

Sports

Thursday, October 24, 1991

The Battalion

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Anthony Andro
Sportswriter

Houston's guns aren't loaded this season

The Texas A&M-Houston football game has been kind of like an Old West shootout over the last couple of years.

But this year, only one team will be playing with a loaded gun.

Remember back in 1989 when Heisman-stud Andre Ware brought his eighth-ranked Cougars to Kyle Field?

Ware ended up spending more time on his back that game than he is spending now on the bench for the Detroit Lions. The Aggies blitzed on just about every play, sacking Ware six times and holding the Run-and-Shoot to 369 yards, its lowest total of the year.

But the Cougars were still in the game until late in the fourth quarter, before former linebacker Aaron Wallace leveled Ware and ended any chance for a Cougar victory.

Last season the Cougars turned the tables on the Aggies in a high scoring affair, 36-31.

The game was mired by eight Aggie turnovers. A&M twice blew a 17 point lead and allowed Houston to come back late for the win.

But those games are all in the past. Saturday's game will look nothing like that of the last two.

This year A&M has a good team. The Cougars don't.

The Cougars carry a 2-4 record to the game with impressive victories over Louisiana Tech and Southern Methodist University.

The big, bad Cougar offense has

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Writing the script

Toledo strives for creativity in offensive scheme

By Scott Wudel
The Battalion

The day was Tuesday. It was the day of the week when all of the hungry sportswriters from around the state come to A&M to interview players and coaches and get the latest bite on the Aggies. And there's also the free meal.

Offensive coordinator Bob Toledo sat at a large wood table at the front of the media room with a handful of writers gathered around him. The coach fielded questions until there weren't any left. The writers disbanded from the table and Toledo looked for the quickest way out of the room.

There was a door right behind him, and he pushed his way through it. It was the emergency exit that Toledo had found, and the alarm sounded when he opened it. The surprised coach flinched, then laughed it off and stepped out the door while others rushed in to see what the small commotion was all about.

People had taken notice of Toledo. He had taken a different path from all of the rest. It was a departure from the routine. He had strayed from the norm.

There wasn't anything unique about that day. All season, all 23 years of his coaching career, Toledo has prided himself on being a little unusual when it comes to the game of football.

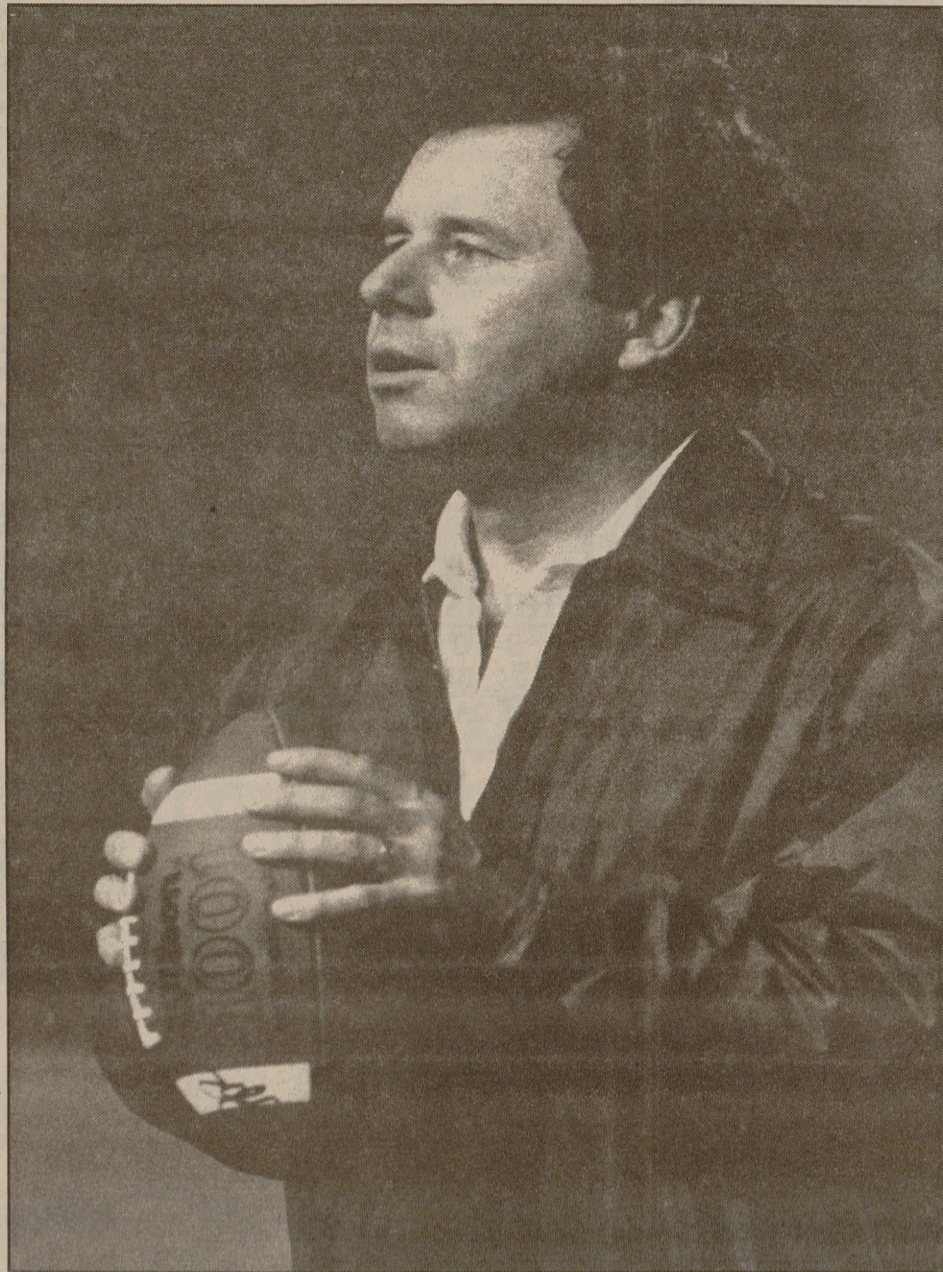
The coach has become a schemer in the big chess match. He has used the element of surprise to his advantage. He's been able to write the perfect script — the one where the good guys are able to come out on top in the end.

