoma back in 1918.

That too, was a dismal day for Arkansas football.

If there's one non-Razorback fan who hated to see Arkansas get pounded so severely, it would have to be TCU coach Jim Wacker.

The Horned Frogs, who had an off-day Saturday after a hard-fought victory over Brigham Young last week, host the Razorback's in Fort Worth next Saturday as both teams direction.

kick off their SWC schedule.

Prior to Saturday's game, the Razorbacks were rated as the No. 10 team in the nation. Undoubtedly, after such a poor performance, the Hogs will drop numerous places in the polls. Consequently, the revenge factor will be high next week as Arkansas tries to regain face.

But if Saturday's game is any indication of the real Razorback football team, Hatfield will have more to worry about than simply regaining national status.

The Hog's defense, which gave up 10 points to Mississippi and 15 to Tulsa, looked more than vulnerable against a well-balanced Miami team. The Hurricanes split their total yards almost evenly, gaining 256 yards on the ground and 259 through the air.

Combined, Miami's two quarterbacks completed 26 of 36 passes against a supposedly tough Arkansas secondary, that included All-SWC pick Steve Atwater, who was beaten more than once on pass plays.

Another All-SWC pick, noseguard Tony Chericco was virtually neutralized by the Miami offensive line as was linebacker Ricky Williams.

In the end, it was one of those days a head coach would just as soon off-day Saturday after a hard-fought victory over Brigham Young last week, host the Razorback's in Fort Worth next Saturday as both teams direction.

SWC national title hopes are lost; Bears capitalize on Tech miscues

From The Associated Press

The Southwest Conference's early September has dashed hopes for a national football championship.

Arkansas was the lone unblemished conference team and Miami butchered the Hogs 51-7 in Little Rock on Saturday, the Razorbacks' worst whipping since Rice flogged them 47-0 in 1953.

The 10th ranked Hogs were so humiliated on national television that Miami players were shown playing tic-tac-toe on a sideline chalkboard in the fourth period.

Miami free safety Bennie Blades rubbed it in, saying "if that's the best the Southwest Conference has to offer, bring on the Big Ten."

The Hogs were originally scheduled to play Wichita State but the Shockers dropped football.

The bad news is that Arkansas has to travel to Miami for another game next year.

The SWC did climb over the .500 mark with four victories against weak opposition.

Texas A&M, which upset seventh-ranked Washington a week ago, failed to a 27-14 victory over Southern Mississippi; Texas gave Coach David McWilliams his first Longhorn victory with a 61-16 rout of Oregon State; Houston outlasted Sam

Houston State 38-34, and Rice nudged Southwest Texas State 38-28.

Baylor opened the SWC championship campaign with a 36-22 victory over Texas Tech.

The SWC is now 13-11 against outside competition.

Miami Coach Jimmy Johnson, a former teammate of Hatfield's at Arkansas, said "I hated to see this happen. I played all 60 players we brought."

Baylor was paced by the two interceptions of cornerback Robert Blackmon, who had played poorly a week ago.

"I was pretty disappointed," he said. "It hurt my pride because I wasn't playing up to the level of my teammates. I was the weak link in the secondary and I didn't like it."

Baylor Coach Grant Teaff said "This was a big, big victory for us. We have a good chance now to be right in the thick of the conference race."

Tech lost its 15th game in 19 starts in Waco. The Red Raiders gave away seven turnovers.

"We made it pretty easy for the Bears," said Tech Coach Spike Dykes.

Texas A&M's talented freshmen starred in the victory over the Golden Eagles. Bucky Richardson, a

freshman quarterback from Baton Rouge, La., dashed 82 yards for a score, third longest in school history.

"I didn't think I would get by their linebackers but I kind of popped through," Richardson said.

A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill said "a lot of young people made a lot of good things happen."

Freshman halfback Darren Lewis ran 77-yards for a touchdown and Lance Pavlas started at quarterback and threw a 69-yard scoring pass to fullback Matt Gurley.

Texas' Eric Metcalf ran for 145 yards on 20 carries to give McWilliams cause to celebrate.

"This was a game we had to win," McWilliams said. "We needed a morale booster and a confidence builder and this is what we got."

Houston Coach Jack Pardee got his first victory although Sam Houston ran up 578 yards against the Cougars' defense.

In games this week, Texas Tech and Texas A&M collide at noon in Lubbock in a regionally televised (Raycom) matchup; Arkansas is at Texas Christian in a 7:30 p.m. league game; Rice is at Texas in a 7 p.m., kickoff, and Baylor is at Houston in a game which could start as late as 10 p.m. because the National League Houston Astros are playing a day game in the Astrodome.

Free agents continue practices as NFL strike enters second week

From The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL strike claimed its first day of games Sunday, apparently without hope of making them up later in the season, as coaches continued to train non-striking players for replacement games next weekend.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers owner Hugh Culverhouse, chairman of the NFL's executive committee, said it appeared unlikely that the 13 games scheduled for Sunday and the one for Monday night would be replayed.

Union boss Gene Upshaw was in Los Angeles to hold a regional meeting with representatives from all West Coast NFL teams amid reports that there would be a player revolt among the Raiders.

Coach Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins, meanwhile, admitted the replacement games will not be "as sophisticated" as fans are used to watching, and some players warned "scabs" could pay a price for defying the strike.

Chicago Bears running back Wal-

ter Payton was asked on CBS-TV what would happen if the striking players scrimmaged against non-strikers. He said "... they'd have to use a lot of body bags."

Many of the striking players took the weekend off from the picket line, and there were reports that some would cross them Monday. Other teams reported their players were solidly behind the strike, which entered its sixth day Sunday.

Management has said the lone unsolvable issue remained free agency. The union wants unrestricted free agency for any four-year player, and owners are unwilling to grant this. The union says there also are other key issues, including pensions and minimum salaries.

Negotiations broke off Friday in Philadelphia, and NFL Management Council spokesman John Jones said over the weekend he didn't expect talks to resume until Thursday at the earliest.

That heightened the prospect that the strike could not be settled in time to get the regulars back to work next

weekend and that owners would go ahead with plans to stage replacement games using lower-caliber players who have been working out for about 10 days at most.

"The NFL is going on, and any players who want to, have a place to work," Jones said.

The Daily Breeze of Torrance, Calif., reported Sunday that four to six prominent Raiders players would take up the offer Monday and join other non-striking players. Raiders backup quarterback Marc Wilson crossed picket lines Tuesday along with injured-reserve linemen Mickey Marvin, Chris Riehm and Curt Marsh.

Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association, met Sunday with a banquet room full of players from the Raiders, Rams, 49ers, Seahawks, Broncos and Chargers. A similar number of teams was expected to attend Monday's meeting at Chicago, and other informational meetings were expected to be held later in the week.

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