

Sports

Ag defense, special teams key victory over Bulldogs

By Tammy Hedgpeth
Sports Writer

Louisiana Tech quarterbacks handed the Texas A&M "Wrecking Crew" a few treats as they were tricked into eight sacks during the Aggies 32-3 win over the Bulldogs on Halloween.

A & M linebacker John Roper said, "It was Nightmare on Kyle Field!"

Analysis

The A&M offense dressed as Sleepy and Bashful of the Seven Dwarfs while the special teams and the dominating defense came to the rescue as Prince Charming. The special teams scored two touchdowns to overpower Tech as 53,779 fans witnessed the Halloween massacre.

"The biggest difference in the ball game was their punt team and our return team," A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said.

A&M punt returner Rod Harris recorded eight punt returns — one of which he returned 59 yards for a touchdown — for a total of 123 yards. Harris' one-game totals eclipsed the old A&M record of 98 yards set by Bob Goode in 1945.

"I felt like Tech was going to play us hard, and everybody had to do their job," Harris said. "We played together as a team — offense, defense and kicking game. That's what you have to do to win."

True, but once again the A&M defense kept the 6-2 Aggies in the game. The Aggie defense held the Bulldogs to only 57 yards rushing and 45 yards passing. That's domination.

It was terror on the field for Tech quarterback David McKinney who was dropped for six of the eight sacks. Conroy Hines also was sacked twice. Roper recorded four of the eight quarterback sacks and returned a blocked punt 10 yards for the first touchdown of the game. Running back Larry Horton set

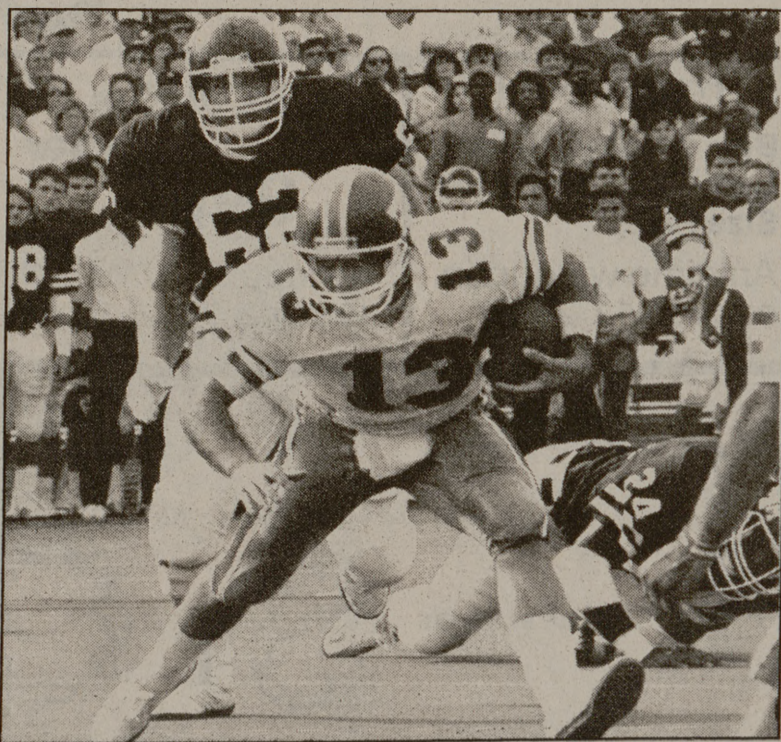


Photo by Robert Rizzo

Louisiana Tech quarterback David McKinney scrambles as A&M noseguard Jeff Huff (62) and linebacker Adam Bob (24) pursue.

up the touchdown by blocking the Tech punt.

The dominance continued as strong safety Chet Brooks blocked a field goal attempt in the first quarter.

A&M's ground attack was led by fullback Melvins Collins who ran for 56 yards on 11 carries. Quarterbacks Bucky Richardson and Lance Pavlas combined to complete five of 15 passes for 47 yards, a season low.

"We didn't throw the ball as well as we have to," Sherrill said. "Forty-seven yards may be the lowest total I've ever had as a coach — period. We've got to work on protection."

It was halftime before the offense crawled out of bed and played ball.

"It was a case of us not coming out and being ready to play," A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson said. "We woke up at half-time, and we came out and put some points on the board. The defense kept us in the game the first half."

Everyone is waiting for the offense to explode. But will that happen?

"We know we can do the job," Richardson said. "We know we can move the ball on people. We come out and just don't do it. That's frustrating for everybody — fans, coaches, us."

The Aggies, who have next week off, are hoping the break will allow them to improve on some notable weaknesses.

Horns lead SWC chase

Aggies, Razorbacks, Horned Frogs still alive

(AP)—The surprising Texas Longhorns have established themselves as the team to catch in the Southwest Conference November football stretch-run.

The Horns' solid 41-27 victory over the Texas Tech Red Raiders before 74,000 in Austin on Saturday removed any doubts whether Coach David McWilliams' burnt orange bunch is a serious contender.

