

Sherrill-less Aggies shut out TCU

By Jerry Bolz
Sports Writer

Defensive Coordinator R.C. Slocum was calling the shots for the Texas Aggies instead of Jackie Sherrill Saturday, but it didn't hurt the Aggies in the win column.

The Aggies defeated Texas Christian 18-0 with Slocum, not Sherrill, roaming the sidelines.

Slocum filled in for Sherrill during Sherrill's self-imposed leave of absence.

Slocum said the players had to be a little distracted, but they still came to play the game.

"The game was still our players against theirs," he said. "We impressed upon them just to play the game. I didn't detect any lack of emotion."

Quarterback Bucky Richardson, who had 98 yards on the day, agreed with Slocum.

"When you hit the field it's you and them," he said. "Players win ball games — not coaches."

Sherrill, who watched the game from an unknown location, talked with Slocum on the phone before and after the game. Slocum said Sherrill told him he did a good job coaching.

Linebacker John Roper, who had 10 unassisted tackles, said Slocum gave a speech before the game that got the team fired up.

"We had a little extra incentive because our coach wasn't on the sideline," he said. "We left a goose egg up there for TCU — a big one."

Richardson felt compassion for Sherrill.

"It's hard for him because there is no place he would rather be on Saturday than on the sideline," he said. "All the players love him and he's our leader. He'll always be our leader."

The Horned Frogs were shut out for the first time since their game against Texas in 1985.

Early on, it looked like they were going to score several times. But the A&M defense, with its usual slow start, got some big turnovers that kept TCU out of the endzone. The Horned Frogs lost three fumbles in the first half, including one at the A&M two-yard line.

Slocum said teams who run high-risk offenses like TCU's option game will fumble from time to time.

After the first half, the Aggie defense came alive. They prevented the Horned Frogs from getting close by holding TCU to 32 yards in the half.

A&M started the scoring late in the first quarter after Rod Harris returned a TCU punt 16 yards to the Aggie 47. Richardson nailed him again the next play for 49 yards to put the ball at TCU's 4-yard line. Richardson hit tight end Mike Jones

two plays later for a 2-yard TD.

The extra point snap was bobbled by Richardson to hold the score at 6-0.

TCU had a field goal attempt on their next drive, but they failed to capitalize.

Roper forced a fumble by TCU quarterback David Rascoe, which Leon Cole recovered to end TCU's next drive.

Scott Slater came on three plays later to boot a 43-yard field goal against a strong wind to give A&M a 9-0 lead.

Just before halftime, a referee ruled a touchdown on a Darren Lewis pass to Gary Oliver. But the Aggies were given an ineligible receiver penalty and had to settle for another Slater field goal — this one from 38 yards that made it 12-0.

Linebacker Dana Batiste said TCU has a classy football program and that he enjoyed playing the Horned Frogs.

"I do respect TCU, and they have a good football program — they're good guys," he said.

The referees held ground over the game, throwing flags for personal fouls and unsportsmanlike-conduct violations on both teams throughout the day.

The Aggies had 13 penalties for 124 yards. Richardson said the Aggies came out aggressive and got a few flags called on them.

Lewis thought the referees were overly strict.

"It was pretty rough out there," he said. "The referees wouldn't let us play the game."

The pace of the game slowed down in the second half.

Slater missed two field goal attempts in heavy wind and wet field conditions, and both teams were scoreless until about six minutes from the end of the game.

TCU went for the first down on fourth down and was tackled behind the line by Roper. The Aggies took over at the Horned Frog 43-yard line and Richardson had consecutive runs of 10 and 31 yards.

Robert Wilson dove in two plays later, but the snap on the extra point attempt was bobbled again to make the final 18-0.

TCU running back Tony Darthard and A&M's Lewis both went over the 2,000 career-yard mark in the game. Lewis ended up with 2,020 yards, just one behind Darthard. The game marked the 16th straight victory of A&M over TCU.

