

# Old Ag Pardee swaps roles

## Bryant pupil played both ways hurt against UH

Saturday afternoon Houston Coach Jack Pardee will lead his undefeated Cougars onto the floor of the Astrodome to do battle with the Texas Aggies, who, in turn, want to demolish any Cougar dreams of an unbeaten season.

Yet, almost 30 years ago to the day (October 13, 1956), Pardee was a member of Coach Bear Bryant's then-undefeated Aggie squad that took on a once-beaten Cougar squad equally intent on ending similar Aggie wishes.

Before 67,000 fans at Rice Stadium, the largest crowd ever to see a Cougar game, Houston blunted a late Aggie rally on its own 1 yard line with 0:33 to play and came away with a 14-14 "upset".

"It was early in the year," Pardee said Wednesday evening. "We didn't know that we'd have had a perfect season if we had beaten Houston."

A&M brought a 3-0 record into the contest, having defeated Villanova (19-0) at Kyle Field, LSU 9-6 (in Baton Rouge) and Texas Tech 40-7 (at the Cotton Bowl).

Houston was 1-1, having defeated Mississippi State 18-7 and lost to Ole Miss 14-0.

The Cougars, then members of the Missouri Valley Conference and only in their 11th season of college football, looked toward the game as a way of gaining instant respect if they could swing an upset over the ninth-ranked Aggies.

On the other hand, A&M had just squared a debt with Tech and had TCU and Baylor looming ahead in what turned out to be a tough SWC season.

But Bryant knew that Houston would be a formidable opponent, especially since they could throw the ball well.

"We think Houston will be our critical game, and it will take a good team to beat them," Bryant said. "This will be a good measuring stick as far as we are concerned."

The Tuesday practice prior to the game Bryant had assistant coach Jerry Claiborne quarterback Aggie reserves against his top defensive unit. Claiborne completed 72 percent of his passes, much to the Bear's displeasure.

### Tim Stanfield

Flashback

"Either we have to work like the devil on our pass defense or else put Coach Claiborne in at quarterback for us," Bryant said.

On top of that several Aggies had come down with the flu prior to the Tech game and remained less than completely healthy, though Pardee wasn't one of them. In the days of one-platoon football coupled with the rule that once a player left the field he couldn't return to the next quarter, any starter that couldn't play was a tremendous detriment to the team.

Pardee did have sore shoulders before the Houston game — and came out of it with a separated shoulder. But the pregame injury didn't keep him from taking on Houston, though Bryant had told the press that Pardee might not see action.

All-America lineman Dennis Goehring wasn't even supposed to suit up for the Ags, but he not only played but played well.

Goehring, who blocked a Cougar field goal attempt in the second quarter against Houston, said Wednesday that though Pardee was timid and shy when he came to A&M from tiny Christoval he quickly won everyone's respect.

"Jack had played six-man football in high school but adjusted to the college game easily," Goehring said. "I think his strength comes from his always being a Christian person. You could see that quality in him from the start."

"He did surprise me once when we were freshmen, though. In one game just as he was hit, Jack tossed the football to me. Our coach asked him what happened and he told us that was normal in six-man football and that temporarily he had forgotten where he was."

Also on that squad were two juniors who later played several years in the National Football League, halfbacks Bobby Joe Conrad and John David Crow.

Conrad recalled that Pardee came to

### Yell practice scheduled for Houston club

For students and fans wishing to attend Yell practice tonight before tomorrow's football game, the ritual will be held at midnight at Johnny B. Dalton's in Houston.

The country-western dance hall is located on I-45 North at the corner of Rankin and Kuyendall in Houston.

It was formerly held at Hermann Park between the zoo and the planetarium, when the Aggies played either the University of Houston or Rice University each year.

A&M with a lot of raw talent and a willingness to learn.

"Jack was — and is — a student of the game," Conrad said. "Coach Bryant coached it out of him. He has been successful as a player and coach at every level of football."

Crow, who along with Pardee was an All-America in 1956, concurred with his teammates in their assessments of Pardee.

"Jack is a nice guy and always has been," Crow said. "It's great for me to be able to call him my friend, which he has always been except when we were on the field in our pro years."

"Even though I knew him as well as anyone else, Jack never spoke to me on the field the entire time I played in the NFL. He was just a tough guy on the field and a great player."

Though the Aggies had all these outstanding players, plus others, the Cougars weren't awed that day.

Crow fumbled on the first play of the game and Cougar Rudy Spitzenberger recovered at the A&M 20. Houston scored six plays later, as Harold Lewis ran 7 yards for the touchdown.

A&M tried to retaliate, but after moving 73 yards, Don Watson fumbled and the Cougars' Don Boudreaux recovered on the Houston 7.

The Aggies tied the game in the second quarter when a host of them blocked Don Caraway's punt, which John Tracey recovered for a touchdown.

