

# NCAA decision allows UNLV to defend national title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — The NCAA and UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian settled a 13-year battle Thursday with a compromise that allows the Runnin' Rebels to defend their national basketball title.

"Historically, we ended today the 13 years of litigation between Jerry Tarkanian and the NCAA," UNLV president Robert Maxson told a jammed news conference. "All court rulings are history."

Maxson's comments came as he announced the university would accept a penalty offered by the NCAA that will ban the Runnin' Rebels from postseason play in 1991-92 and keep them off of live television that season.

In exchange, the NCAA agreed to overturn its ban on UNLV.

The penalty accepted by UNLV was one of two offered by the NCAA. The other alternative was that Tarkanian would sit out this season's playoffs and his team would sit out the 1991-92 playoffs.

"We thought both proposals were very fair," Maxson said. "There were no penalties against the national champions in any way."

In making the unprecedented reversal, the NCAA all but conceded that some players became innocent victims of the 13-year battle. But it also noted that Tarkanian had a hand in dragging it out.

"In many infractions cases, it is

the unfortunate fact that the existence of NCAA violations cannot be established until several years after their occurrence," the committee said. It blamed the delay on "litigation on the part of the university's head coach, which ultimately was unsuccessful in restraining the NCAA from implementing this penalty."

A crowd of secretaries and students who jammed an outer office cheered as Maxson announced the university had accepted the second alternative.

"We regret that next year's team is not eligible," Maxson said. "But we felt it was terribly important our national champions be allowed to de-

fend their title."

Tarkanian, who was in Vancouver, B.C., promoting the team's Saturday game against Alabama-Birmingham, could not immediately be reached for comment, but issued a statement saying he agreed with the decision.

"I am pleased for the kids and fans that we will be allowed to compete," he said. "Let's put these matters behind us and look to the season ahead and defending our national championship."

Even as the 13-year saga came to a close, however, more troubled loomed for UNLV's basketball program with the NCAA.

Maxson said an initial report on

an investigation involving former prep star Lloyd Daniels is expected in about two weeks. He said the report has been ready for some time, but was delayed at the request of the school until after resolution of the Tarkanian matter so that the two would not become confused by the same infractions committee that has to hear the Daniels case.

"We have absolutely no idea what is in the report," Maxson said. "Coach Tarkanian says there are no infractions."

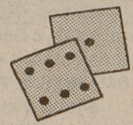
Maxson noted the NCAA gave the university 15 days to accept its choice of penalties in return for being able to defend this year's national championship, and responded "I

can assure you we won't wait 15 days."

UNLV had offered the NCAA four alternative sanctions, which involved various combinations of Tarkanian sitting out this year's playoffs and next, or limiting recruiting and television appearances.

"Coach Tarkanian emphasized he would do what he had to do to let his kids play in the tournament. I give him 100 percent of the credit. Those were self-imposed penalties. Coach Tarkanian has told us all year that he has a very special relationship with these players. He put his money where his mouth is."

# GOING FOR LUCKY 7



## Ags, UT clash in Austin

By DOUGLAS PILS  
Of The Battalion Staff

The coming of winter means many things. But in Aggieland, wintertime's cue is the annual building of Bonfire, which can mean only one thing: A&M vs. Texas.

Never mind the fact the bowl

□ **A&M linebacker Williams may be out**/Page 8

□ **A&M quarterback returns to Austin**/Page 9

games are set. Forget about who beat who or which team owns the best record.

All the intangibles go out the window tomorrow at 11:07 a.m., when the 97th rendition of the A&M-UT rivalry kicks off in front of a packed Memorial Stadium in Austin.

The game, which already has been sold out, will be televised by CBS.

For the third year in a row, the fierce rivalry will have no bearing on the Southwest Conference championship.

