

From the Bleachers

Quit griping, Ags!

SPORTS EDITOR:

I'm proud of the way that we Aggies have stuck with our football team — despite adversity, despite the NCAA, despite our 0-3 start.

But I have one minor gripe, Ags. And it's about those of us who are "fair weather" Aggies. What am I talking about? I'm talking about you Aggies out there who knock our team every single time we even begin to look bad.

I'm not really shocked when every time Chris Osgood fumbles or throws an interception, people yell, "Send Bucky in!" I'm not shocked. Just disappointed.

I remember one series during the Baylor game where Bucky threw an incomplete pass on first down. People in my section yelled for Osgood to come in. Those same people weren't

heard from when Bucky scampered for 39 yards on the next down.

Football is a team sport. Bucky didn't have a bad first half. Chris didn't have a bad first half. The team had a bad first half.

Maybe I'm being idealistic, but I don't think we should drop our support for our team when our quarterback makes his first mistake of a game. Those are the kind of fans that the Dallas Cowboys are famous for, not the Aggies. Worldwide, Aggies are known for the Spirit of Aggieland and the 12th Man, supporting our team whether we win or get outscored, whether we blow 'em away or squeak by, and whether we are led by Chris Osgood, Bucky Richardson, or Lance Pavlas.

David Mendoza '88

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

Oiler line gets credit for win

HOUSTON (AP) — Warren Moon's return as the Houston Oiler starting quarterback was accompanied by top blocking performances from several offensive linemen, Coach Jerry Glanville said Monday.

"Pittsburgh played hard and got after it, but it didn't matter," Glanville said of Sunday's 34-14 victory. "Some people knew he had to play our best game to keep them off of Warren."

Moon, out since the second game of the season with a broken shoulder bone, returned as if he'd never missed a game, completing 11 of 19 passes for 174 yards and two touchdowns.

Moon admitted concern for his injured shoulder and appreciated the support.

"I think adrenalin had a lot to do with it," Moon said. "You go out there you have concerns about getting hit and whether you can take another shot."

"But if you watched our offensive line, they took a lot of pressure off me. They told me before the game they weren't going to let anyone get next to me, and they kept their word."

Moon did not suffer a sack and was able to get a game under his belt before Sunday's showdown for the AFC Central Division lead in Cincinnati.

The Oilers are 5-2 and the Bengals are 6-1 after their first loss of the season on Sunday, losing 27-21 to New England.

Glanville praised the blocking of offensive linemen Dean Steinkuhler and Bruce Matthews and tight end Jamie Williams.

"Watching the plays and how we were blocking was a lot of fun," Glanville said. "Steinkuhler had his best

Lineman gets death threats

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Houston Oilers nose tackle Doug Smith received two telephoned death threats before the Oilers-Steelers game Sunday, but there were no further incidents after the team requested police protection.

A police officer was stationed near Smith's room at the Westin William Penn Hotel after he received threatening calls at about 6 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Saturday, officials said.

Both calls, believed to be from the same person, threatened Smith's life.

"A couple of guys called me on the phone and said some obnoxious things,"

Smith said. "They said things like, 'We're going to kill you before the game.'"

Smith was ejected from the Oilers' 24-16 victory over the Steelers in Houston last year for fighting with running back Frank Pollard.

In the first 1987 meeting between the teams, in Pittsburgh, the Steelers' Earnest Jackson bruised his back when he was speared in the back by Charles Martin.

"I told them, 'You've got the wrong one,'" said Smith, who wears No. 99. "The one you want is No. 94 (Martin), and he's gone."

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Dallas start worst since '65

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys' death spiral has reached the death valley days of 1965.

Not since the 7-7 NFL season of 1965 has Dallas started 2-5.

The Cowboys may also have to play most of the remainder of their schedule without backup quarterback Danny White, who suffered a sprained knee ligament in Sunday's 17-7 loss to the Chicago Bears.

Cowboys' trainer Don Cochren said White could miss several weeks until the swelling goes down.

"There is swelling but it doesn't appear the ligament is torn," Cochren said.

White has a walking cast on his right knee.

"I could feel my knee pop," said White, who suffered the injury in the third period but played the remainder of the game.

White's injury elevated Kevin Sweeney, who has yet to play in a regular season non-strike game, to second-string status behind Steve Pelluer.

"I was trying to slide but I wasn't down. It's hard for me to remember what happened. My lights dimmed a little."

