

Sports

Ags drop 3rd; Pokes romp 52-15

By Jeff Miller
Sports Writer

STILLWATER, Okla. — The Aggies came into Stillwater, Okla. with a rough plane landing, and a prime motive — to establish an offensive attack to go along with supposedly one of the most solid defenses in the nation.

They left in the same rough way they rolled in after a 52-15 blowout by the Oklahoma State Cowboys.

They did establish the offense. The Aggies rolled up 477 yards total.

They also needed to establish a quarterback that could lead that offensive attack.

They did that, too. First-time starter Chris Osgood hit 19 of 34 passes for 197 yards and one touchdown, but he did blemish his day with an interception that resulted in a 73-yard return for a score.

But in the midst of all the criticism on the offense, the defense made a complete turnaround from a brick wall to a sponge, allowing the Oklahoma State Cowboys 360 yards of total offense.

OSU quarterback Mike Gundy, who came into the game as the nation's leader in passing efficiency, completed 9 of 13 passes for 143 yards and no interceptions and broke the school record for most touchdown completions in a career.

Cowboy running back Barry Sanders finished with 157 yards on 20 carries, and preseason All-America receiver Hart Lee Dykes had 122 yards on just five receptions.

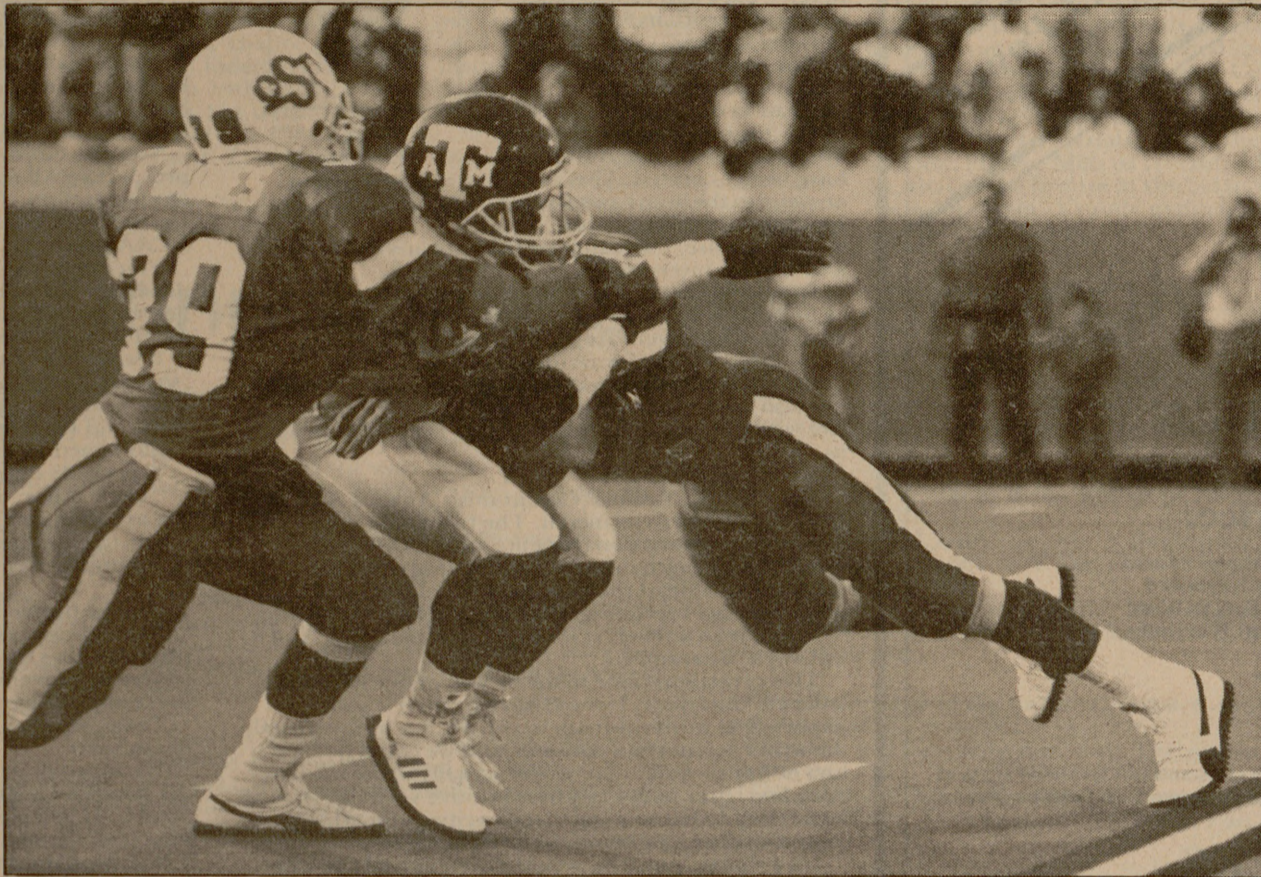
Most of OSU's offense came in the first half, when they gained 301 total yards on 38 plays, averaging 7.9 yards per play and scoring on each of its first six possessions.

