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Sports

Bored last Saturday? Tune in to 'Late Night with Hurricane Gilbert'

The crowd gives the esteemed talk-show host yet another rousing ovation as he concludes his monologue and walks his Adidas over to his plush desk. The balding band-leader makes an inane comment about him, his wardrobe or his weekend for the 47th consecutive show.

"So, Dave, did you have that spiffy weekend you were planning?"

"Actually no, Paul. I had my light beer, my pretzels and my La-Z-Boy all geared for a great afternoon of college football Saturday, and it was just all flushed right down the ol' john."



Hal L. Hammons
Time Out

"No!"

"I'm serious, Paul. I was really looking forward to that Alabama-Texas A&M game, even though neither team is from Indiana. Have I ever mentioned I'm from Indiana, Paul?"

"Sounds vaguely familiar, Dave."

"Yeah, well anyway, the game looks really good. I mean, all the political intrigue under the surface — A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill is rumored to want 'Bama Coach Bill Curry's job, and Curry went 7-5 last year. A&M looks to bounce back from consecutive thrashings on consecutive weekends by Nebraska, LSU and the NCAA. Bobby Humphrey looks to bounce back from his off-season broken jaw suffered in a barroom brawl. Looks great, doesn't it?"

"It looks wonderful, Dave."

"Yeah, well then guess what, Paul?"

"What, Dave?"

"Alabama decides at the last minute they aren't going to show! Can you believe that?"

"I don't believe it."

"Paul, have I ever lied to you? I'm asking you, have I ever lied to you, Paul?"

"You've never lied to me, Dave."

"I've never lied to you, Paul. Can you imagine, taking a wrecking ball to the grand American institution of college football on fall Saturdays. Makes me want to just upchuck all over the place."

"Dave, this is a family show."

"I'm sorry, Paul, but I feel very strongly on this matter — even to the point of moving me biologically."

"Indeed."

"Yes it does. And can you guess what reason 'Bama officials gave? Can you even presume to surmise, Paul? Can you?"

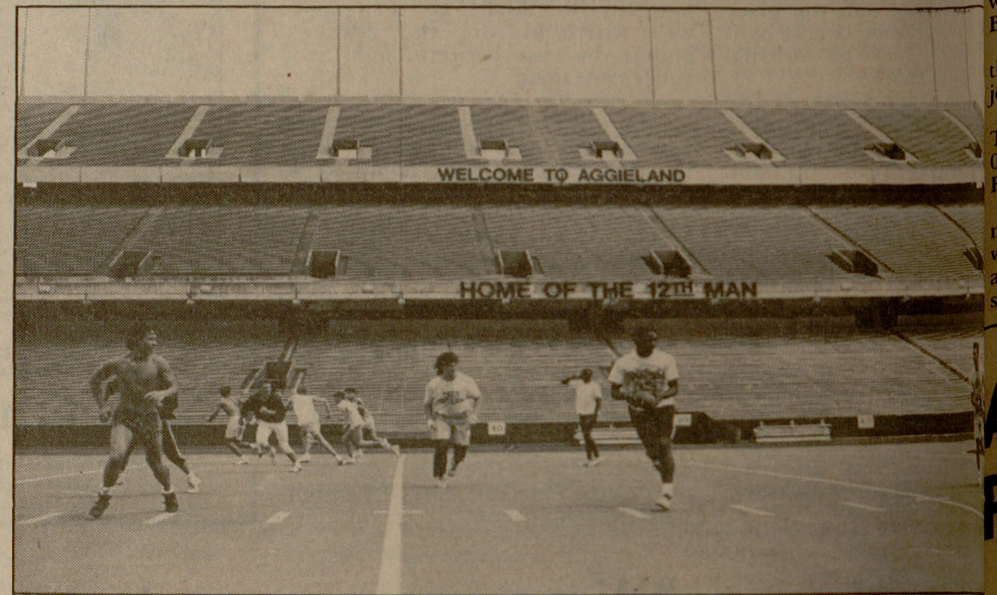


Photo by [unreadable]

A&M Consolidated High School students play football at Kyle Field Saturday instead of A&M and Alabama. The weather didn't seem to bother the kids.

"I can't, Dave."

"Can you?"

"I believe I said I couldn't."

"Do you want me to tell you?"

"I'm aquiver with anticipation."