The Aggies play Texas Thursday in Austin. Batiste said he thinks A&M has a good enough team to beat the Longhorns.

It is not determined who will coach A&M.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

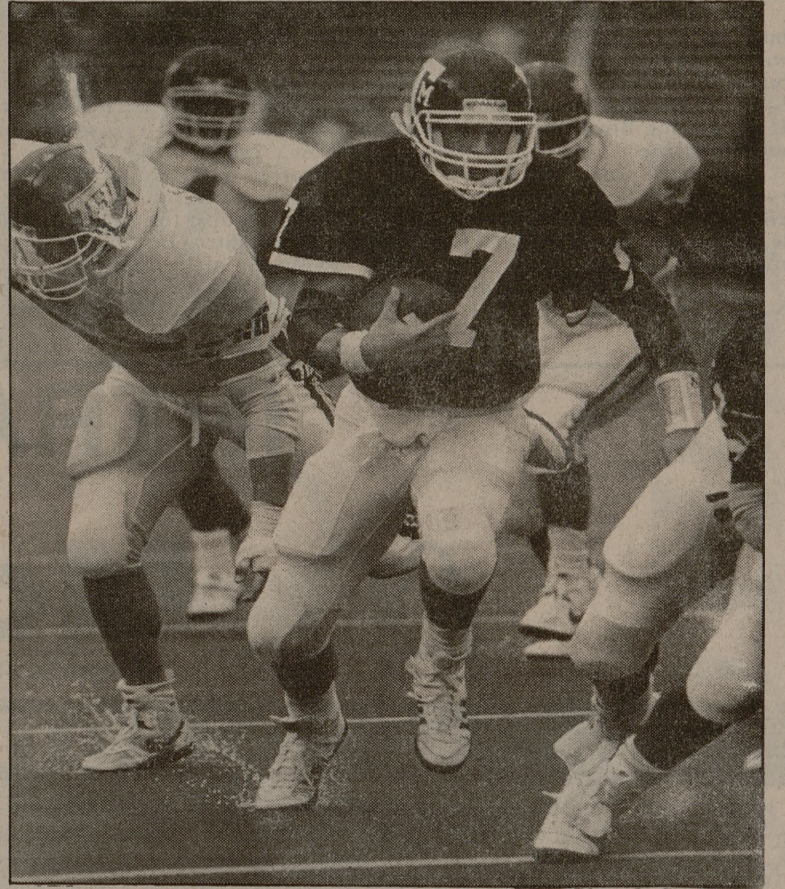


Photo by Jay Janner

(above) John Roper had three sacks on the day against TCU. (right) Bucky Richardson 98-yard performance sparked the Aggies.

Neither rain nor wind nor controversy keep the game from appointed rounds

The first hurricane of the year came to Kyle Field Saturday, but it wasn't strong enough to keep the Aggies and TCU off of the field.

This hurricane was not a meteorological threat, like Gilbert. Instead, it was a storm stirred up by fast moving clouds of suspicion that Jackie Sherrill has been up to more than expected. But Defensive Coordinator R.C. Slocum took the helm and, if only for a few hours, calmed the storm.

I don't know what Sherrill is up to. Probably only a handful of people do. But the fact is that the game was played — with or without Sherrill, Slocum or sunshine.

Truthfully, it was a pretty boring game. One of the most exciting features of the game was the real weather. Up in the climate-controlled press box, it was enjoyable to watch the thick black clouds move in over the stadium around halftime. The area was under a tornado watch all through the game, so it was thrilling when they announced over the p.a. system that at the 1956 A&M-TCU game a



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tornado hit in the College Station area during the game.

The rain came down and we got quite a picturesque view of thousands of umbrellas huddled together.

Oh yeah, the game. There was a game going on all through this.

The Aggies had a typical approach to the offensive game. Bucky Richardson led the

troops on run after run — dives and options only, please. I'm a simple guy, and I enjoy A&M's scheme. They may have a lot of two and three yarders along the way, as they did against the Horned Frogs, but they can be counted on to break a long one now and then.