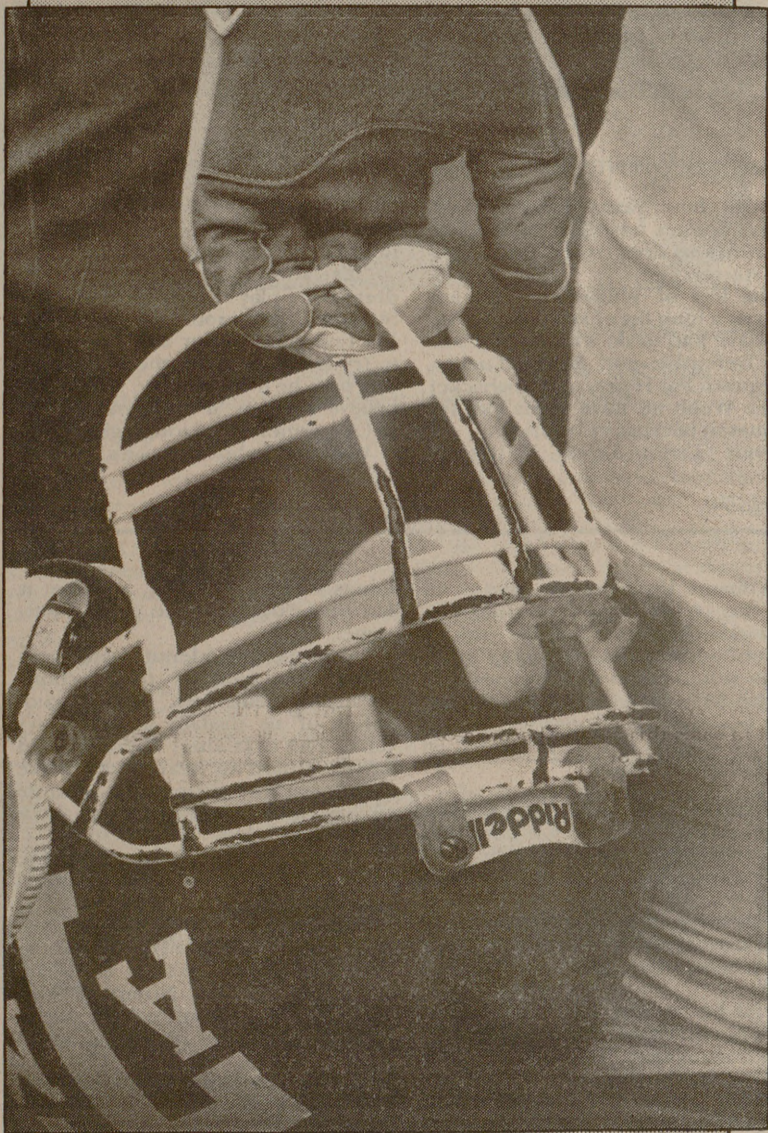
Arkansas already had clinched a Cotton Bowl berth the last two years, but this season marks the Longhorns' return to glory.

Last week against Baylor, fifth-ranked Texas sealed its first SWC championship since 1983 with a 23-13 victory. The win improved the Longhorns to 9-1 (7-0 in SWC play).

The Aggies (8-2-1, 5-1-1) have sputtered on occasion this year, and while they won't make it to the Cotton Bowl, they will play in the Sea World Holiday Bowl on Dec. 29 against fourth-ranked Brigham Young.

To think there is nothing left for these two teams to play for, however, is a grave mistake. Texas, with only a loss to No. 1 Colorado and a Cotton Bowl

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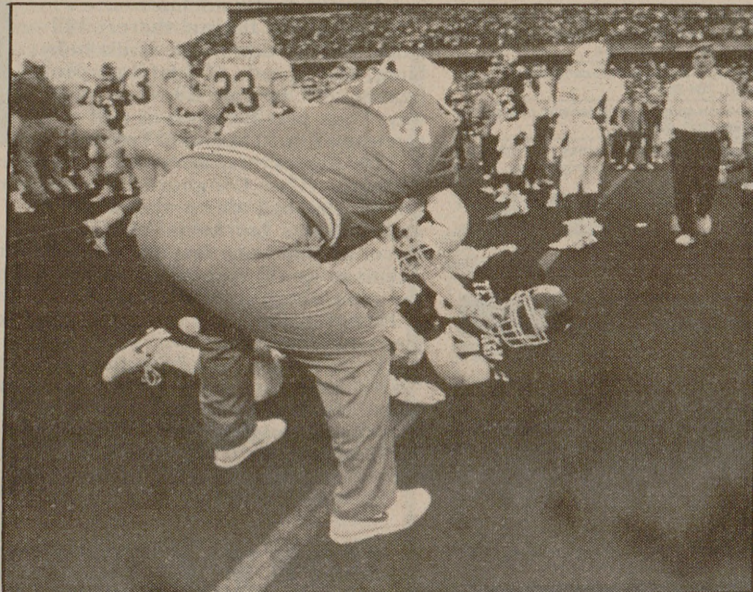
F. JOE/The Battalion

## Call them the Streaks

Texas A&M's attempt at a school record seventh straight win over Texas on Saturday shouldn't be easy. It rarely is when the two teams lock horns. Last year, a pre-game brawl (above, right) erupted when Texas players began taunting A&M during "The Spirit of Aggieland."

