

Photo by Frederick D. Joe

**A&M's Darren Lewis leaps over the line for some of his 85 yards in Saturday's 27-24 loss to Texas Tech. Lewis tied his career record with three rushing touchdowns in one game.**

# Tech's Price is right

## Red Raiders upset No. 19 Aggies 27-24 as receiver hauls in last-minute TD pass

LUBBOCK — Better late than never?

Not for Texas A&M, who was unable to line up in time for Texas Tech's last-minute desperation pass into the endzone to beat the No. 19-ranked Aggies 27-24 on Saturday.

While the A&M defense hurried back onto the field after a Tech timeout in the fourth quarter, Red Raider quarterback Jamie Gill hit wide receiver Travis Price on a 35-yard pass for the go-ahead touchdown.

"We got out there late and the receiver ran a streak (pattern)," said A&M defensive back Derrick Richey. "For some reason it seemed like they put the ball in play quicker than normal."

The reason it seemed like Tech got the play off quicker is that they snapped the ball when they realized A&M was caught unprepared.

"We were yelling from the sideline to snap it," Tech defensive lineman Charles Perry said. "We really caught them off-guard."

"I knew we were in a little trouble, but we had the safeties back there," Richey said.

However, A&M free safety Larry Horton didn't make it on time.

"Normally (the officials) allow you time to line up before they start the play after a timeout," A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "But it didn't happen on that play."

However, Slocum said the loss shouldn't be blamed on poor officiating.

"Give Tech credit for making the play," Slocum said. "It looked like a good throw and catch to me."

Tech Coach Spike Dykes didn't let the time out controversy or a questionable call on a fourth-quarter fumble tarnish the win.

"Thank goodness we executed that play," Dykes said. "I'm not going to get into any arguments (about the questionable calls). I really don't know what happened."

"When they (the officials) start the ball, it's your responsibility to be out there."

Slocum said the Aggies simply let the game slip away.

"We had our chances to win the game and didn't execute well enough on offense or defense," Slocum said. "We should have won and let it get away from us."

The Aggies led the whole game, but it was the persistence of the Red Raiders that kept them close throughout.

A&M couldn't put the game away. A&M scored first on a six-and-a-half minute drive, capped by a one-yard run by Darren Lewis.

Tech quarterback Gill was quick to respond with his own one-yard leap that tied the game 7-7.

After a Layne Talbot field goal, the Aggies went in at halftime up 10-7.

In the third quarter, Lewis scored

two more touchdowns, tying his career-high touchdowns in a game at 3.

With ten minutes left in the game, Tech appeared to be on the downward slide.

After a bench-clearing brawl, in which an unidentified Aggie was thrown out of the game, Tech began to battle back.

Gill threw a 23-yard touchdown pass to Price with just over five minutes to go in the game. Tech tried a two-point conversion but was unsuccessful. A&M still led 24-20.

The Aggies took possession after the kickoff and proceeded to knock

fourth-and-two play and marched to A&M's 17 yard-line.

The Aggie defense stiffened and outside linebacker William Thomas sacked Gill, knocking the ball loose and giving the Aggies an apparent fumble recovery.

The officials, though, ruled Gill down and Tech retained possession.

"That was the play that hurt us right there," A&M's Defensive Coordinator Bob Davie said. "I thought it was an obvious fumble."

But A&M bounced back and sacked Gill again, setting up a third-and-28 play.

