

# And one more makes five

## Aggies survive poor 2nd half to give UT 7th loss of season

By Hal L. Hammons  
Sports Editor

AUSTIN — University of Texas center Alan Champagne slowly walked off the field Thursday night, helmet in hand, with a completely emotionless expression on his face.

He had just seen Texas A&M's Aaron Wallace streak by tackle Charles Seaphus to sack quarterback Mark Murdock on fourth down, giving the Aggies the ball with 40 seconds remaining in the game and clinching a 28-24 A&M win.

The fifth-year senior had seen his Longhorns lose to the Aggies for the fifth time. And the way it happened must have made it all the more depressing.

A few minutes later a jubilant Dana Batiste saw a familiar sports writer, flashed a big smile, and said, "Piece of cake."

It was anything but. And after the game, Batiste admitted it was a little nerve-racking toward the end.

"They had me worried," he said. After the first half of the game, Batiste probably would never have thought he would be saying that at the end. After all, the Longhorns were *shellacked* for 30 minutes with hardly a break. They were lucky to be within three touchdowns.

Having earned only 98 yards of offense — only 8 in the first quarter — it would have seemed inconceivable that UT could not only close the 28-7 gap, but have two chances in the waning moments for a go-ahead touchdown.

But such was the case. Texas had driven to the A&M 34 with 3:20 remaining, looking to go ahead for the first time in the game.

But third-string quarterback Donovan Forbes — inserted as an extra running threat on third and 2 — pitched the ball to nobody, and Batiste covered it for the Aggies. The play was intended to go to Eric Metcalf, but the back had fallen down.

UT Head Coach David McWilliams said, "Eric slipped and Donovan just didn't see him. I'm not sure there was going to be much there for Eric anyway, but at least there wouldn't have been the fumble."

UT got another chance with 1:37 left

and got as far as second and 1 at the Texas 33. But a pass off Metcalf's hands and a sack by Alex Morris made it fourth and 7. Wallace's sack sealed it for the Aggies.

Murdock said, "This kind of sums up the season. It's just been too little too late. We fought back, but we didn't win."

The Longhorns ended the season at 4-7, the worst record since 1956. A&M climbed to 7-4 with Thursday's game against the University of Alabama remaining.

Six Aggie turnovers — four in the second half — cost A&M, as UT got three of its four scores on drives starting inside the A&M 30.

But Darren Lewis made up for it with a career-high 212 yards rushing, including 102 in the first quarter, for his ninth straight 100-yard performance.

Lewis now has 1,564 yards on the season and needs 181 Thursday to break the Southwest Conference mark held by Heisman Trophy-winner Earl Campbell of Texas.

Metcalf, a preseason Heisman candidate, rushed for only 52 yards on 22 carries. He also caught three passes for 17 yards.

Early it looked like the Aggies were headed to a blowout like the first two games of the streak, instead of a nip-and-tuck, hard-fought win like the last two.

Wallace blocked a field goal attempt that would have given UT its first points with 12:52 remaining in the second quarter, and John Roper took it 48 yards for a touchdown. Instead of being within a touchdown of the Aggies, UT found itself down 21-0.

Even without starting quarterback Bucky Richardson, who had left the game in the first quarter after re-injuring his knee, the Aggies moved the ball with little difficulty in the first half.

A&M had 287 total yards in the half, including an amazing 138-63 advantage in passing yardage.

Chris Osgood took the Aggies 64 yards for another touchdown when UT was unable to answer Roper's score. A pass to Rod Harris for 25 yards gave A&M the ball at the UT 8, and Osgood

took it in himself on an option the next play.

The big "O" of a smoke ring that came from the Aggie howitzer and floated across Memorial Stadium looked like a pretty big omen.

But the Aggie fortunes started to turn the next series of downs. Osgood fumbled the snap, giving the Longhorns the ball at the Aggie 17.

Murdock capitalized on the turnover — the first of six on the day for A&M — with a TD pass to Kerry Cash to break the UT ice with 2:05 left in the half.

Osgood, who went 5-for-8 passing for 88 yards in the first half, fell apart after the break. He completed four of his five passes, but three were to Texas players.