"I'll tell you. Now get this. Athletic Director Steve Sloan and Head Coach Bill Curry said it was to protect the team from possible injury resulting from Hurricane Gilbert. And College Station is, what, 100, 150 miles inland?"

"Dave, forgive me for interrupting —"

"Of course, Paul."

"I just happen to have been out with a friend last night who had just called friends in College Station, Texas — a fine, fine town, if I do say so — and he said it didn't rain a drop all Saturday."

"Not a drop, Paul?"

"Not a drop."

"While I sat in my La-Z-Boy, alone with my remote control, waiting to see Bobby Humphrey and John Roper."

"It would seem so, Dave."

"Now, let's get some audience interaction here. How many people out there in the studio audience really buy this Gilbert garbage?"

Random and boisterous boos flood the crowd microphones. Dave nods his head knowingly.

"Doesn't seem they buy it, Dave."

"Well, we don't buy it either. And so tonight's

TOP 10 REASONS ALABAMA WOULDN'T PLAY TEXAS A&M SATURDAY:
dramatic drum roll...

10. Winds in excess of 10 miles per hour cause skin cancer.
9. Excessive sunshine has been proven to lead to chapped lips.
8. Humidity of more than 75 percent lead to chapped lips.
7. Steve Sloan thought Texas A&M was based in Tampico.
6. Curry didn't want Sloan and Sherrill adjacent area codes.
5. Texas is so nice in December.
4. The runways were somewhat damp.
3. It's tough to play quarterback immediately after knee surgery.
2. John Roper owns a tire iron.
1. Alabama flies Delta!!!!

The crowd bursts into spontaneous and uproarious applause, coinciding happily with the flashing of the "APPLAUSE" sign. Dave takes a satisfied sip from his coffee mug and band jumps into a pseudo-blues riff. The production crew flashes to an off-beat program frame for the show and a Michelob commercial to follow.

Jets thrash offenseless Oilers 45-3

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Wesley Walker caught three touchdowns as the New York Jets' offense came alive in a stunning 45-3 rout of the Houston Oilers Sunday, the Jets' largest margin of victory ever.

The penalty-marred game, in which both teams were guilty of numerous personal fouls, turned in the Jets' favor early. The fierce hitting and chippiness began on the opening kickoff and didn't let up. But if the Oilers, the NFL's most-penalized team, were expecting to intimidate the Jets, it didn't work.

Instead, the Jets showed an offensive spark missing in their first two games, with Ken O'Brien throwing three touchdown passes. They made big plays with and without the ball.

The first big play went Houston's way when Walker fumbled a short pass and Jeff Donaldson recovered at the New York 21. After an un-sportsmanlike conduct penalty on rookie cornerback James Hasty took the ball to the 11, Houston stalled. And stayed stalled.

Tony Zendejas kicked a 30-yard field goal for Houston's only points. He also missed from 26.

Two of New York's other rookie defensive backs then got the Jets going. First, cornerback John Booty picked off Cody Carlson's pass in the end zone for his first NFL interception.

O'Brien hit Al Toon for 23 yards to start an 80-yard drive that was helped by a late hit by Houston's Doug Smith. From the 8, O'Brien found Kurt Sohn at the goal line.

Safety Erik McMillan got his first pro interception on the next series and returned it 32 yards to the Oilers' 48. Walker then beat Cris Dishman on a fly pattern for 44 yards, and Freeman McNeil swept in from the 8. The 11-second drive made it 14-3.

New York again struck quickly on its next possession. A 34-yard swing pass to Johnny Hector preceded Walker's first scoring reception, a 50-yarder over Richard Johnson. That capped a 93-yard, 58-second drive.

The Jets went 80 yards the next time they got the ball, with Walker and O'Brien combining on a timing pattern for a 4-yard score. That marked the 33-year-old receiver's first multiple touchdown game since

Nov. 6, 1986. It also was the first three-touchdown passing day for O'Brien since that same date, against the Colts.

Walker caught a 23-yard touchdown pass from Pat Ryan with 4:23 remaining, giving him six receptions for 129 yards.

Toon left the game during that drive with a concussion.

As in the upset of Cleveland last week, the Jets defense was solid. The pass rush, led by Mark Gastineau with two sacks, pressured Carlson. The Oilers had little success on the ground.

Pat Leahy kicked a 47-yard field goal in the third quarter and Mike Zordich scored his first NFL touchdown with a 35-yard return of an interception off Brent Pease in the fourth period.