UT sophomore quarterback Peter Gardere (right) has led the Longhorns to a 9-1 record, while A&M starter Bucky Richardson (far right) presents many problems to opposing defenses with his scrambling ability.

One of Richardson's most reliable receivers is Gary Oliver (below, right), who has come up with the big play time and again for the Aggies this season. Tailback Darren Lewis (below, left) has become the Southwest Conference's all-time leading rusher, and needs 138 yards against Texas to break the 5,000-yard career mark.



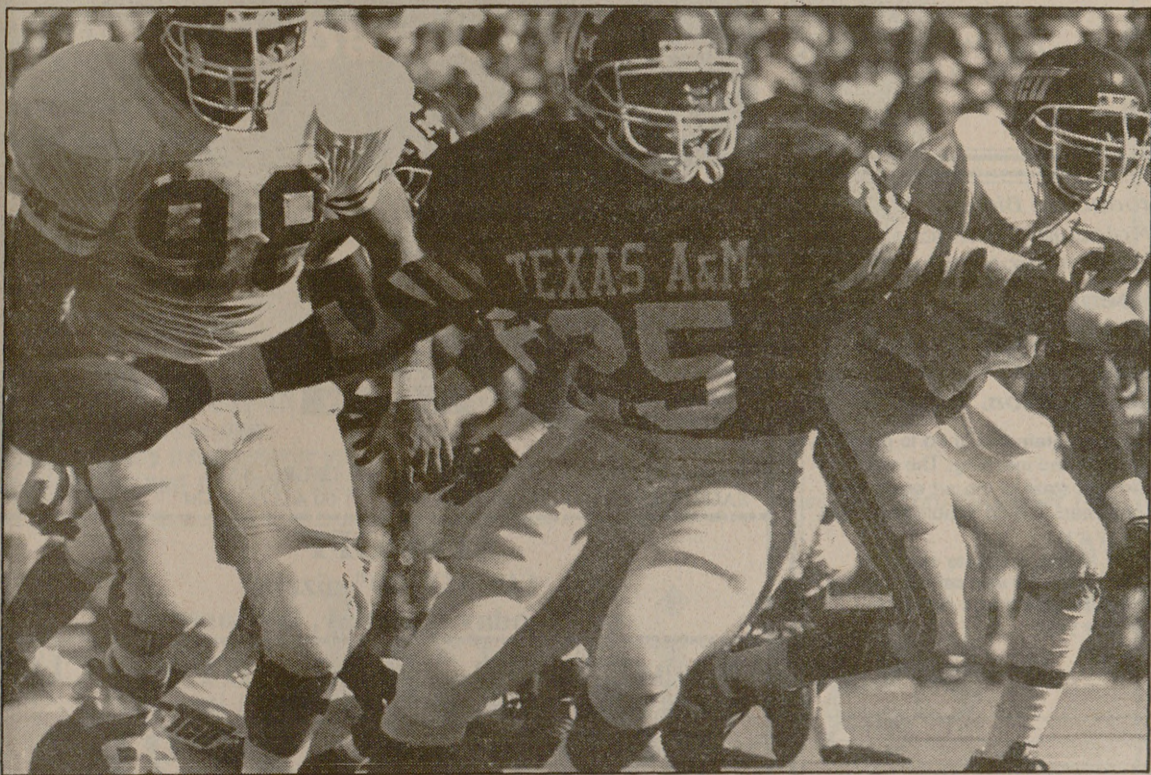
PHELAN M. EBENHACK/The Battalion



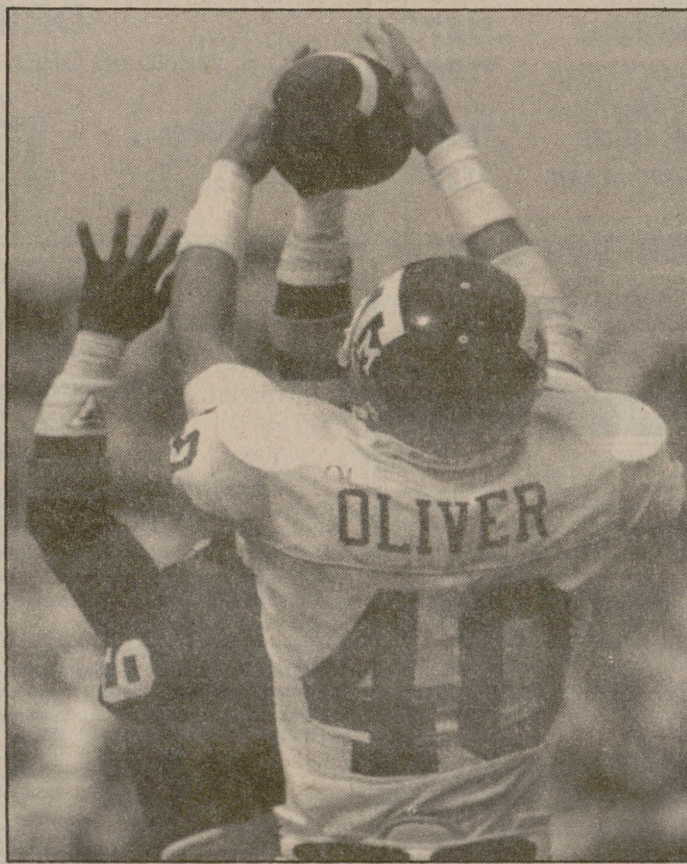
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## Davis expects Ags' rebound in tournament

From Staff and Wire Reports

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — Marshall coach Dwight Freeman didn't know what to expect before the Thundering Herd opened its season with a two-game western road trip.

He still doesn't.

Marshall exhibited a split personality in going 0-2 on the swing through the Rockies, fighting hard in a 96-91 overtime loss at Wyoming, then falling flat in a 79-49 loss at Colorado State.

"I was semi-satisfied," Freeman said. "I think they did a good job against Wyoming. They came out and played hard. Against Colorado State, I don't think they had the same intensity, and I think that may have been because of the long road trip."

Marshall returns home this weekend for the Marshall Memorial Invitational tournament. Texas A&M (1-2) plays Robert Morris (0-2) in Friday's first game, while Marshall (0-2) meets Mercer (0-1) in the nightcap. The consolation and championship games are scheduled Saturday night.

Texas A&M, under new coach Kermit Davis, is coming off an 81-65 home court loss to No. 18 Oklahoma on Wednesday, while Robert Morris lost Tuesday night at West Virginia 81-71.

