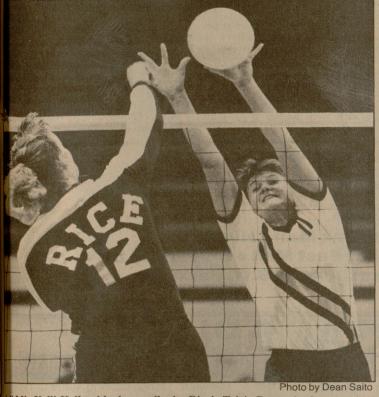
Lady Ags pound Owls in 3 games



AkM's Kelli Kellen blocks a spike by Rice's Tricia Bowen in the second tame of the three-game sweep by the Lady Aggies

By Cray Pixley
Assistant Sports Editor

The Lady Aggie volleyball team broke a two-match losing treak with a return to Southwest Conference play by defeating the Rice Owls Friday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

White Coliseum.

A&M defeated the Owls in straight sets 15-8, 15-10, 15-13.

See Lady Aggies, page 8

A&M flies past Owls 24-10 Rice clock-erasing game plan fails to halt Ags

By Cray Pixley
Assistant Sports Editor

The Rice Owls hit Kyle Field with their heads down and on the run using a clock-eating game plan to combat the Aggies.

Time did run out, but not with the Owls in the winning column, as A&M downed Rice 24-10 Saturday.

It was a relatively close game statistically in the first half (195 total yards for A&M to 162 for the Owls).

The Owls started the game by swallowing 10:06 with a grinding run attack, only to come up emptyhanded after a missed field goal by Clint Parsons.

Rice's first possession proved to be a preview for what was to come in the game. The Owls had no problem moving the ball downfield, but they could not put the points on the

The Aggies had to sit back and watch Rice run down the clock in the first half with A&M getting its hands on the ball only three times. A&M made use of the lack of opportunity by scoring on two of three possessions.

Rice ended up holding the ball for 19:20 of the first half.

The Rice running game racked up 129 yards — more than Baylor and Houston gained in their entire games combined. The Bears had 51 ground yards, while the Cougars could only manage 50.

A&M starting quarterback Bucky Richardson unloaded a 47-yard pass to Rod Harris that was almost broken up by Rice defender Otha Latin to move inside the 5 yard line.

The pass was the longest of Richardson's career and of the Aggie sea-

A&M got on the board first after Robert Wilson scored on a 1-yard

A&M's next score came on a 31yard field goal from Scott Slater. It was his first of the season after missing four in earlier games

ing four in earlier games.

Rice succeeded in moving the ball again but could only sink a 29-yard field goal by Parsons before the half ended with A&M in the lead 10-3.

A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said, "Their game plan was to come out and keep the ball away from us as long as possible while moving it down the field and using the clock. In the first half, they didn't take the snap until five seconds were left on the clock.

"It was the right thing to do, but they couldn't score when they had possession. We expected them to scramble and pass more instead of keeping it on the ground."

A&M's Darren Lewis stayed firmly on the ground, racking up 170 yards on 18 carries to add Rice to his string of five straight 100-yard games.

Lewis finished the game with 1,563 career yards, moving him past John David Crow, Glenn Lippman and Ernest Jackson into 10th position on A&M's all-time career rushing chart

ing chart.
Ninth place and Keith Woodside's 1,720 yard mark is in Lewis' sight.

Lewis played the game while recovering from a hip pointer injury he received against Baylor, along with his year-long problem with sprained toes.

"I feel about 65 percent now bea pyschological thing. I just go out

See Aggies, page 8

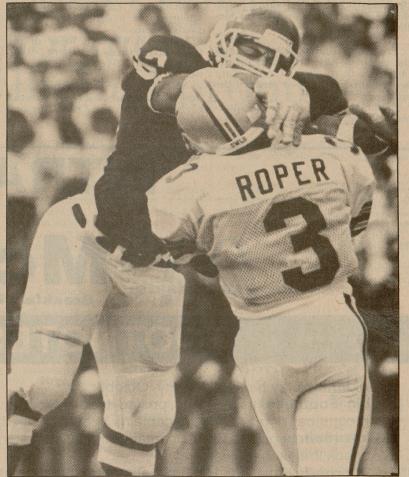


Photo by Jay J

A&M's John Roper pressures Rice quarterback Quentis Roper during the third quarter of Saturday's game. The linebacker registered one of the Aggies' three sacks on the day.