The hard hitting led to 21 penalties for 190 yards. Several of those were on late hits and tackles out-of-bounds — altogether, there were nine personal fouls. One of those penalties, on a New York punt in the third quarter, caused the ejection of the Jets' Nuu Faoala.

But the most damaging hit of the game came late in the second period

when Toon was leveled by a shoulder into Toon on a slant pattern and the Jet crumpled on turf.

Toon did not return and the diagnosis was a concussion and lip.

Through two weeks, the Jets had the AFC's top-rated defense led the league in sacks. But in the first half, when the game was tied, they couldn't get the Oilers and their secondary to bled.

O'Brien finished with 17 completions in 26 attempts for 260 yards and two touchdowns.

New York's defense, which led the league against the rush, shut the No. 2 offense in the AFC. The Oilers had five sacks for the second week. The rookie defensive backs were aided by the revitalized front line and strong by linebackers Troy Benson and bin Cole.

In allowing just three points in the second straight game, the Jets held Carlson to 9-for-25 for 107 yards. Last week, he had thrown 276 yards and two touchdowns in a 38-35 win over the Raiders.

Giants win with controversial safety

IRVING (AP) — A "phantom" safety and Harry Carson's goalline fourth-period interception shed the New York Giants of their Texas Stadium hex on Sunday.

The Giants, who were given a controversial safety on the opening kickoff, downed Dallas 12-10 to spoil the Cowboys' NFL home opener.

It was only the third time since 1974 that New York had won in Texas Stadium.

Dallas' Darryl Clack muffed the opening kickoff at his 1-yard line and was tackled in the end zone by Mark Collins after he tried to run it out.

"I lost the ball in the sun, and I thought it was a live ball after touching it," Clack said. "I thought I had to try to run it out. It all happened too quick."

New York Coach Bill Parcells said he didn't really know what was happening at the time.

"I thought the guy (Clack) had caught it on the field of play, and muffed it then tried to run it out. I thought it was a good play," Parcells said.

He said the safety and Carson's interception were the big plays of the game.

Dallas was inside the New York 10, needing a field goal or touchdown to take the lead midway through the fourth quarter, but Carson intercepted, foiling the Cowboys' last serious threat.

"Carson's interception couldn't have come at a more opportune time," Parcells said. "I thought he played the best game he ever played, and that interception proved it."

"I just kind of saw the ball floating and reacted to it," Carson said. "There was nobody out in front of me, and going down that sideline I wanted to wave to (Dallas coach) Tom Landry."

Carson returned the interception 66 yards, but the Giants failed to score although the play preserved the victory.

Cornerback Perry Williams intercepted another Steve Pelluer pass with 41 seconds left to seal the win.

Landry said he was "upset" over the safety call and admitted, "We should have argued more. I didn't

ask for a replay."

He said, "It was a muff in our endzone and we can do what we want to do. I don't know why the officials didn't replay it."

The safety shook the Cowboys up as they argued in vain.

"The referee (Pat Haggerty) later confirmed that he thought the return man (Clack) had first possessed the ball and then fumbled it," replay official Armen Terzian said.

"I was remiss in not reviewing the play at the time, but I felt there was an interpretation on the field which I was unaware of and would have allowed the safety."

"Unfortunately, that was not the case, and subsequent review confirmed that the ball was muffed."

Once the next play begins, an official's ruling stands even if wrong.

Landry said Pelluer is still his quarterback despite the two fourth-period interceptions.

"I still have to go with him," Landry said. "He's just a young quarterback trying to make it in the NFL."

Pelluer said, "Carson made a

really good play. I just have to make better decisions when I'm in the situation. It's hard to come up with like that. There's nothing I can do that will change things."

"It seems it's always the play at the end that hurt us."

Clinging to their 12-10 lead, the Giants drove to the Dallas 41-line after Carson's interception, gaining a field goal, the Giants for it and failed on fourth down when Gary Cobb stopped Joe Harris. That allowed the Cowboys another chance for a winning field goal, but Williams' interception ended those thoughts.

Dallas threatened to score in the second period, after a 36-yard passer-to-Irvin pass put Dallas' Giants' 11. But Ruzek missed a 45-yard field goal.

Simms suffered his first interception in 150 passes when Robert Williams came down with an Ed McCaffrey tipped pass at the Dallas 48 in the second period.

A crowd of 55,325 fans, 10,000 less than sellout, attended the game in Texas Stadium.