This year the saga continues.

"Better than expected," Toledo said, surprised himself of the success the group of young faces has had. "This is the youngest offensive team I've ever been associated with. And I've been doing it for 23 years."

Toledo has spent the last three years

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Battalion file photo

Offensive coordinator Bob Toledo has devised a gameplan around the personnel he has on the A&M football team. Toledo's creative play calling has surprised Aggie opponents this year and changed the complexion of the team's offense.

Braves slip past Twins again, 3-2

ATLANTA (AP) — Finally, Brian Harper missed a tag and the Atlanta Braves were safe at home. After two sensational, run-saving plays at the plate, the Braves got past Harper and beat the Minnesota Twins 3-2 Wednesday night to even the World Series at two games apiece.

Until the bottom of the ninth, the only way the Braves could reach home was on home runs by Terry Pendleton and Lonnie Smith. Then, tied 2-2, Game 3 hero Mark Lemke tripled to the wall in left-center field and, after an intentional walk, scored on sacrifice fly to right by Jerry Williard.

Harper took right-fielder Shane Mack's throw just up the third-base line and hit Lemke with his elbow but just missed him with the glove.

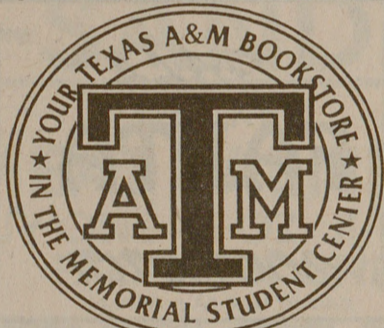
The Braves have led for only six of the 39 innings in the Series so far, but evened it on a play the Twins vehemently protested.

Television replays, though, seemed to show Lemke twisting past Harper just enough to win his second World Series game in the same day. He singled home the winning run in the 12th inning at 12:42 a.m. Wednesday.

"I kind of bumped him on the shoulder and went around him," said Lemke, who singled home the winning run in the 12th inning of Game 3 at 12:42 a.m. Wednesday. "I was able to get around him and touch the plate with my hand."

After Lemke's one-out triple, Mark Guthrie intentionally walked Jeff Blauser, Steve Bedrosian relieved, and Willard, a 12-year journeyman, stepped up and hit a high fly to right field that pushed the drawn-in Mack back. The ball seemed to hang and blow toward the infield, and Mack got a running start and made a strong throw a few feet up the line.

Harper, who tagged out two runners in the fifth inning, tried to block Lemke with his left hip while catching the ball. He caught a piece of the runner with his body, but home plate umpire Terry Tata said he missed with his mitt as Lemke scrambled safely to the plate.



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