Tracey was in the game because Bobby Keith Drake had suffered a broken nose (an injury that ended his career). Ken Hall kicked the extra point and at the half the game was tied at 7.

A&M had made two goal-line stands in the second quarter, stopping the Cougars at the 1 yard line and then only a foot from their goal.

Pardee stacked up Caraway ending the first Cougar rally, and had help from Langston when he corralled Caraway at the A&M one-foot line to end the second threat.

After the teams exchanged punts in the third quarter, A&M moved for its second touchdown, going 57 yards in 13 plays. Quarterback Roddy Osborne ran for the touchdown after faking to Pardee, and Lloyd Taylor kicked the extra-point.

Houston came right back for its second touchdown, a 63-yard drive in 11 plays with sophomore Bill Koons getting the score on a 5-yard run. Incidentally, that was Koons' first collegiate rushing attempt.

Koons scored with 11:03 to play, but the Aggies had one last drive in them. After Crow downed Owen Mulholland's 58-yard punt at the A&M 9, the Aggies moved 90 yards to the Cougar 1.

Pardee ran for 10 yards on the first play, then Osborne completed passes to Crow (13 yards), Taylor (18 yards) and Tracey (11 yards).

On first down at the Houston 30 Taylor escaped down the sidelines for 20 yards and a first down at the Cougar 10.

There the red-shirted defenders held, stopping Osborne for no gain, allowing a 7-yard pass from Crow to Taylor and limiting Osborne to 2 yards on third down.

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# Tough to watch yanks and surfers

Astro fans don't have a lot to look forward to in this year's major league playoffs. But, being the sports fans that most Texans are, they will find an excuse to watch.

While watching the Dodgers play the Mets, the toughest thing for the Texan to stomach is that both teams are from the coast.

I know we try hard to keep away from regional judgements, but it's hard desperately trying to find a team to root for when they're either yankees or sun bums.

Isn't that true? Nothing irks a Texan more than someone with an East-coast accent. And when you put a bunch of guys who say "I tink wi gonna win da pennit" on the same team — now that makes an Astro fan mad.

Then you look out West and see Mr. Pasta himself, Tommy Lasorda cruising along to another pennant winning season without even chewing.

The Dodgers, as is fitting for a California team, are laid back. Hey, they've been there before. No problem.

Honestly, I've never been real big on the Astros. But I did play the part of a loyal Texan two years ago when the Astros played the Mets in the National League championship series.

Since then, however, there have been a few adjustments in my point of view, and it's a little easier to overlook the accents and attitudes of the Mets and Dodgers.

The Mets have that feisty, scrappy, never-say-die attitude that, for whatever reason, drives Texans loony.

Guys like Wally Backman and Len Dykstra win the award for frustrating opposing fans and players.

These two fit together in an uncanny way. They're like twin brothers on a little-league team — one in the infield, one in the outfield.



**Jerry Bolz**  
Columnist

If you listen real hard, you can almost hear Backman from second base — "Hey batta batta batta, swing batta."

And out in center field, the faint cry of Dykstra saying "Whatsa matta batta? Bat too heavy foya?"

Then there's the other guys, the ones with the names. How about Darryl Strawberry. Nobody called Strawberry should be able to hit the baseball like that.

And Mookie Wilson. What if Darryl's mom had called him Mookie. What do you do with a Mookie Strawberry? Sounds like a dessert to me.

Anyway, as infuriating as it is, these guys go to the park to play ball. No other team in the National or American League puts forth as much effort every game as the Mets.

They treat each game in the 162-game regular season as if it was the one they needed to clinch the division.

Nothing about the Mets is pretty. Maybe that's why many baseball fans find them so hard to like.

A lot of fans today tend to think that if a team has to get their uniforms dirty to win, they might as well lose.

That doesn't wash with the Mets. They would rather get dirty and die trying to win than to lay back and let things happen by destiny.

Destination, not destiny, is the

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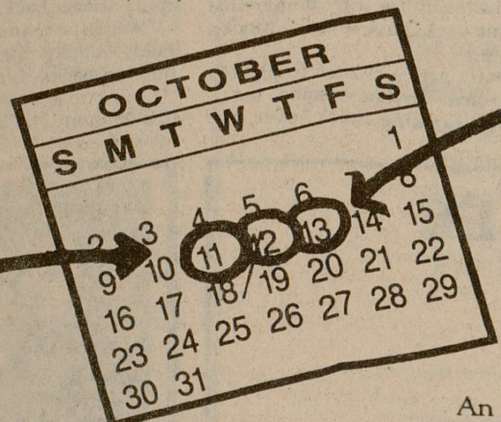
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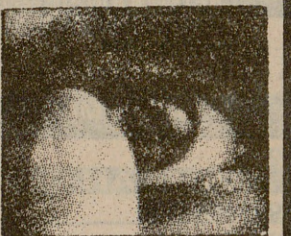
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