

Give credit to offensive line

Blockers eventually wore down Rice defense

Players of the Week
Offensive line

By Doug Walker
Assistant Sports Editor

The size and strength of the Texas A&M offensive line provided the deciding factor in Saturday's 24-10 Aggie victory over the Rice Owls.

The Aggie offense earned 310 yards on the ground behind the blocking of left tackle L.B. Moon, left guard Bill Cavanaugh, center Mike Arthur, right guard Jerry Fontenot and right tackle Matt McCall. A&M averaged 6.5 yards per carry against Rice and dominated the line scrimmage in posting A&M's fourth WC win without a loss.

A&M put the game away with a pair of third quarter touchdown drives made possible by gaping holes created by the line.

With A&M leading 10-3 early in the period, A&M's Darren Lewis raced through a hole in the middle of the line and spun out of one tackle before being stopped for a 15 yard gain to the Aggie 8. That run came on the second play of a five-play, 80 yard drive that demoralized the Rice defense.

A pair of nine-yard gains by quarterback Bucky Richardson and fullback Robert Wilson set up a 47-yard touchdown run by Darren Lewis to give A&M a 13-3 lead. The run was A&M's longest during the game and provided a



Photo by Jay Janner

Players like Bucky Richardson (7) and Darren Lewis (25) usually get the lion's share of the credit for success offensively, but it's blockers like L.B. Moon

(69), Mike Arthur (52) and Bill Cavanaugh (58) that made a strong ground game possible for the Aggies Saturday against Rice.

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Collusion II gives 12 players freedom

NEW YORK (AP) — Pitchers Jim Clancy of Toronto and Doyle Alexander of Detroit were among 12 players granted "new-look" free agency by an arbitrator Monday in the 1986 collusion case.

Catchers Rich Gedman of Boston, Ernie Whitt of Toronto, Bob Boone of California and Alan Ashby of Houston also were made free agents by arbitrator George Nicolau. Other players granted free agency were pitcher Ron Guidry, infielder Willie Randolph and outfielder Claudell Washington of the New York Yankees and outfielder Brian Downing of the Angels.

In addition, Roberts granted new-look free agency to pitchers Ken Dayley of St. Louis and Roy Smith of Minnesota. They became free agents Dec. 21, 1986, when their clubs failed to offer them contracts for the 1987 season. They re-signed with their former teams after receiving no other offers.

The 12 players have until Dec. 16 to accept contracts with new teams or remain with their current clubs. In a similar process, arbitrator Thomas Roberts made seven players from the first case free agents last January, and Kirk Gibson left Detroit to sign a \$4.5-million, three-year contract with Los Angeles.

"These . . . players are entitled to immediate relief and are hereby afforded the opportunity to seek em-

ployment, free from the clubs' violation of the basic agreement," Nicolau wrote in a nine-page opinion.

Two other players were included in Nicolau's decision but will not be affected. Outfielder Tim Raines of Montreal waived his new-look rights Sunday when he agreed to a \$6.3-million, three-year contract with the Expos. Infielder Dave Concepcion was made a free agent even though he has been one since the Cincinnati Reds released him Oct. 6.

"I think it's no secret that we thought the order should have been broader," said Donald Fehr, executive director of the Major League Baseball Players Association. "I think this will give us a good indication of what clubs are up to. Everybody's been crying there's no catchers. And everybody's been crying there's no pitchers. Here's a group that has catchers and pitchers."

The union had asked that Nicolau make 33 other players free agents again, including pitcher Jack Morris of the Detroit Tigers. Most players in this category also were free agents after the 1987 season and are part of the Collusion III case.

"Inasmuch as those hearings are by no means concluded, permitting players to invalidate those contracts at this time would, in effect, prejudice the evidence in that proceeding," Nicolau wrote.

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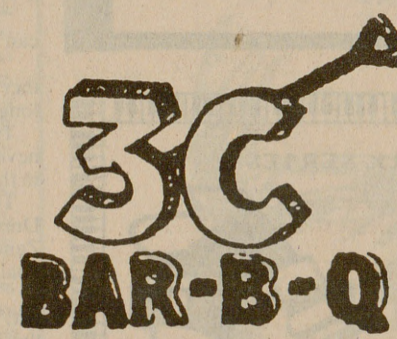
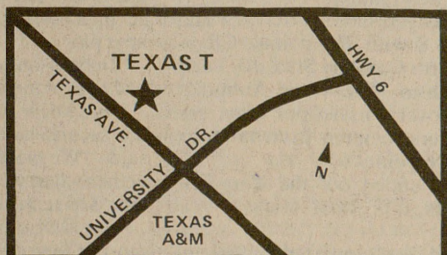
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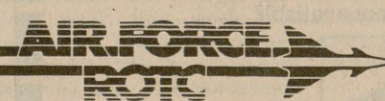
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