

A&M-UT games prove interesting historically

By Cray Pixley
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In 1980 the Southwest Conference was still ruled by the Texas Longhorns. UT was still a perennial Top 20 team, and Texas A&M was the weak sister to the east that knew nothing but hard-hitting defense and the Wishbone.

Time does change things.

The 1980s have seen the scepter of Texas football pass from the orange to the maroon as the Aggies have won five of the eight games — starting with .

•1980 at Austin: A&M 24, Texas 14. The 12-point underdog Aggies came out fighting in the second half after trailing 7-0 at the half. The Aggies discovered a passing attack at the hands of quarterbacks David Beal and Gary Kubiak.

Two passes off the arm of Beal led the Aggies to a 17-0 third quarter. The Longhorns had missed two field goal attempts of 36 and 48 yards in the first half. Beal escaped the blitz to throw 56 yards to Mike Whitwell and Johnny Hector went the final yard to put the Aggies at 10-7. Beal completed a 50-yard pass to Ernest Jackson, then tossed a 5-yarder to Mark Lewis for the score.

UT never threatened in the second half and their only score was a 57-yard touchdown pass from Donnie Little to Herkie Walls.

The formerly No. 2 ranked defense of the Longhorns was passed by the Aggies, whose defense saved the game.

The Aggies had entered the game with a record of 3-7 and Texas at 7-3.

•1981 at College Station: Texas 21, A&M 13. The Longhorns were ranked 6th in the nation by the Associated Press and carried an 8-1-1 record. The Aggies were 6-4-1.

Mid-season losses to SMU and Arkansas had eliminated the Aggies from the Southwest Conference race and had fueled speculation about Wilson's job security.

It would be Wilson's last regular-season game as an Aggie coach. A huge second quarter in which the Longhorns scored all of their points put the game out of reach as Texas readied for a Cotton Bowl matchup with Alabama.

Texas running back John Walker, who rushed for 178 yards on 36 carries, was the difference in the game as he converted several crucial third-down opportunities by diving for first downs. A 38-yard pass from Brewer to Herkie Walls gave Texas a 21-6 halftime lead which the Aggies would never overcome.

1982 at Austin: Texas 53, A&M 16. The Longhorns were 5-1 going into the game and the Aggies were 3-4.

UT shredded the Aggie defense on their first four possessions for 220 yards and four touchdowns for a 27-0 lead. The Aggies were unable to stop a relentless pass rush, while UT's Ervin Davis had scoring runs of 2, 3 and 27 yards.

Texas continued putting points on the board with three scores within a four-minute span in the third quarter.

A&M's Kubiak connected on only 10 of 32 passes for 128 yards and left the game in the fourth quarter with a shoulder injury. His replacement, John Elkins, was sacked seven times, while A&M compiled barely 50 yards total rushing.

The Texas' second team entered the game and the Aggies only managed a last minute score on Tommy Suggs' 8-yard TD reception that succeeded in preventing the largest margin of victory in the series since the Spanish-American War. The Aggies went down without a fight.

•1983 at College Station: Texas 45, A&M 13. The Longhorns entered the game ranked No. 2 in the nation and with a record of 7-0. The Aggies were 4-2-1.

A&M scored on its first two possessions to lead 10-0. Kevin Murray completed three passes and Alan Smith chipped in a 37-yard field goal. Roger Vick picked up six with a 24-yard scamper putting the Ags ahead of UT. Jeff Fuller's interception set up the Ags' final score of the day on a pass to Rich Siler for a 24-yard gain that set up a 46-yard field goal by Smith.

UT trailed A&M 13-0 under quarterback Rob Moerschell. He failed to get a first down on UT's first four possessions and threw two interceptions. In the second quarter Akers called for help in the form of Rick McIvor.

McIvor nailed the coffin shut on the Aggies by leading the Longhorns on a pass attack culminating in 45 points in 15 minutes. Texas had a strong prevailing wind at their backs and went with it.

The Aggies were held to 13 points by the nation's top-ranked defense.

The 32-point thrashing of the Aggies was to be the Longhorn's last triumph over the Aggies.

•1984 at Austin: A&M 37, Texas 12. The Longhorns were ranked 13th in the nation and had a record of 7-2. The Aggies were 5-5 heading into the series.

The 9.5-point underdog Aggies brought a strong defense led by Ray Childress and a balanced offense. Quarterback Craig Stump completed 11 of 22 passes for 168 yards and two TDs. Ag running backs Anthony Toney, Roger Vick and Thomas

Sanders contributed outstanding performances.

Although the Aggies led the game 23-0 in the third, the turning point came when Domingo Bryant intercepted a Todd Dodge pass. The following 68-yard drive culminated with a 3-yard touchdown run by Toney.

•1985 at College Station: A&M 42, Texas 10. The Longhorns were 6-1 and the Aggies were 6-1.

The Aggies compiled 21 points in just over 3 minutes and scored the most points against Texas in the series history. The win sent A&M to the Cotton Bowl for the first time since 1968 and garnered the conference championship.

A&M's Murray shined completing 10 of 17 passes without an interception for 146 yards and three touchdowns. Vick had 87 yards for two touchdowns.

The Aggie defense buried UT's offense by snatching four interceptions, two off of Dodge and two off of Bret Stafford.

The Aggies held a 21-0 lead with nine minutes to go in the third quarter and never looked back. UT settled for their first points of the game with a field goal by Jeff Ward to open the fourth quarter.

A&M continued to build a lead that could have been much larger. UT committed three turnovers within their 25-yard-line but A&M capitalized only once.

•1986 at Austin: A&M 16, Texas 3. The Longhorns were 5-5 coming into the game. The Aggies were ranked 10th nationally with a 8-2 slate.

The game was a battle of the kickers with A&M's Scott Slater kicking three field goals and also setting a SWC record with 21 field goals in a season. UT's Ward hit from 39 yards for the Horns' sole score and missed a 42-yard attempt.

Vick rushed a career-high 167 yards and was the first Aggie to lead the conference in rushing with 960 yards since Glenn Lipman in 1951.

Murray completed 25 of 36 passes without an interception for 277 yards and one TD.

•1987 at College Station: A&M 20, Texas 13.

A&M's Keith Woodside rambled for 90 yards to put the Aggies on the board in the second quarter with the score at 7-3. UT responded with Eric Metcalf scampering for 50 yards. Wayne Clements followed with a 35-yard field goal in the third quarter for UT's final score.

A&M's Slater knocked in two field goals for 53 and 47 yards, while a 7-yard TD run by Bucky Richardson in the fourth quarter finished off the Longhorns.

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