

Jackson dominated Campbell, UT

From Associated Press
Coach Emory Bellard's 1974 Texas A&M football team went to Austin with the intention of defeating the University of Texas and putting the lid on its Southwest Conference title and Cotton Bowl berth against Penn State.

But the Longhorns refused to cooperate, watching the Aggies stumble, fumble and generally make fools of themselves while gladly accepting a 32-3 victory.

But in 1975, all Texas had to do to complete a spotless SWC record and get a berth in the Cotton Bowl against Georgia was to defeat the then-unbeaten Aggies.

The battle took place at Kyle Field on November 28 before 56,679 frenetic fans from both universities.

Though A&M junior linebacker Robert Jackson would make first-team All-SWC and honorable mention All-America for his 1975 season, one would never have known it from the pre-game hype from Austin.

For instance, Texas offensive tackle George James said, "I think our offense can run on them. The way they've beaten everybody this year is with two good defensive tackles."

The tackles were Edgar Fields and Jimmy Dean, both All-SWC selections, but not the heart of the Aggie defense by any stretch of the imagination.

As any rational person who saw the Aggies play between 1973-76 would tell you, the strength of the defense that led the SWC four straight years (and was No. 1 in the country in 1975), the heart of that defense beat among the three guys at linebacker.

All-America outside linebackers Garth TenNapel and Ed Simonini joined 6-2, 228-pound middle linebacker Robert Jackson in forming a wrecking crew that really lived up to its name.

Certainly the outside LBs need no introduction or praise here, but what of Jackson — an junior-college All-America himself in 1974?

"It's like Bear Bryant used to say at Alabama about Lee Roy Jordan," A&M Defensive Coordinator Melvin

Robertson said in 1976. "If he (the ball carrier) stays in bounds, Lee Roy will get him. Well, if he stays in bounds, Jack will get him."

"He is the best linebacker I've coached in 25 years. We had two All-Americans last year in Simonini and TenNapel. Jack is faster than Ed and stronger than both Ed and Garth."

How Jackson got to that point from being ignored in pre-game stories can be pinpointed to that sunny afternoon when, with help from his fanatical defensive friends, he held Texas All-America fullback Earl Campbell to a career-low 40 yards rushing on 15 carries.

A&M defeated the Longhorns for the first time in eight games (and only the second time in 18 tries) 20-10, sending the Longhorns to the Bluebonnet Bowl against Colorado.

Jackson was voted ABC-TV Defensive Player of the Game, having made 14 tackles (The three LBs combined for 37 tackles, not counting assists.) and generally being the man responsible for containing the "Tyler Rose."

His heroics had to stun Longhorn center Billy Gordon, who before the game had pointed out that "I like to think that Earl Campbell is the best fullback in the nation. He hits the hole so quick. I think we've got a good offensive line and can run the ball on them."

Surprise, surprise. While Campbell was averaging 2.7 yards per carry, the entire Texas team rambled for 113 yards rushing on 34 carries (a 3.3 average).

The swarming Maroon Marauders smashed, bashed and crashed any Longhorn who even looked like he had the ball, including starting quarterback Marty Akins.

Akins came into the game with an injured knee, and A&M defensive back Pat Thomas put him out of the game for a while with a huge hit on Texas' first offensive play.

A&M quarterback Mike Jay would also leave due to an injury.

Campbell and reserve quarterback Ted Constanzo couldn't dent the Aggie defense, even though there appeared to be cracks in it.

"On the inside reads, when I

handed the ball off to Earl, the holes were there," Constanzo said. "Then they weren't. And really, there was no need to disregard the reads and take it to the outside, because there were just more of them out there. They really have good pursuit."

Even though A&M entered the game with both the nation's top rushing defense (67.3 yards per game) and total defense (175.1 yards per game), that didn't fully explain how it was able to clamp down on Campbell (who entered the game averaging 107.8 yards and 7.8 points per game).

The real reason was the special defense Robertson had concocted and the athletes he had to run it.

"We increased the space between each of our four down linemen a little bit," Robertson said in 1981. "Then we gave Simonini and TenNapel outside responsibilities with their running game, and basically used solo coverage on their receivers."

"That left Jackson in the middle of our defense, and his duty was to handle anybody coming through there, particularly Campbell. And he did an outstanding job."

More than once Campbell hit what appeared to be an opening and met Jackson head on. The two powerful men went head-to-head with the Aggies' man coming out on top.

"I just don't know how you can play any better," Bellard said. "We were about as solid as you can get. One of the big things was the way our defense tackled. They were turning Earl Campbell plain around rather than letting him fall forward for two or three extra yards."

In 1984, in the midst of an unsuccessful tryout with the Houston Gamblers of the USFL, Jackson recalled what he said was his most memorable game.

"That was the best game we played while I was at A&M," he said. "Coach Robertson told me that I would have to stop Earl for us to

win. I did — and we did."

