

Big UT rallies kill A&M in 3 games

Big runs at critical stages were the downfall of the Lady Aggies, as Texas A&M lost three 15-9 games to the Texas Lady Longhorns Wednesday night in Austin.

A&M Coach Al Givens said, "We got beat by a better team tonight."

"They're a good team. It's the mark of a good team that it can play not so well and still be successful."

A&M falls to 17-13 on the season and 5-4 in Southwest Conference play. Texas finished up its SWC season at 10-0 and 25-5 overall.

UT won the first four points of the match and didn't let up to take the first game.

A&M jumped to a 7-0 lead in the second, but after UT tied the game at 7 and 9 the Lady Longhorns took command, reeling off

six straight points for the win.

A late charge helped Texas again in the third game. Six straight points stretched a 6-5 UT lead into a seven-point lead.

Givens said a key of the the Lady Aggie defense would be stopping UT's Dawn Davenport. Davenport still led her team with 11 kills on the day in 18 attempts with only two errors for a .500 percentage.

"Davenport and Quanda Harrell put up a wall," Givens said.

A&M was led by Kelli Kellen with nine kills, while Amy Cummings, Cheri Steensma and Melanie Rudder each added six.

Givens said he thought the team would need two more wins to get into the NCAA tournament, including Saturday night's game against Baylor.

The match starts at 8:30 at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

147 yards on only 4 carries Smith's big day against Frogs came as a back

One of the worst problems backup offensive backs had during the Coach Emory Bellard Era at Texas A&M was getting playing time.

Even though the Aggies had gone from a 3-8 team in 1972 to 10-2 in 1975, the offense had only been effective sporadically, thus reducing the time subs could play.

Injuries to key starters put untried youngsters on the field in 1974 and 1975, but by September 1976, Bellard knew who he wanted in his wish-bone backfield.

Senior quarterback David Shipman could hand off to big sophomore fullback George Woodard, or to a pair of youngsters who *did* get to play a lot, freshmen Curtis Dickey and David Brothers.

Squadman Darrell Smith, a running back from Fort Worth, had to be content with little work, as the starters accumulated the statistics that eventually saw both Woodard and Dickey score more than 200 points and Dickey overtaking Woodard as the all-time leading A&M rusher (after big George had taken that honor from former teammate Bubba Bean).

Bellard's bunch entered the 1976 off two dis-

Tim Stanfield Flashback

appointing losses; Arkansas humiliated them 31-6 on national television when the Aggies were the second-ranked team in the country, and Southern Cal shut them out 20-0 in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis, Tenn.

Bellard's first recruiting group — which included Bean, wide receiver Carl Roaches, tight end Richard Osborne, defensive backs Pat Thomas and Jackie Williams, along with super linebackers Garth TenNapel and Ed Simonini — had departed. But Bellard's cupboard was anything except bare.

Defensive backs Lester Hayes and William Thompson joined linebackers Robert Jackson and Jesse Hunnicutt plus defensive linemen Tank Marshall and Edgar Fields to provide the Ags with a stout defense.

Offensively, A&M had some new faces plus the burden of having fallen on its collective face

with the Cotton Bowl game on the line in the Arkansas hills the previous December.

Smith — and fellow freshman running back Adger Armstrong — spent most of their time watching the starters rack up a disappointing 3-2 record early that fall.

A&M defeated Virginia Tech 19-0 at Kyle Field in the season opener and followed with a comeback victory over Kansas State (34-14).

Then the roof fell in on them before 70,001 at Rice Stadium when Houston defeated A&M 21-10 in the first Southwest Conference game between the two rivals.

A desultory 14-7 win over Illinois in Champaign preceded another SWC defeat, this time to Texas Tech (27-16 at Kyle Field). Out of the SWC race with an 0-2 record, the Ags, especially sophomore place-kicker Tony Franklin, struck back at the Baylor Bears.

In the middle of a rain storm, Franklin booted NCAA-record field goals of 64 and 65 yards to lead the Aggies' win 24-0 — and set into motion

Despite pansies, some bowl games will be worth watching

The college football season is winding down and the bowl matchups are starting to take shape. Bowl invitations go out Saturday and, even though the Aggies won't be involved, there should be several interesting matchups to keep you entertained over the holiday season.