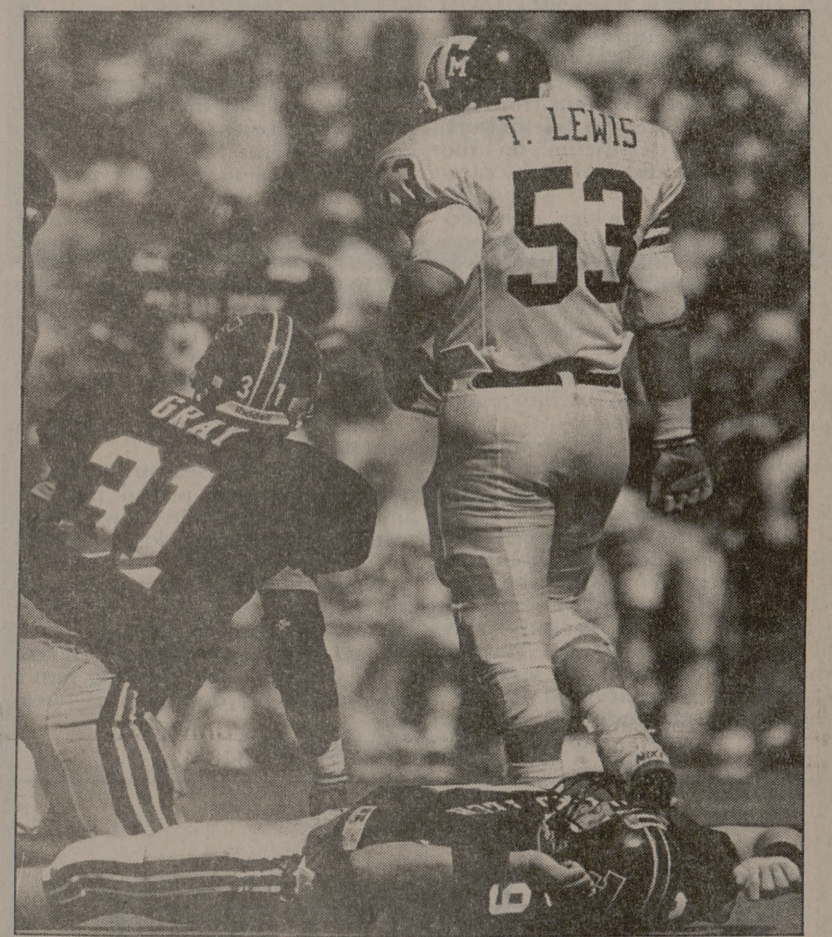


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

**A&M inside linebacker Trent Lewis walks away after leveling Tech quarterback Jamie Gill. Lewis had 10 tackles in his first career start. Gill later was knocked out of the game for one play after a hard hit by linebacker Anthony Williams.**

off almost half of the time remaining in the game, but a seven-yard punt by Sean Wilson put Tech in good field position on its own 28 yard-line.

The Red Raiders then turned to running back James Gray, who finished the day with 70 yards on 23 carries. Tech converted on a critical

Tech called time out to set up their next play and the entire Aggie defense went to the sideline.

"We had them where we wanted them, but they hit the big play on us," A&M inside linebacker Anthony Wilson said. "They made the plays when they needed to."

# Oilers stopped by Patriots 23-13; Flutie 11-0 in career Foxboro starts

FOXBORO, Mass. (AP) — Welcome back, John Stephens. Good riddance, losing streak.

Stephens, sidelined the previous two games, sparked New England's offense, and the defense defused the AFC's highest-scoring team as the Patriots beat the Houston Oilers 23-13 Sunday.

"You saw the difference out there with John carrying the ball," New England quarterback Doug Flutie said.

Stephens' comeback from an ankle injury forced the defense to pay attention to New England's running game, making it easier for Flutie to throw and the Patriots to stop their three-game slide.

"The fact that we were running the ball so well made it a little bit easier on our offensive line" to block on pass plays, said Flutie, who was sacked just once.

"I didn't feel there was anything their defense could do that we weren't prepared for," said Stephens, the AFC's second leading rusher as a rookie last year.

Greg Davis added three field goals as the Patriots, who began the game as the AFC's lowest-scoring team, matched their point total for their previous three games.

"There was a sense of urgency," Flutie said. "We wanted to win badly, and if you want it badly enough, you can do it."

Flutie improved his record to 11-0 at Sullivan Stadium, winning six games with the Patriots and five with Boston College.

Stephens gained 59 yards in 21 carries and played key roles in New England's first three scoring drives. Then he ran for an 11-yard touchdown that made the score 20-3 with 5:58 left in the third quarter.

Both teams are 2-3 after the Patriots broke a three-game losing streak and the Oilers lost two fumbles on kick returns that set up touchdowns.

"You can't win if you can't make basic plays," Houston coach Jerry Glanville said.