Lewis is hot, Metcalf's not, and Roper's nominated

Random comments on Texas A&M football, for Southwest Conference stuff and national ampionship contenders. I can't think of a real dumn idea.

Can there be any more doubt about which runing back is the best in the conference? Darren wis has now rushed for 138 yards or better in ach of his last five games and ranks among the abacks in the country in yards-per-game and ads-per-carry.

Eric Metcalf has sort of Twilight Zoned in Len' wake. The Horns' preseason Heisman candate has averaged 86.6 yards per game, with a shgame of 133 (against perennial powerhouse w Mexico). If you haven't noticed, Lewis has shed for more than that in every game he has

wis also has vaulted into A&M's all-time 10 list for rushing yardage. With 1,563 ds. he passed current Pittsburgh Steeler star

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Hammons
Sports Editor

Earnest Jackson for 10th place last week. All in a

Hal L.

It would be positively scary what Lewis could do if he was playing healthy. He's doing all this with two toe injuries and a multitude of nagging stuff that results from carrying the ball 30-plus

On the defensive side, John Roper has been

\$100

nominated for the Lombardi Trophy, an annual award given to the outstanding lineman (or linebacker, obviously) in college football. Two players for A&M opponents — Nebraska's Broderick Thomas and Alabama's Derrick Thomas — are also among the nominees. Auburn defensive lineman Tracy Rocker probably would have to be considered the favorite. The senior was also nominated last year.

The U of Texas must be wondering about how impressive its win over New Mexico was. Its sister school, UT-El Paso, beat the Lobos almost as badly (37-0) as the Longhorns did (41-0). Maybe the UT system is being too gracious with its allocation of talent.

The Southwest Conference could have its first Top 10 team since the Aggies' fall early this year. Arkansas, ranked 13th last week, is sure to pass No. 9 Clemson (10-3 losers to North Carolina State) and No. 11 Georgia (who lost to Ken-

tucky 16-10). The Hogs would also have to jump over Wyoming, however, and the Cowboys beat Utah 61-18.

anyone else they conceivably could be tied with. On the other hand, the race for the national championship looks to be one of the most excit-

Arkansas may be feeling the effects of weak scheduling. The 7-0 Razorbacks probably will still be ranked behind five teams (Miami, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Florida State and Auburn) with losses on their records. They also will trail Wyoming, of the traditionally dormat-ish Western Athletic Conference, and West Virginia, which has only has played only one decent team all year (Pittsburgh) and has only one team on its entire schedule that is ranked in the Top 20 (No. 19 Syracuse).

Would you believe a boring SWC race? All Arkansas has to do to get to the Cotton Bowl is beat Rice (at home) and Baylor. The Texas A&M game doesn't matter without another loss, since the Aggies are ineligible for the conference championship and the Hogs will have beaten

anyone else they conceivably could be tied with.

On the other hand, the race for the national championship looks to be one of the most exciting in years. UCLA, Southern Cal and Notre Dame all are undefeated and can make legitimate claims to being the No. 1 team in the country. Better yet, USC plays both of the others later in the season. The Trojans could make it painfully obvious which team in the country is the best by winning out.

Those aren't the only great matchups, either. Look for classics with Nebraska-Oklahoma, Georgia-Auburn, Auburn-Alabama, Alabama-LSU, LSU-Miami, and — dare we say it? —Miami-Arkansas.

Doncha know the Hogs are itching to avenge last year's 51-7 humiliation in Little Rock. Doncha know the rest of the conference could really use a win over a prominant opponent to make the SWC look a little more significant.

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