A&M's bright spots were Osgood and running back Darren Lewis, who led all rushers with 168 yards on 25 carries.

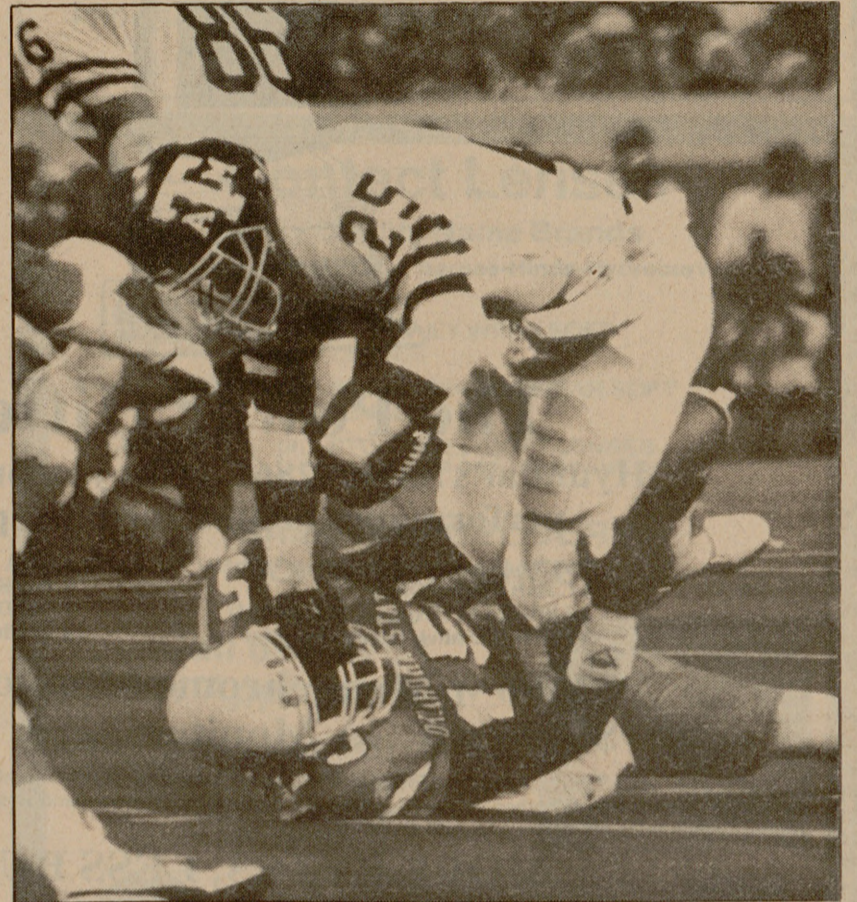
The Aggie defense recovered slightly in the second half and allowed only 51 yards of total offense by the Cowboys.

But it was too little, too late.

A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said, "We were going to put the heat on them, but not when we're down



Shane Garrett fumbles A&M's first kickoff, leading to the second OSU touchdown in the first three minutes.



The Aggies wasted a 168-yard rushing performance by Darren Lewis.

like that's because they dictate to you what you can do."

Sanders and Dykes ripped through the A&M defense almost each time they touched the ball.

"He's (Sanders) a great football player," Sherrill said. "He's going to do that against a lot of people. And he has — we're not the only people he's done it against."

This game is an example of lying statistics, as the Aggies outgained the Cowboys in total offense by 117 yards.

The Aggies self-destructed, committing five turnovers, two of which were inside their own 30 yard line.

They also committed penalties in crucial situations that might have helped the Aggies in a comeback.

OSU scored on the third play of the game, as the highly-regarded Sanders scored on a 58-yard scamper, his first of two on the day.

On the ensuing kickoff, return man Shane Garrett returned the ball 18 yards and fumbled, giving the Cowboys possession at the A&M 22.

Two plays later, OSU scored again on a two-yard touchdown by Mitch Nash, giving the Cowboys a 14-point lead after less than three minutes of play.

On the Aggies' first offensive series, Osgood fumbled on second down at the Aggie 47, and OSU recovered.

The Cowboys again capitalized on the A&M miscue when placekicker Cary Blanchard widened the margin to 17-0 with a 39-yard field goal. The second Aggie drive included

12 plays for 80 yards, including a 36-yard run by Lewis that put them on the Cowboy 18, that ended in a two-yard touchdown pass from Osgood to receiver Rod Harris in the corner of the end zone.

The impressive offensive scoring drive, led by Osgood, appeared to have a positive effect on the Aggies, as they held the Cowboys' next offensive possession to a fourth-and-five at the A&M 43.