"On one of the plays where he and I got tangled up at the line of scrimmage, we stayed on our feet long enough for seven or eight of the other defensive players to jump on us. Sports Illustrated ran a picture of that play, and I have a copy framed and up on a wall at my house."

Texas Coach Darrell Royal, who lost to A&M for only the second time in 18 games, praised the Aggie defense, saying, "They are for sure the most impressive defensive team I've seen in the conference in some time."

Even Campbell admitted that he had faced a great defensive unit, noting, "They are tougher than anybody I've played. They deserve everything they get."

A&M would lose to Arkansas 31-6 a week later and drop the Liberty

Bowl to Southern California 20-0, but would unbelievably place EIGHT defensive players on the Associated Press All-America team (first, second and honorable mention).

Simonini and Thomas each made the first team, while Fields, TenNapel and defensive back Lester Hayes were on the second team.

Jackson, Dean and defensive end Blake Schwartz joined offensive teammates guard Bruce Welch and running back Bubba Bean on the honorable-mention list.

Jackson and Hayes (and place kicker Tony Franklin) made first-team All-America in 1976, leading A&M to another 10-2 season.

Jackson was the prime example of what former Florida A&M Coach Jake Gaither said were the three things he liked in a football player: *ag-ILE*, *mo-BILE*, and *hos-TILE*.

A&M vs. Texas

Texas A&M vs. Texas

Time: Thursday, 7 p.m.
Where: Memorial Stadium, Austin

Weather: Partly cloudy with temperatures in the upper 50s.

Tickets: Sold out.
Records: Texas A&M is 6-4, 5-1 in conference play. UT is 4-6 and 2-4.

Media: ESPN will televise the game live. The 80-station Aggie Radio Network will broadcast the game with Dave South on play-by-play and Jay Howard on commentary.

Series: The last time Texas beat the Aggies was in 1983, when the Longhorns won 45-13. The Aggies have a 4-game winning streak over the Longhorns. Texas leads the series 65-26-5.

Battalion Football Picks	Doug Walker Assistant Sports Editor	d.p. Cartoonist	Jerry Boiz Sports Writer	Cray Pixley Assistant Sports Editor	Hal L. Hammons Sports Editor	Revelite Mascot	Stan Golaboff Sports Writer
Texas A&M at Texas	Aggies by 10	Aggies by 24	Aggies by 14	Aggies by 14	Aggies by 24	Aggies by 88	Aggies by 10
Arkansas at Miami	'Canes by 14	'Canes by 30	'Canes by 10	'Canes by 17	'Canes by 24	'Canes by 30	'Canes by 14
Rice at Houston	Cougars by 17	Cougars by 14	Cougars by 24	Cougars by 7	Cougars by 13	Owls by 1	Cougars by 17
Auburn vs. Alabama	Tigers by 4	Tigers by 7	Tigers by 6	Tide by 3	Tigers by 11	Tide by 5	Tigers by 3
Georgia Tech at Georgia	Bulldogs by 17	Bulldogs by 7	Bulldogs by 18	Bulldogs by 10	Bulldogs by 30	Bulldogs by 7	Bulldogs by 7
Notre Dame at USC	Irish by 3	Trojans by 1	Trojans by 4	Irish by 1	Trojans by 3	Trojans by 3	Trojans by 3
Tennessee at Vanderbilt	Vois by 7	Vois by 14	Vois by 3	Vois by 6	Vois by 7	Vois by 14	Vois by 1
Tulane at LSU	Tigers by 13	Tigers by 10	Tigers by 17	Tigers by 14	Tigers by 28	Green Wave by 6	Tigers by 10
Boston College at Temple	Owls by 4	Eagles by 7	Eagles by 21	Eagles by 4	Eagles by 13	Eagles by 12	Owls by 1
Florida at Florida State	Seminoles by 14	Seminoles by 7	Seminoles by 10	Seminoles by 10	Seminoles by 16	Gators by 3	Seminoles by 7
Oilers at Cowboys	Oilers by 17	Oilers by 7	Oilers by 10	Oilers by 20	Oilers by 14	Oilers by 21	Oilers by 7
Bills at Bengals	Bengals by 7	Bills by 7	Bengals by 7	Bengals by 7	Bills by 4	Bills by 10	Bills by 3
Record	10-2 (.833)	10-2 (.833)	10-2 (.833)	5-7 (.417)	9-3 (.750)	8-4 (.667)	10-2 (.833)
Overall	110-32-1 (.775)	107-35-1 (.753)	102-40-1 (.718)	96-46-1 (.676)	90-52-1 (.634)	78-64-1 (.549)	10-2 (.833)

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La comunidad Latina de St. Mary's estará celebrando la Llegada del Señor el **Sábado 3 de Diciembre** a las 7:00 P.M. Habrá una misa de Navidad en la cual se tendrá una Pastorela o representación del Evangelio por parte de los niños de la Comunidad. Al final de la misa, se llevará a cabo una Posada, con villancicos, piñatas, etc.

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