

College football should take hint from high schools

In the midst of an emotionally taxing football season, I had my wavering faith in the sport restored Nov. 14. That night, by being a small but vocal part in a simple, high school playoff game, reminded me why I, as well as millions of other Americans, have a love affair with football.



DON NORWOOD
Sports Writer

The fact that my alma mater won the game was merely icing on the cake as the Silsbee Tigers beat the Port Neches-Groves Indians 42-17 in a Class AAAA first-round game. In fact, the win could have been demoralizing, considering that both years I played we missed postseason play.

The real beauty of the game came in the atmosphere. There were no worries about narrow-minded sportswriters voting the wrong teams into the Top Five. There were no worries about the dark cloud of the NCAA watching like a hawk to see if a booster buys a player a bag of french fries. And most comforting of all, there were no worries about another team skipping the postseason game they should appear in favor of a game promising more revenue. Isn't it amazing how a playoff system will make things so much more organized and clear-cut?

Instead, there was just football. And it was beautiful. The sights and sounds of the game were as vivid as they were five years ago, when I and around 30 of my closest friends happily ripped our knees and shoulders to shreds in front of a

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Harrison becoming A&M's newest offensive threat

By K. LEE DAVIS

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

He is a threat to score from all over the field.

He picks his blocks well and follows them to the end zone.

He has the highest average yards-per-carry of anyone else on the Texas A&M football team, and possibly in the nation. And he has the highest scoring percentage for times touching the ball at 1,000.

Greg Hill? Rodney Thomas? Doug Carter? Corey Pullig?

Guess again. It's offensive guard "Touchdown" Tyler Harrison, and don't you forget it.

Harrison has found himself to be much in demand since picking up a loose ball on the age-old fumblerooski play, and then rumbling 25 yards to the end zone during the first quarter of Thursday's 38-30 win over the University of Houston.

The fumblerooski, or "Golden Goose Egg" as the Aggies have named the play, is accomplished by the center, in this case Chris Dausin, snapping the ball to the quarterback, who does not take the ball from the center but allows him to drop it between his legs. At that point the left guard scoops it up from between the center's legs and runs around the end.

The play goes back further than most fans can remember, and has been used re-

peatedly this season in college games across the country.

The play is often effective, usually ending in a long gain or a touchdown.

But Harrison is quick to point out that he is no Johnny-come-lately to the business of producing points.

"Hey, haven't I been an offensive threat all year?" Harrison said, referring to the work he and his offensive line mates have done to help move the offense all season.

But the 275-pound guard said that students around campus have kept him from being too cocky about his running prowess.

"Most of them are very happy for me and a little surprised," Harrison said. "But they all say that I don't know how to hold the ball."

Harrison said he learned his carry-the-ball-in-one-flailing-hand technique when he was a child growing up in Arlington.

"I think that was an old back-yard style play," he said.

When told that he was possibly the most prolific rushing offensive lineman in the history of the Southwest Conference, Harrison seemed unimpressed.

"That's definitely a weird statistic," he said.

Harrison added that nothing is as strange as hearing your number being called in the huddle for the first time ever.

"I really couldn't believe they called it, and I had to go up to the line and tell myself, 'He (offensive coordinator Bob Toledo) really did call it,' and then I just had to run the play," Harrison said. "Once I saw the goal line, I just started thinking, 'Score.'"

Harrison, featured on virtually every sports highlight show after the game on Thursday, and then again all during the weekend, said that he finds all of the exposure kind of funny.

"It was really strange, but it was exciting to see myself," he said.

"It was a unique play, and a great opportunity for me," Harrison added.

The rest of his teammates have been supportive of Harrison's new found role, but not to the point that they don't give him extra grief for his fame.

"Most of them were really excited for me and for what it did for the team, but they all said it looked really comical," Harrison said.

Harrison said that if his number is called again, he will be ready.

"Whatever Coach Toledo calls for," Harrison said.

With rushing numbers like Harrison's, people could start calling for a new chant when it's time to put the ball in the end zone.

THT—Tyler Harrison Time? Maybe not. Just doesn't have the ring as GHT.



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

A&M left guard Tyler Harrison (55) meets with other members of the offense during the Aggies' 41-7 win over SMU. Harrison was thrust into the offensive limelight in the Aggies' win over Houston when he scored a touchdown on a "fumblerooski" play.

Batt readers lash out on Aggies' position in AP Poll

Throw the polls out, because a win is a win. Texas A&M has managed to fashion a perfect 10-win season with only two games left even though they started the season with three of their top defensive leaders and the legendary Bucky Richardson gone to the NFL. With only a true freshman and a slider pitcher at quarterback the Aggies have vanquished all of their scheduled opponents. Who cares if only one of the teams was ranked in the Top 25? These schedules are made several years in advance and it certainly isn't A&M's fault that the rest of the SWC has chosen to roll over belly up and wait till next year. This A&M team has been jumped in the polls four times because they didn't run the score

up on their opponents. Is that the message the pollsters are sending out to coaches? If that is the case then someone should nominate Houston's John Jenkins coach of the year. However, most people criticize John Jenkins' style of piling up points on inferior teams. That also brings up an interesting point. Whenever the University of Houston ran up the score on Louisiana Tech 73-3 last year, Lee Corso of ESPN joined the nationwide media criticism of this action. However, I didn't hear anyone complaining this weekend, including Corso who is a Florida State Alumnus, when Florida State ran up the score to 70-7 against defenseless Tulane. The outcome of that game surely played no small part in the decision by pollsters to bump 9-1 Florida State past Texas A&M

this week in the AP Poll. So R.C. Slocum take note because the AP Poll gods have spoken. Go out and crush TCU by at least 50-60 points and put aside those childish sensitivities like integrity, respect and sportsmanship.

Troy Mooney
Class of '92

This past weekend our football team was once again jumped in the polls, this time by Florida State. To all of our players and coaches that have to be feeling great frustration and 'well what else can we do but winedness,' I would like to remind you of a little Al Davis/Oakland Raider inspired philosophy: "Just Win Baby." This point is often overlooked by AP voters and fans alike.

Whether you beat the opponent in a come-from-behind victory, or drub them such as Fla. St. has done to its opponents of late, a victory is still a mark in the "W" column. And after all, is the goal of the game to win or destroy? Whether it's by one point or sixty, nobody can take a win away from you. And though a national championship is not out of reach yet, if you guys go into the Cotton Bowl 11-0 and 'just beat' Fla. St. or Notre Dame or whoever, no matter what the final ranking is you will be perfect in our eyes, and national champs in our hearts. Keep winning guys, and beat the hell outta Texas!

Stephen Scott Cone
Class of '95

Catch The EARLY RUSH

Spring Fraternity Rush Symposium
Wednesday, November 18
7-9 p.m. 225 MSC

All 26 IFC fraternities will be there ready to answer your questions about Spring Rush at Texas A&M University. Come choose the right one for you.

Be a Part of the Winning Team

GIVE BLOOD

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10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
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