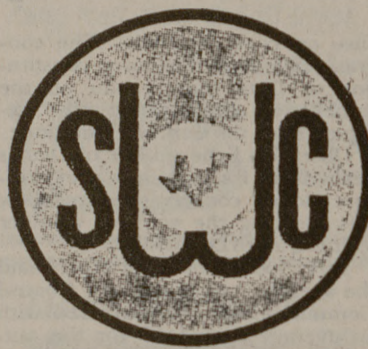
"I think we're a Top 20 team and we're just now coming into our own as a team, especially the defensive unit," linebacker Duane Duncum said.

"I think we're improving in different areas each week and I still don't think we've put everything together for the full four quarters yet," said another Texas linebacker, Lee Brockman.

"We've all got the attitude that we can go to the Cotton Bowl," safety John Hagy said.

The Longhorns, 3-0 in league games, are shadowed by defending SWC champion Texas A&M, preseason favorite Arkansas, and the Texas Christian Horned Frogs.

Arkansas is 4-1 after a 38-14 victory over Rice in Houston while



TCU improved to 3-1 with a solid 35-7 triumph over Houston in Fort Worth.

Texas A&M is 3-1 and defeated Louisiana Tech 32-3 in a non-conference game at College Station.

Baylor (2-2) was idle. Tech is 2-3, Houston 0-4, and Rice 0-5.

Texas travels to Houston for a 7 p.m. game in the Astrodome on Saturday while TCU is at Texas Tech in a noon (Raycom regional television) matchup and Baylor is at Arkansas for a 1 p.m. game at Fayetteville.

The Longhorns get TCU and Baylor at home in back-to-back clashes after meeting Houston.

Then comes what could be the SWC Game of the Year on Thanksgiving night in College Station against Texas A&M before the national television cameras (ESPN).

McWilliams handles any Cotton Bowl talk like a hot potato.

"We're not going to get ahead of ourselves," McWilliams said. "We just need to stay aggressive."

TCU Coach Jim Wacker said the same thing.

"We can't afford to start thinking about the Cotton Bowl," Wacker said. "That will take care of itself down the road. I know this: we are starting to play very good defense, and that's what you have to do to win championships."

Texas A&M will be idle this week, giving Jackie Sherrill critical time to work on his sputtering offense.

The Aggie defense is still among the nation's Top 20.

A&M had only 47 yards passing and Sherrill said, "it's the lowest total I've ever had as a coach. We just have to work on our protection."

SWC football: UT, A&M defense highlight conference superlatives

Associated Press

The much maligned Southwest Conference has produced an interesting four-team race. Here's what happened around the conference on Saturday:

AUSTIN CHALK — The Texas Tech Red Raiders just can't handle the Texas Longhorns in Austin. Texas is 20-2 against Tech at home, including Saturday's 41-27 victory. The Red Raiders haven't won there since 1967.

BIG D IN KYLE FIELD — Texas A&M's defense held Louisiana Tech to only 100 yards total defense. The Aggies are sure to move up the ladder

from their 14th national ranking and they'll stay there awhile.

JEFFERY'S GALLOP — Can you think of a more classy way to break Jim Swink's all-time Texas Christian touchdown record than an 82-yard scoring run? That's what Tony Jeffery did on Saturday in a 35-7 victory over Houston.

STREAK ENDS — Houston had won five consecutive games at Amon Carter Stadium in Fort Worth, never losing to the Horned Frogs until Saturday's flogging.

GOOD HANDS — For the first time this year, Texas didn't fumble in a game.

BIG BOOT — Wayne Clements'

52-yard field goal against Texas Tech was his career long.

QUICK HEALER — Eric Metcalf suffered a painful hip pointer in the first half of Texas' victory over Tech on Saturday. After a whirlpool treatment at halftime, Metcalf returned to throw a touchdown pass and run for another score.

STRANGE STAT — Louisiana Tech lost to A&M 32-3 yet actually held the ball more than the Aggies with 30:27 to 29:33 time of possession.

BAD CROWD — Not even the loyal Arkansas fans can pump up the bad crowds at Rice Stadium. Official attendance was listed at 13,299 fans.

TEXAS A&M
bookstore

IN THE MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER

presents

Springer-Verlag's
YELLOW SALE 1987

Save Up to 60%
On 100 Mathematics Titles
Now through
December 15, 1987

COME IN AND BROWSE



SPRINGER-VERLAG

New York Berlin Heidelberg Vienna London Paris Tokyo

COLUMBIA ARTISTS FESTIVALS PRESENTS

MEL LESLIE PETER
TORMÉ UGGAMS NERO
IN THE GREAT
GERSHWIN
CONCERT WITH

THE FESTIVAL CONCERT ORCHESTRA

✦ **MSC OPAS**

NOV. 10, 1987

RUDDER AUDITORIUM
FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL MSC BOX OFFICE
845-1234

A GEORGE GERSHWIN GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY EVENT
CONCEIVED AND WRITTEN BY MEL TORME