The first interception went to Mark Berry and gave Texas the ball at the A&M 18. Murdock hit a wide-open Stephen Clark over the middle for the score.

Willie Mack Garza intercepted a pass the next series, and the Aggies lost the ball on downs the next time they got it. Neither time could the Longhorns capitalize.

A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill was livid during and after the failed fourth down try.

Darren Lewis was ruled short of a first down on a third-and-three attempt, and officials ruled Osgood didn't make the first down either on his sneak attempt. Replays seemed to indicate both markings were too short.

Texas started with the 15-yard unsportsmanlike conduct penalty on Sherrill and moved to the A&M 20, but Murdock threw an interception to Mickey Washington at the 1.

The Texas fans came to the game prepared to harass A&M for its recent scandal over alleged "hush money" payoffs sent by overnight mail from Sherrill to former player George Smith. Some signs read, "Aggies + Hush Money = Death Penalty," and, "Federal Express: When the hush money absolutely, positively has to be there overnight."

Batiste said it didn't bother him even when the team was pelted by Federal Express boxes.

"I was going to take one for a souvenir," he said, "but really it has nothing to do with Texas A&M."



Photo by Scott D. Weaver

(above) UT receiver Tony Jones tries to drag down Derrick Richey after the A&M defensive back intercepted a pass in the third quarter. (below) Darren

Lewis runs for the Aggies' first touchdown as UT's Stanley Richard gives chase. Lewis gained a career-high 212 yards on the night.

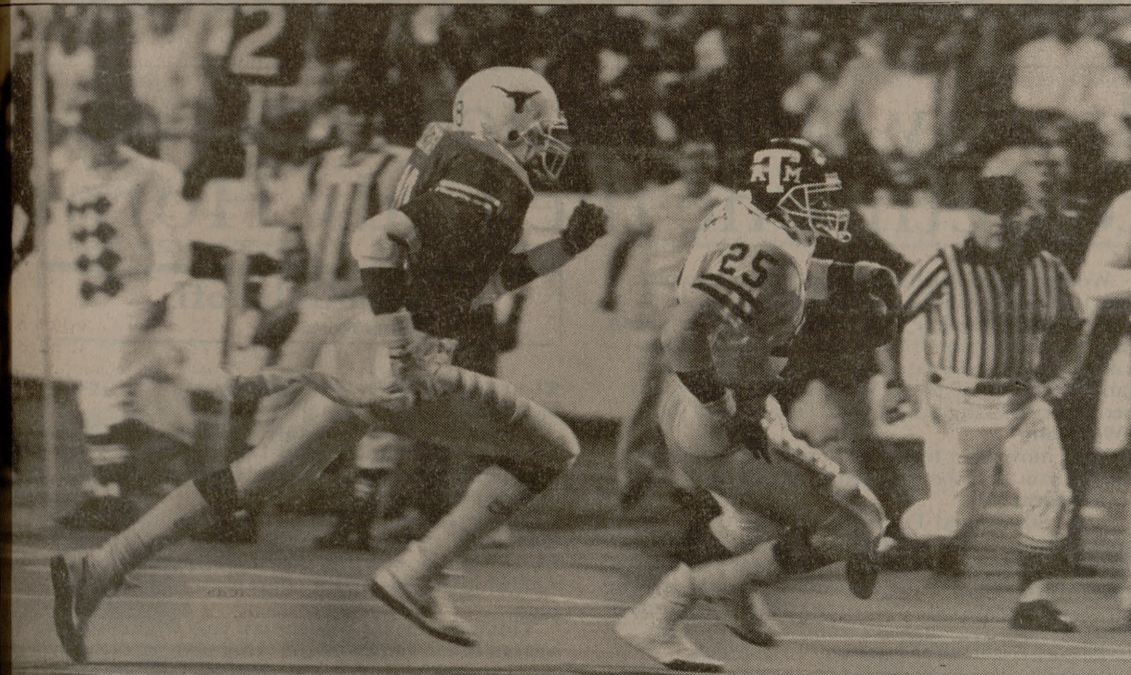


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