Roscoe Coles Rushes For 117 In 17 Carries

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ble ball-handling and two fumbles by Lamie led to the Aggies’ second TD and Franklin’s first field-goal success of the year (his misses have been on tries over 50 yards).

Sharpe, however, defended his young field generals, as did offense coordinator Nelson Stokely, pointing out:

“A&M just had too much going for them — speed, experience, size, poise and numbers.

“We’re proud of the way we moved the ball; we just made too many mistakes, had some misreads on our triple option, and too many penalties — a total of 87 yards, at least three on pass interference.”

The errors of one type or another caused Tech’s missing chances for at least two more TDs — or field goals by Paul Engle. Two of the bobbles were recovered by A&M’s alert cornerback Jimmy Kocurek.

The Gobblers’ best opportunity for pulling an upset or giving the Aggies a bigger scare went by the board with 4:04 left in the third quarter and early in the fourth.

Tech was inside A&M’s 40 in the third and down to the Texans’ 14 in the fourth, thanks to an unsportsmanlike penalty, but either couldn’t move the ball or gave it away as they did in the fourth on Lamie’s fumble.

The Gobblers had the strongly partisan crowd (estimated 32,000) hootin’ and hollerin’ through most of the opening quarter despite an eventual 7-3 deficit.

Engle’s two field goals (36, 25 yards) were of a sandwiching pattern since, unfortunately, coming in the middle were two touchdown thrusts by the Aggies — one of 85 yards that was nullified but contributed a big hunk of yardage in the Texans’ 85-yard drive which led to their first-time 7-3 lead.

Tech went in front 3-0 with 6:34 left in the opening period, climaxing a march of 67 yards, mainly on a miraculous behind-the-back aerial catch by wide receiver Ellis Savage for 17 yards.

Fullback Dickie Holway chipped in with 16 yards on one quick burst helping launch the drive, but it petered out at A&M’s 19, so Engle booted his first field goal.

An interception by Rick Razzano (three plays later) got the Gobblers moving again. However, Tech errors and a clipping penalty negated a 14-yard sprint by Coles, who had 80 yards gained in the first quarter, and after the ensuing punt the Lone Star invaders got moving seriously.

On the very first play, speeester Curtis Dickey sped 85 yards to paydirt only to have the TD wiped out by a clipping penalty at Tech’s 35 which put the Aggies back to near midfield.

One pass by David Walker to Darrell Smith for 10 yards and another penalty assessed against Tech advanced A&M to the hosts’ 28, and in three plays Woodard negotiated the six points on bull-like dashes of 13, 13 and two yards.

A 50-yard burst by Coles two plays after the ensuing kickoff got Tech to the Aggies’ 27, then Holway added, six but once more the attack fizzled so the Gobblers settled for their second field goal.