

# SIGMA NU RUSH HAPPY HOUR

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## Aggies' Cotton Bowl upset started with change of QB

By **Tim Stanfield**  
Sports Writer

For a life-long A&M football fan such as myself, the Aggies' destruction of the mighty Notre Dame Fighting Irish was an oasis in what at times has been a barren land of success.

Not many non-Aggies felt that Jackie's troops had much of a chance against Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown and his friends — and they may well have been correct had the Aggie staff not made a change in quarterbacks Tuesday before the game.

For most of the 1987 season, the Aggie QB spot had been a study in mediocrity and sometimes even worse. Naturally Kevin Murray's departure left a void in the Ags' vaunted offensive attack, for he had not only set numerous school and SWC passing records but for two consecutive seasons had somehow been able to overcome the school's tradition of choking in the big game.

Fifth-year senior Craig Stump and redshirt freshman sensation Lance Pavlas both fell flat on their respective faces against LSU and Washington.

Both were nationally-ranked powerhouses for sure, but the Ags could only muster a field goal against LSU, and only a superior defensive effort enabled A&M to beat the Huskies.

The tell-tale contest for the A&M QB position came in the third game, in Jackson, Miss. against a poor Southern Mississippi squad.

Even such a weak team as this put a clamp on the Ag offense, though Pavlas did toss a long touchdown pass to Matt Gurley. (Gurley actually caught the ball near the line of scrimmage and made a fantastic run for the score.)

All of a sudden a youngster wearing the number seven entered the game for A&M. Who was he, and why in the world was he on the field in a game the Aggies had to win?

On his fifth play this guy — Bucky Richardson — went back to pass, was flushed out of the pocket and proceeded to run straight up the middle for an 82-yard touchdown.

Richardson remained behind center for the rest of the game but returned to the sidelines the following week when A&M travelled to Lubbock to play "mighty" Texas Tech.

Though one could understand why Richardson didn't start against the Red Raiders, it was — and remains — inconceivable that he didn't

get a chance to pull victory out of certain A&M defeat.

Instead the regionally-televised audience got to watch as the excited Tech fans sang "Poor Aggies" to Jackie's defeated troops.

That loss signalled the beginning of the road to Dallas, but it still wasn't without several unneeded detours.

No individual stood out at QB when Houston fell the next Saturday, though Richardson led the Aggies to the winning score again.

Even though the media was told Stump would start against Baylor, Richardson actually did and had A&M ahead 12-10 at the half.

The second half of that game showed for all the world to see how A&M had the capacity to become an awesome offensive team — and had the QB to do it.

Keeping the ball a little over 22 of the game's final 30 minutes, the Ag-

gies ran right down the throats with Richardson, Keith Woodside and Darrell doing the damage.

After the game Baylor Coach Grant Teaff told the bled media that if the Aggies to play hardball, they center the offensive line and quarterback for it (meaning Richardson).

But after rushing for 211 the first quarter against Rice began to throw the ball again allowing a pitiful Owl team A&M a scare before losing.

Continuing their passing with Richardson at the helm rolled up 75 whole yards of fense in the first half of the game versus mighty Louisiana Defense and special teams game.

A punt return for a **See Cotton, page 11**

### Viewpoint

## Talent-laden Aggies should conquer again

By now every Aggie in the English-speaking world knows of Texas A&M's victory, no... win over, no... ah-ha — thrashing of the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame. It seems the youngbloods came through to lead the senior-thin squad to victory.

This squad fooled almost every so-called expert in the country. This year was to be the rebuilding season and the next was to be "The Year."

But a group of runny-nosed kids fresh from high school showed that the Aggies are going to be a force in the Southwest Conference for years to come.

So what kind of talent does Coach Jackie Sherrill and his magicians — I mean assistants — have to work with next season?

For starters, there shouldn't be much of a quarterback controversy next season. Sherrill will have Bucky Richardson, the freshman wonder-boy who hasn't lost a college game he's played in and who was also the outstanding offensive player in the Cotton Bowl. Lance Pavlas also returns for his sophomore season after a solid showing in the Cotton Bowl.

So the quarterback position is pretty much cut-and-dried, right? Wrong.

An outstanding transfer to University of Mississippi, good, has been sitting on the and learning for the past year. The word is Osgood's is stronger than Pavlas', and highly-recruited coming out of school. That kind of cloud of doubt, doesn't it?

Regardless of the question who is going to protect his offensive line is losing two linemen in Louis Check and Mattson? Judging from the drama play of Richmond Webb, Matt McCall and Mike Arthur in the Cotton Bowl and with the return of Trace McGuire, next line has the potential to be as full of any Sherrill has had at A&M.

Running back coach Jim must salivate every time he sees the stable of backs he is reeling. He may be distressed with the Keith Woodside, but the Darren Lewis and Larry Helms will keep him smiling. If it's enough, Helms will have to shift freshmen backs next who combined for over 700

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**Brad Marquardt**



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