



Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

A&M's Matt Gurley runs up the middle of the Baylor defensive line during Saturday's win in Waco. Gurley scored a touchdown on a 2-yard run in the third quarter in helping the Aggies to their second conference win in a row. The Aggies will take on Rice University this Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Rice Stadium in Houston.

Patriots' Flutie takes command in win over replacement Oilers

HOUSTON (AP) — New England quarterback Doug Flutie proved he could go home Sunday — and that he could earn a hero's welcome.

Flutie was traded back to his home area by the Chicago Bears last week and he showed his appreciation by contributing 242 yards of offense to the Patriots' 21-7 victory over the Houston Oilers.

"I wasn't nervous," Flutie said. "I was excited. I couldn't wait for the game to start. I was thankful for the opportunity. I had been in a bad situation and I had no future. It was time to move on."

Flutie got plenty of help from his new teammates. Raymond Clayborn returned a fumbled field goal 71 yards for a touchdown.

Linebacker Andre Tippett blocked the field goal attempt and had three quarterback sacks.

"I saw Andre block it somewhere on his chest," Clayborn said. "After that, none of them contested it for what seemed like five seconds. I was there by the ball by myself."

It was a disappointing finale for the replacement Oilers, who had

won their first two games during the NFL players' strike.

It may have been the final game for Oiler linebacker Eugene Seale, who had eight tackles.

"This was not my best game," Seale said. "My fingers are just crossed now. I still have a long way to go because my foot's still not in the door."

"I feel good about wearing the uniform. In my room tonight, I'll probably evaluate myself and not sleep very well."

New England Coach Raymond Berry was pleased with the offensive improvement.

"Flutie was the key, he did a remarkable job," Berry said. "You can't appreciate what he did with four days practice. I don't think anyone else could have done it and put points on the scoreboard like he did."

Oiler quarterback Brent Pease surpassed Flutie in passing yards but had to settle for the loss.

"Tippett more or less controlled their side of the line," Pease said.

"We worked hard all week and we wanted to win. It's a great opportu-

nity for me, probably one I'll never get again."

Oiler Coach Jerry Glanville credited Tippett.

"We didn't make the defensive turnovers and Tippett made the defensive plays for them," Glanville said.

A crowd of 26,294 saw the only replacement game played in the Astrodome. There were 6,328 no-shows.

Flutie, obtained in a trade with the Chicago Bears, had only five days to prepare for the game, but he scrambled and passed the Patriots to a touchdown on the first possession of the game.

Flutie engineered the Patriots to a 21-7 halftime lead, aided by Clayborn's touchdown that shifted the momentum to the Patriots with 55 seconds to go in the first half.

Tippett blocked Tony Zendejas' 48-yard field goal attempt and when Oiler defenders failed to converge on the ball, Clayborn scooped it up and ran for a touchdown with 55 seconds left in the half.

The Oilers dropped to a 3-2 record and the Patriots now are 3-2.

Edwards hoping for a roster spot as Pokes battle for NFC East lead

IRVING (AP) — Wide receiver Kelvin Edwards of the Dallas Cowboys is a perfect example of how the NFL strike has helped some players make a name for themselves in the league.

He'll be the offensive player for the Cowboys that the Redskins have to stop in their NFC East divisional showdown on Monday night in Texas Stadium.

Both teams are tied 3-1 going into the 8 p.m. nationally televised (ABC) game clash for the NFC East lead.

A month ago, Edwards was a free agent without a home and a job.

Edwards, a fourth-round draft pick by New Orleans in 1986, has been sensational, catching 8 passes for 168 yards and 2 touchdowns during the strike.

"He's fast, has great hands and is an excellent target with his 6-3 height," says Dallas Coach Tom

Landry. "He's been the biggest surprise."

"We're glad the Saints let Edwards go. He has a good future if he keeps playing like he has. He's been just great. Now let's see if he can do it again."

Edwards isn't going to get his hopes up until he hears it from Landry himself that he has made the team.

"If they decide they want to keep me, I'd be glad to stay here," Edwards said.

"I wouldn't say I've earned a spot yet. I can't say I'm on this team or anything like that. I'm working hard to be on this team. It would just be unbelievable to be a part of the tradition that they have here."

Offensive coordinator Paul Hackett said Edwards, who comes from the small college of Liberty Baptist, "really has the ability to play."

"For whatever reasons, he didn't

make the quick development the Saints thought he should have. When he came into our situation, he showed immediately the skills that he can play. And we don't care that he didn't make it with the Saints."

Hackett said the Cowboys are careful not to put any pressure on Edwards.

"We are bringing him along slow but he's already made some big league plays with double coverage against him," Hackett said. "He caught one ball that was over the wrong shoulder but made a complete reverse to make the catch. We're definitely been pleased ever since he arrived."

Edwards has teamed with rookie quarterback Kevin Sweeney as the Cowboys have put together one of the tougher teams in the strike of 1987.

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