Saturday and the Gobbler's came away believers that the Aggies are one of the finest teams in the country. Ranked as high as second in pre-season polls, the Aggies shut down Tech's respected wishbone offense and yielded a mere 93 yards total offense in shutting out the Hokies 19-0. It was the first time Tech had been whitewashed since the opening game of the 1970 season when Virginia did it, 7-0.

The Aggies, who allowed only four touchdowns on the ground all last season enroute to a 10-1 regular season finish plus a Liberty Bowl appearance, limited the Gobbler's to only 65 yards rushing on 21 attempts.

Meanwhile A&M proved why it thinks its one of the best 10 teams in the nation, with 199 yards rushing on 42 attempts.

Tech never established its running game and was discouraged in the passing game by completing only two of six for 27 yards.

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Tech 37 with 26 seconds to go. After Gary Haack made a spectacular catch at the Tech three yard line, it appeared Tech was in for a long afternoon. But crunching linebacker Rick Razzano saved the touchdown by recovering the fumble on the option for his own eight.

Tech was wide open at the one and the game ended. That forced A&M to attempt a 6-yard field goal which was wide to the left.

But the Aggies held a commanding 13-0 lead going into the fourth period. Sharpe said he felt if the Hokies were trailing by only one going into the final period, his team could win. But A&M had other plans.

Belard inserted his young backfield including freshman sensation Curtis Dickey, who netted 31 yards on six carries. Woodard led the Aggies with 111 yards in 20 attempts.

But it was the screen that hurt the Hokies. "We acted like we had never seen a screen pass before," said Sharpe. "But we worked on it."

The screen worked four times for 84 yards and each time it damaged an inspired Tech defensive effort.

Woodard hauled in three passes for 231 yards while four other receivers caught eight passes for the remainder of the staggering 186.

Tech was led by fullback Paul Adams who had 50 yards in 10 attempts. The Hokies were forced to punt eight times in the game, with the wishbone paralyzed as it was.

"It's not the end of the world," declared Sharpe. "We'll be back."

The Aggies were every bit as tough as their pre-season top twenty rankings in the first half, a brilliant defensive effort for both teams. The difference in the first 30 minutes, ironically, was A&M's passing attack. It netted 116 yards with quarterback Shippman connecting on 6-of-8 passes while the Hokies were shut out through the airways over the first two periods.

Tech only attempted one pass in the first half, and it was incomplete. Both defenses were stingy against each other's wishbone ground attacks.

Tech rushed 25 times for 27 yards, while A&M rushed 29 times for 75 yards.

A&M got on the scoreboard late in the second period, with Shippman making his plays well and moving the ball 81 yards on 13 plays mostly on the bullish efforts of sophomore fullback Woodard.

The Gobbler's, who rushed for over 600 yards as a freshman, carried six times in the seven-minute drive, and caught a key screen pass, turning it into the first half's most spectacular offensive outburst.

After leveling the score, Woodard broke three tackles on a great display of balance and tore 63 yards down to the Tech 27 before safety man Chip Reasfall hauled him down.

Shippman used the fake to Woodard effectively in the drive, once to gain a first down on a fourth and one situation, and the other time to score from one yard out on fourth and goal, with 1:50 to go in the half.

The Aggies threatened again just before the half ended when Bill King rammed into an A&M defender on a fair catch, giving the Aggies a first down on the