The Oilers, who averaged 38 points in their previous three games, got field goals by Tony Zendejas of 46 yards on the final play of the first half, making the score 10-3, and 22 yards early in

touchdown for the first time in four games. Marvin Allen's 1-yard run with 1:08 left in the first quarter made the score 10-0. It was set up by Stephens' 7-yard run for a first down at the Houston 1-yard line.

"I felt good at halftime because we hadn't done much but we were still in the game," Glanville said. "Then they came out and scored on their first possession of the second half."

Davis kicked field goals of 30 yards in the first quarter and 34 yards in the third quarter, making the score 13-3. He added a 43-yarder with 6:49 left in the game.

The first field goal came after Stephens ran for two first downs and the second followed a powerful block by Stephens on Robert Lyles that sprung Flutie for a 22-yard gain to the Houston 19.

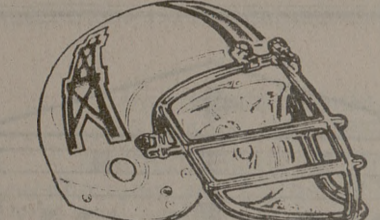
The Oilers entered the game with the NFL's second best run defense but gave up 144 yards, New England's second best rushing total of the season.

Houston also was the NFL leader in time of possession with 35 minutes, 41 seconds per game, but held the ball just 24:49 Sunday.

"We knew we had to control the ball," Stephens said. "We knew Warren Moon is a great quarterback, and they have a full stable of running backs. We knew we had to keep making first downs and not think about touchdowns because first downs equal touchdowns."

Stephens scored one play after Vincent Brown recovered punt returner Kenny Johnson's fumble. Allen's first pro touchdown came six plays after he recovered Leonard Harris' fumble on the kickoff following Davis' first field goal.

The Patriots got a first-half



the fourth quarter. Warren Moon threw a 20-yard scoring pass to Drew Hill, cutting the lead to 23-13 with 5:11 left.

"We got a lot of sacks, a lot of interceptions," Patriots coach Raymond Berry said. "It seemed like our defense was stopping them on the ground pretty well."

Moon was sacked three times and intercepted twice one week after completing a career high 82.6 percent of his passes in a 39-7 win over Miami. He completed 14 of 29 passes for 227 yards against the Patriots.

"This is not the Houston Oilers that we were," Glanville said. "I give full credit to New England. They outplayed us, they outcoached us, they outeverythined us."

# Oakland gets pennant repeat with 4-3 win over Blue Jays

TORONTO (AP) — The Oakland Athletics won their second straight American League pennant on Sunday, beating the Toronto Blue Jays 4-3 to win the divisional playoffs in five games.

Dave Stewart outpitched Dave Stieb for the second time in the series as Oakland became the first team to win consecutive pennants since the New York Yankees and Los Angeles each did it in 1977-78. This also ended the longest streak in history without a repeat champion.

The Athletics, with the best record in baseball the last two seasons, will open the World Series at home next Saturday against San Francisco or Chicago.

Either way, Oakland will not have to face a pitcher the caliber of Orel Hershiser, who stopped the Athletics in five games last year. And maybe just as important, they have Rickey Henderson this time.

Henderson, who began his career with the Athletics, was traded back to his hometown by the Yankees on June 20 for pitchers Greg Cadaret and Eric Plunk and outfielder Luis Polonia. His return propelled Oakland to the playoffs, then he made them his personal showcase as he was easily named Most Valuable Player.

Henderson stole the series, reaching base in 14 of 23 plate appearances and stealing a postseason series record eight bases without being caught. Henderson, who went 6-for-15, hit two home runs, a triple, a double and scored eight times.

From the start on Sunday, Henderson kept Toronto in trouble. He drew a walk to start the game, stole second and scored on Jose Canseco's single. In the third, after another leadoff walk, Henderson hit a triple that made it 2-0.

After that, the Blue Jays and their sellout crowd of 50,024 was mostly silent. No, Canada, the World Series will not be played north of the border for the first time.

The Athletics, who won 10 more games than Toronto this season, got their 14th pennant, including nine while in Philadelphia. The victory also set up the possibility of baseball's first Subway Series since 1956 when Brooklyn played the Yankees.