"This is a very important game for us," Davis said. "It'll be interesting to see if we can bounce back from an emotional loss to Oklahoma. I think we'll play well and with a lot of character."

## Former UT coach Akers leaves Purdue

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — Purdue football coach Fred Akers, who didn't have a winning season in four years, resigned Thursday after the Boilermakers finished with a school-record nine losses.

Athletic director George King cited declining attendance in each of Akers' four years and problems with player discipline as the reasons for a coaching change.

"It's a sad day for us," Akers said, accompanied by his wife, Diana. "The things that were a concern to our administration were things that I didn't feel I could do a great deal about."

Akers, however, said he was not forced to resign.

"I have a choice. Sometimes decisions you make are very difficult," he said, adding that he made up his mind on Wednesday.

Akers said a rape complaint filed Nov. 15 by a high school girl against quarterback Eric Hunter did not affect his decision to quit. No charges have been filed against Hunter.

"We're all going to learn sooner or later that there's nothing to that," he said.

Under Akers, Purdue finished this season 2-9, the first time the team lost nine games in a season. He had a 12-31-1 record in four years, including a 9-23 in the Big Ten Conference.

His best year was 1988, when the Boilermakers finished 4-7 and were sixth in the Big Ten with a 3-5 record.

King said the remaining four years of Akers' contract would be bought out. He receives a base salary that is reported to be \$125,000 a year.

Akers, 52, said he would seek a head-coaching job elsewhere.



Kermit Davis Jr.



Fred Akers