Chris Osgood came on for a couple of series but nothing came of it. I still think the Aggies should stick with Richardson as the leader. He has proven he can win, and the rest of the offense seems to be behind him. It's important for an offense to be single-minded and not have to make adjustments for different quarterbacks every game.

In the backfield, Darren Lewis had a decent game, gaining 105 yards. He said TCU was hitting pretty hard, and being the first game with cool weather, Lewis did a good job.

Lewis definitely has incredible potential. He and TCU's Tony Darthard both went over the 2,000 career yard mark, and Lewis is only a sophomore.

See Game/Page 10

Lady Aggies finish season in 4-game win over Baylor

By Cray Pixley
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team faltered briefly, losing the third game of a four game match, before striking back to defeat the Baylor Bears 15-3, 15-5, 13-15, 15-8 Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Lady Aggies were on the attack demolishing the Bears in two quick games before the service action of Jana Ranly led Baylor out of a slump and past A&M in the third game.

A&M Head Coach Al Givens said his team didn't let the Bears back into the match in the third game.

"I don't feel they (A&M) let down in the third game as much as Baylor started playing better," he said. "They started serving more aggressively, and our passing broke down a bit in that game."

The Bears, who struggled all season in the Southwest Conference garnering only one win, committed several net serves in the first two games before pulling out the third-game win to force A&M into a fourth game.

The Lady Aggies came back to win the match in the fourth game with the strong serve of Melanie Rother and Krista Hierholzer.

The Lady Aggies clinched a second-place tie in the SWC with the University of Houston, and the match was the last of the regular season for both teams.

A&M finished with an overall record of 18-3 and 6-4 in the SWC. The Bears closed with 8-22 and 1-9.

Senior Lady Aggies, Cheri Steensma and Vivian Viera played their final home

match of their A&M career Saturday.

"I think Cheri and Vivian had a great match for the finale of this conference season," Givens said.

Both Viera and Steensman had great efforts against the Bears, with Viera contributing 19 kills and eight digs. Steensma had 11 kills and eight digs.

Kelli Kellen and Amy Cummings aided the Lady Aggies with 12 and 10 kills respectively. Yvonne Van Brandt led in digs with 17.

"The defense was the key to the first and second games," Givens said. "We flowed well with passes and served really well."

The Lady Aggies move on to a tournament at the University of Texas at Arlington over the Thanksgiving weekend.

Aggie hoopsters dominate Simon Fraser to open year

By Jerry Bolz
Sports Writer

Shelby Metcalf's Aggies ran over a running team Friday night, beating Canada's Simon Fraser Clansmen 82-52.

Senior forward Donald Thompson led all scorers with 24 points including several spectacular slam-dunks.

"Our plan was to put a hand in their face," he said. "If we would have ran with them, they probably would have run us out of the gym."

At times during the game, the Aggies did run with the Clansmen. Most of their points were on layups and jams, with only a few coming from outside.

Darren Rhea, a 6-9 junior for-

ward was the Aggies top outside scorer, hitting three of four three-point shots.

A&M played with three forwards and two guards as did Simon Fraser. Neither team used a center during the game.

Head Coach Shelby Metcalf said he wishes he could use Rhea outside, but his small team doesn't afford that privilege.

But Rhea has many typically small-player skills.

"I love to pass," he said. "Getting an assist is as good as a bucket to me."

The Aggies got a quick start and led 25-10 mid way through the first half.

The Clansmen went on an eight-point run to close the gap at 25-18.

But A&M went on a 16-7 run to close out the half ahead 41-25.

Sophomore guard and passing specialist Freddie Ricks said the victory was a team effort.

"We broke down a little in the middle," he said. "But we're an unselfish team, and we finally came together in the end."

The Aggies came out in the second half and matched their 41-point output of the first.

Rhea and junior guard David Williams had 14 points in the contest, and Ricks added 12.

Ricks had eight assists and three steals to lead in both categories.

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