Stewart, a 20-game winner for three straight seasons, made the lead hold up. He scattered eight hits in eight innings, allowing solo home runs to Lloyd Moseby in the eighth and George Bell in the ninth. He walked none and struck out four.

Dennis Eckersley, who saved all four Oakland playoff victories last season, earned his third of the series by pitching the ninth, allowing one run and one hit.

As Eckersley warmed up, Toronto manager Cito Gaston talked to home plate umpire Dave Phillips, who then went to the mound and checked Eckersley's glove. Oakland manager Tony La Russa then expressed his displeasure although no action was taken against the pitcher.

Stieb allowed only four hits in six-plus innings. But he hurt himself with four walks, and all three leadoff walks wound up scoring.

While Oakland's offensive stars did the job, the Blue Jays' big guns did not fire. Bell, who had 104 RBIs, went 4-for-20 and Fred McGriff was 3-for-21. McGriff, the league champion with 36 home runs, did not homer after Sept. 4 and did not have an extra-base hit after Sept. 13.

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) — Don Majkowski is in a position of power with the NFL's most prolific offense. He can make it go, or he can make it slow.

"If we're executing, nobody has stopped us, we've only stopped ourselves," Majkowski said Sunday after completing 21 of 32 passes for 313 yards and four touchdowns in a 31-13 victory over the winless Dallas Cowboys.

Majkowski, who threw nine interceptions in his first four games, had none against Dallas.

"We scored the points and moved the ball," he said. "We played consistently throughout the first four quarters. When I have protection, my guys will be open and I'll be able to get them the ball. We feel very confident in that fact."

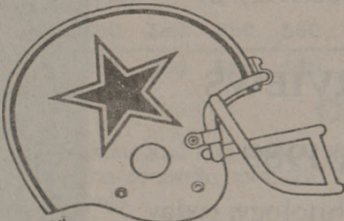
"Every play we had called has a chance to be successful," he said after the Packers rolled up 501 yards, their most in one game since 1985.

The biggest play came with 59 seconds left in the first half when Majkowski connected with Sterling Sharpe on a 79-yard touchdown pass that gave the Packers a 17-13 lead at the half. It marked the first time all season the comeback Packers have not trailed at the half.

"Don threw a perfect ball and all I had to do was catch it and take it in," said Sharpe, who outran two defenders for the touchdown.

"I hit him in stride and he did the rest," said Majkowski.

In the second half, Majkowski threw his second touchdown of the game to Herman Fontenot, a 38-yarder with 40 seconds to go in the third quarter. And then he hit Perry Kemp with a 4-yarder with 2:33 remaining in the game. The Packers' 3-2 start is their best through five games since 1983.



"I don't know if it was my best day but I played smart and made some things happen. It was a really solid day," said Majkowski.

"We didn't make a whole lot of big plays last year, and this year we're breaking tackles and shaking loose," said Packers coach Lindy Infante. "We're improving."

But the Cowboys aren't. Dallas is 0-5 for its worst start since 0-10 in 1960. Rookie Steve Walsh, in his first

NFL start, was 18 of 29 for 193 yards with one interception and was sacked three times.

"Our defense gave us enough opportunities. It was 17-13 in the third quarter and then things fell apart. We stopped playing together," said Walsh.

"This is getting pretty old," said Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson, still looking for that elusive first NFL victory.

Dallas used two big plays in the first half to lead twice. Eugene Lockhart picked up Majkowski's fumble and ran 40 yards for a touchdown with 8:31 in the second quarter, giving Dallas a 13-10 lead.

The Cowboys stunned the Packers early when James Dixon returned the opening kickoff 90 yards to the Green Bay 6. That set up Walsh's 5-yard touchdown pass to Michael Irvin just 58 seconds into the game, but Green Bay's Shawn Patterson blocked the extra point.

Green Bay came right back only to have a signaled touchdown reversed by instant replay. Jeff Query caught a pass from Majkowski near the goal line but was ruled down at the 1 after the review.

The Packers then went backward and had to settle for Chris Jacke's 26-yard field goal that made it 6-3.

Query then recovered a fumble by Dallas' Darryl Clack on the ensuing kickoff at the Cowboys 13.