

# Ag kicker Hardy big factor in 1979 win over Longhorns

By Tim Stanfield  
Sports Writer

Redshirt freshman place-kicker David Hardy had already had his share of ups and downs during the 1979 season before the Aggies took on the Texas Longhorns at Kyle Field on December 1.

Hardy, who had spent the 1978 season watching Tony Franklin set all kinds of place-kicking records, had something thrust upon him in his very first game that Franklin never had in the 48 games he played for the Aggies: having a field goal attempt on the last play of a game that decided the winner.

Yes, Hardy tried and missed a long field goal against Brigham Young that left the Aggies an 18-17 loser in a game that saw the Aggies blow a 14-3 lead.

It was played at Rice Stadium since Kyle Field was still in the final stages of expansion.

The season continued to be one of huge highs and lows, but one of the highs came against SMU, when Hardy's then career-best 51-yard field goal ignited the Aggies to a smashing 47-14 win over the Ponies.

But on that balmy day when A&M faced the Longhorns, few expected that the Aggies had a chance to win and keep Texas from its appointed national title game in the Sugar Bowl against Alabama.

"We thought we had a good chance to beat them, because if you only could chance about seven points in three different games, we would have been 8-2 going into the game and not 5-5," Hardy recalled.

Texas was sixth in the nation, plus nobody expected that Curtis Dickey would play, but he did and ended up scoring our only touchdown.

Hardy noted that several cars were seen with stickers on them that read "Alabama-Texas, National Champions".

Before a record crowd that exceeded 69,000, Hardy drew the

honor of opening the game by kicking off to Texas' Herkie Walls.

"I almost had to pinch myself in order to believe that it was really happening," Hardy said. "All of my life I had wanted to go to Texas A&M and kick in a big game against Texas, and there I was, doing just that," he continued. "It was a thrill that I will never forget."

Things got even more exciting for Hardy and the Aggies when he kicked a 23-yard field goal on the fourth play of the second period, giving the Aggies a 3-0 lead.

Texas struck for its only touchdown of the game after recovering Johnny Hector's fumble deep inside A&M territory.

A&M then drove deep inside Texas territory, and came away with yet another 23-yard Hardy field goal.

Walls' fumbled the ensuing kick-off at the Texas 21.

Two plays later from the 20, Dickey took a handoff from quarterback Mike Mosley, intending to pass back to the fleet youngster, but saw that somehow the other 21 players on the field had gotten themselves outside the hash marks on either side of the field, leaving a gaping hole up the middle.

Dickey streaked into the end zone for the winning touchdown.

Hardy kicked the extra-point, and though nobody knew it at the time, that was it for the scoring this day.

"No, of course not, none of us felt that the 13-7 lead would stand up," Hardy said. "In fact, Walls fumbled the next kickoff, but they got the ball back after an official blew an inadvertent whistle."

Hardy suffered the indignity of having a 40-yard field goal attempt blocked in the fourth period, but later found out that it wasn't his fault.

"When I came off the field, I was pretty upset," he recalled. "I had never had a field goal blocked in my

life, and to have it under those circumstances made me mad."

But the Aggies held on, and bedlam broke out after quarterback Rick McIvor's final pass hit the Astro-Turf.

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The 1980 season was a sour one for A&M and Hardy, but it, too, ended on a good note, as the Aggies shocked Texas 24-14 in Memorial Stadium, where A&M had only won twice previously.

"There was something different about the atmosphere on the bus on the way to Austin that day," Hardy said. "Even though we were 3-7, none of us felt like Texas was that much of a better team than we were."

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Hardy set some NCAA kicking records in 1981 and 1982, booting four field goals in the 1981 Independence Bowl to tie that record, while setting a record since tied of 15 kicking points in the game.

One year later he joined Franklin as the only A&M kickers at that time to kick at least four field goals in two different games, as well as tying Franklin's NCAA record of four in one quarter.

Both Hardy achievements came against Texas-Arlington at Kyle Field, and the final two field goals in the second period came only six seconds apart.

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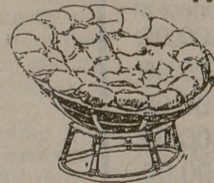
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## Lewis' performance against Frogs earns him player-of-week honors

From the Associated Press

Darren Lewis has been one of the biggest 1987 surprises for the defending Southwest Conference football champion Texas A&M University.

Lewis was a star in high school at Dallas Carter last year but was expected to be overshadowed by McKinney's Randy Simmons, the most heralded running back in the state.

However, Simmons hurt a knee at the Texas High School Coaches Association All-Star Game in July and Lewis has emerged as one of the Aggies' top offensive threats.

He earned the Associated Press SWC Offensive Player of the Week honors this week for a spectacular performance in A&M's 42-24 victory over Texas Christian.

Lewis had 194 yards rushing against the Horned Frogs, including scoring runs of 35 and 80 yards. He also had a 70-yarder called back.

He already is in second place on the A&M freshman rushing charts, passing George Woodard's 604 yards. Lewis has 655 yards rushing.

The 194 yards rushing was the most since Earnest Jackson had 219 yards against TCU in 1981.

"Darren Lewis is a tough kid," said A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill. "He has played hurt all year. He has a sore shoulder but you have to play hurt."

Lewis big day came while his parents were watching from the stands in Amon Carter Stadium.

"It felt good to have a good day in front of my parents," Lewis said. "It

was as close as we could come to Dallas during the regular season. Maybe we'll be back for the Cotton Bowl."

Texas Tech defensive end James Mosley, a junior, earned the AP's Defensive Player of the Week award with his contributions in the Red Raiders' 10-10 tie with Houston.

Mosley had 4 1/2 sacks and made six unassisted tackles and one assisted tackle.

"James started the season slow but he has come on the last few weeks," Texas Tech Coach Spike Dykes said. "This game shows just what we can expect from him in his senior season."

A&M linebacker Adam Bob, who had two interceptions in the Aggies' victory over TCU, also was strongly considered for the weekly award.

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## SPRING 1988 BATTALION STAFF

Applications are available in 216 Reed McDonald for the Spring 1988 Battalion staff.

Applications for editors and assistant editors should be returned to the editor's office, 222 Reed McDonald, 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 25. Editor and assistant editor positions include:

- managing editor
- opinion page editor
- city editor
- news editor
- sports editor
- photo editor
- At Ease editor
- At Ease assistant editor
- assistant city editor
- assistant news editor
- assistant sports editor

Applications for all other positions are due by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2. Other positions include:

- staff writers
- photographers
- columnists
- copy editors
- cartoonists
- editorial cartoonist
- graphic artist
- clerks
- reviewer
- sports writers
- At Ease writers
- At Ease photographer

Applicants must be able to begin work Sunday, Dec. 6