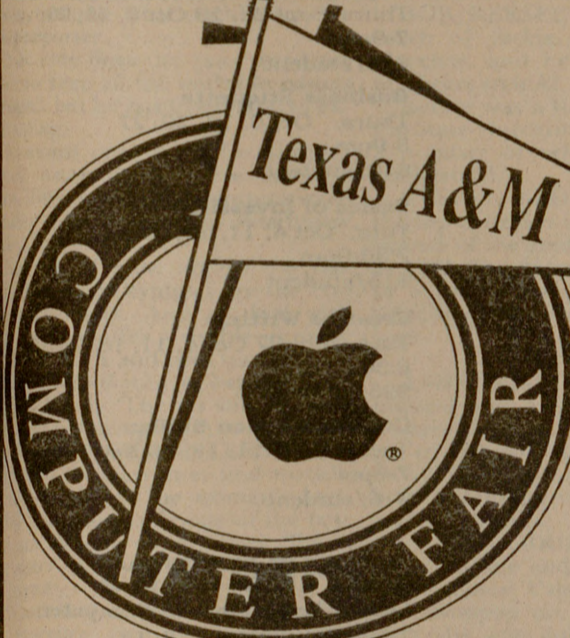
OSU Coach Pat Jones unexpect-

tedly elected to try for the first down.

The Aggies got a taste of their own medicine when Gundy lined up at the quarterback spot and drifted back to punt, as they had done with former quarterback-punter — Craig Stump.

They were charged with an off-sides penalty, giving the Cowboys a first down.

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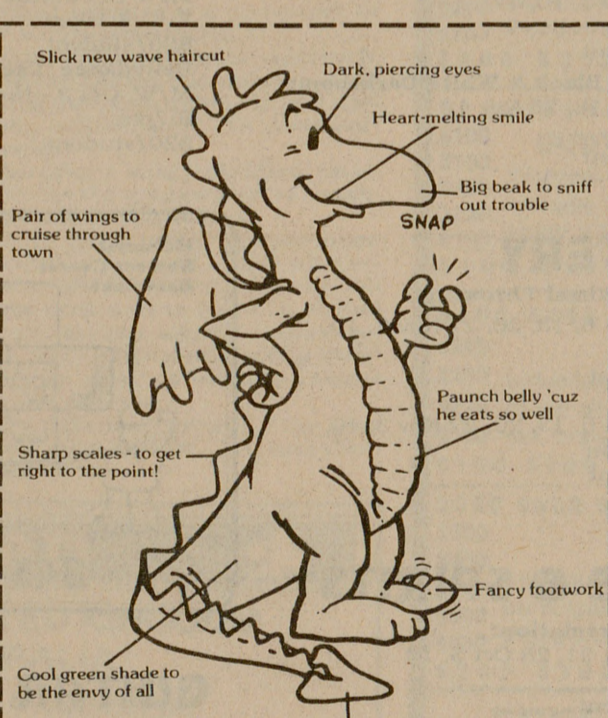
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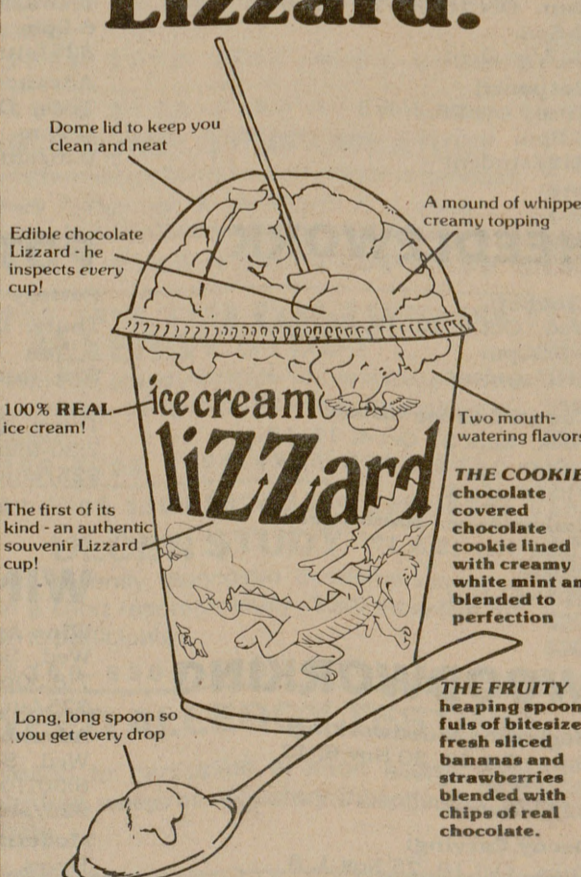
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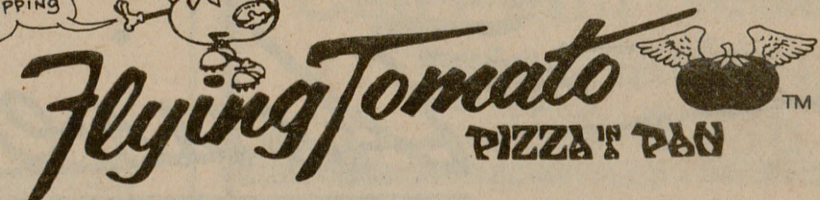


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