The Bears are always tough on Pelluer, who suffered a mild concussion in a preseason game with Chicago.

Dallas coach Tom Landry said the Bears should have been flagged for roughing on the play.

"Steve was trying to go down," Landry said. "He was trying to pull up. I don't care what the referee (Pat Tunney) said. They should be trying to protect the quarterback."

There have been 20 injuries to NFL quarterbacks this season.

Two other Cowboys may miss Sunday's game with the Eagles.

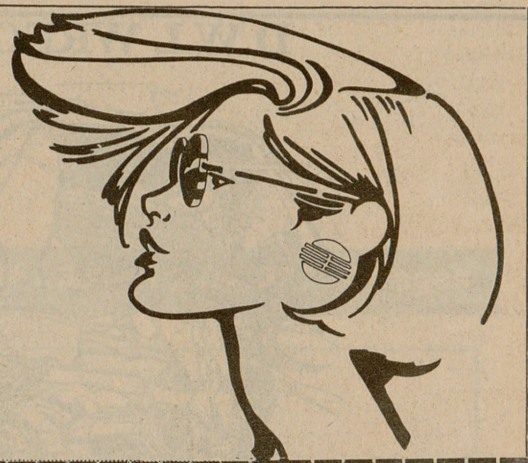
Left tackle Mark Tuinei and linebacker Garry Cobb suffered injuries which make them questionable for the game. Tuinei reinjured his left knee and Cobb bruised his hip.

The Cowboys may also be looking for another placekicker. Roger Ruzen, who recently signed a three-year, \$600,000 contract, missed two more field goals on Sunday, making four for 10 this year.

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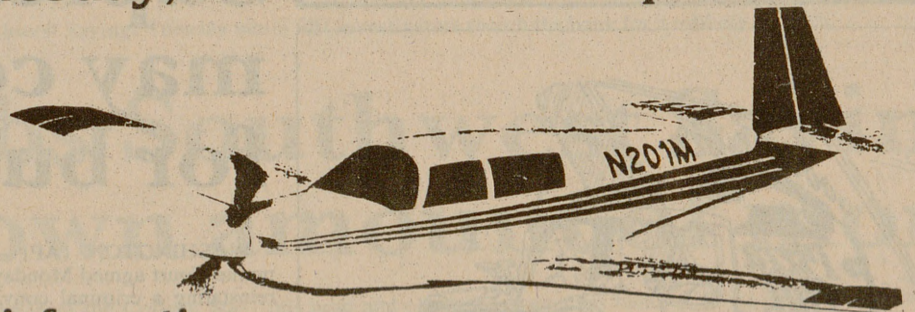
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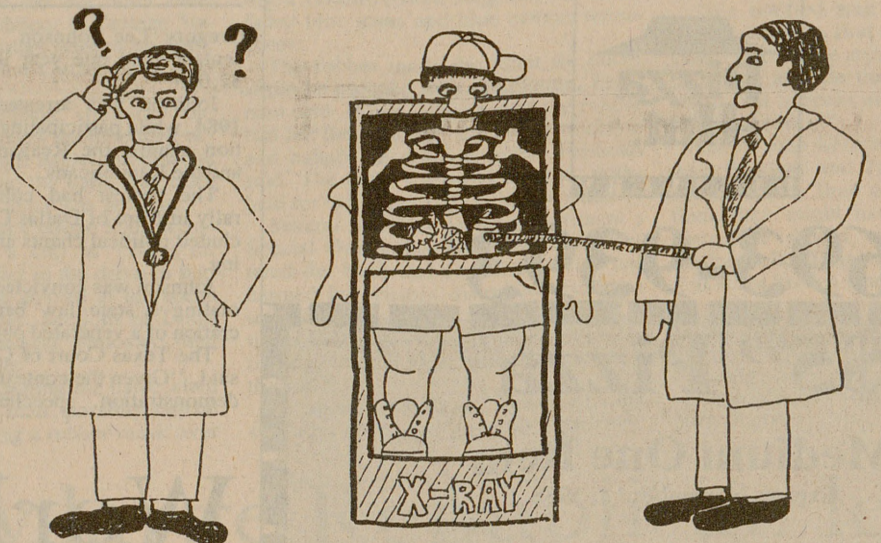
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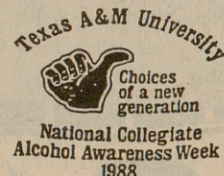
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