Earlier this week, as I was looking over the morning sports page, I noticed that some of the teams expected to lock up bowl bids on Saturday have loaded up on either smaller Division I-A schools or Division I-AA teams.

Three teams — Florida (6-4), North Carolina State (6-3-1) and Army (8-1) — are on the way to bowl games only because they scheduled lightweights.

A list of teams beefing up on patsies includes several A&M opponents.

Alabama, Arkansas, Houston, Oklahoma State and dear old Texas (which might have been 1-8 without New Mexico and Rice on the schedule) make the list. All these teams have met only two teams which will be playing in bowl games:

- Alabama (7-2) — lost to LSU and will meet Auburn on Thanksgiving Day.
- Arkansas (9-0) — defeated Aloha



Doug Walker
Assistant Sports Editor

losses. Financially, the 3-7 Bulldogs have probably never had it better.

A closer look at the schedules of these teams reveals how they got where they are.

Florida removed the Miami Hurricanes from the schedule and replaced them with Montana State, who were thrashed (69-0) by the Gators in the season opener. (I hope they had some body bags available for the trip back to Montana.) Two weeks later, the Indiana State Sycamores visited Gatorland and were equally successful, losing 58-0.

N.C. State, playing in the lowly Atlantic Coast Conference, picked up wins over Western Carolina (45-6) and Eastern Tennessee State (49-0) before entering conference play and edging Wake Forest and hapless Georgia Tech. The Wolfpack lost to South Carolina, the only decent team they played. State is in the running for a spot in the Peach Bowl.

Army can be excused. The Black Knights of the Hudson shouldn't be forced to play a Division I-A schedule. After all, they are an institution with high academic and leadership standards.

However, Army stands at 8-1 against a schedule that included Air Force,

Vanderbilt and Northwestern. To their credit, the Black Knights have beaten these teams (Air Force is the only good one). Their only loss came against Washington (31-17).

"So," you ask, "what's your point?"

My point is there are too many bowl games around and this causes mediocre matchups between teams that really don't deserve to be playing in bowls in the first place.

I don't know which games you plan to watch, but here are some suggestions.

Some good games appear to have already been agreed upon.

For instance, the Aloha Bowl features Washington State against Houston. These are two of the most explosive teams in college football and this may be the most exciting bowl of all.

But, if importance is what you're looking for, don't bother watching any of the bowl games prior to January 2. The six major bowls are on that day.

In one of the majors, probably the Fiesta Bowl pitting Notre Dame against West Virginia, the National Champion will be determined.

The Cotton Bowl has our beloved Arkansas Razorbacks, who will probably be recovering from a mutilation at the hands of Miami, against either Florida State or the UCLA-USC loser. If you hate the Hogs, be sure to tune in because they'll probably get creamed. However, with CBS airing the game, you'll be lucky to tell what's going on.

In the Sugar Bowl, the Southeastern Conference champion (either LSU or Auburn) meets either Florida State or USC. The Rose Bowl has the winner of this weekend's USC-UCLA clash facing Michigan in what looks to be another win for the Pacific 10 Conference representative.

Clemson should meet the Nebraska-Oklahoma loser in the Citrus Bowl and, in what would be the best game of all, Miami will stay home to meet the winner of the Nebraska-Oklahoma game (the Big Eight champ).

As usual, the six major bowls will provide a great ending to the college football season.

If they would only get rid of a lot of those deadwood games, the bowl season would be more meaningful and entertaining.

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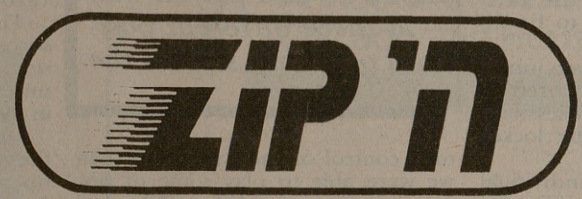
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