By JOHN HOLLIS
Post Sports Writer

COLLEGE STATION — Turkey Day came early for the Texas Aggies here Saturday. They beat Virginia Tech's Gobblers, 19-0, before 44,039 at Kyle Field.

Maybe it was the burnt-orange stripe on Tech's white knickers, but A&M's defense played with the same verve and abandon and enthusiasm it did against Texas here last Thanksgiving en route to the Southwest Conference championship.

Tech got only 69 yards rushing, 25 of it on one play with three minutes left in the game. The Gobblers completed two of six passes for 27 yards.

The Aggies aren't. They never went away.

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What can you say? The Aggie defense was superb.

Virginia Tech's defense wasn't a pushover. It flopped an end to the strong side, moved linebacker Rick Razzano all over the place, played its strongside corner-back on the line of scrimmage and, for practical purposes, showed A&M quarterback David Shipman nine men within four yards of the ball.

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Aggie defense chews up Gobblers, 19-0

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George Woodard rushed 20 times for 111 yards on his 21st birthday and caught three passes for 64 yards. Not a bad birthday party.

The Aggies ran for 199 yards and passed for 186 more.

Indeed, they had five fumbles and an interception, two of the mistakes costing possible touchdowns, but it's not only what the Aggies did, it's what they showed future opponents they're capable of doing.

For instance, with 4:24 left in the third quarter and the score 13-0, Emory Ballard didn't hesitate to send in David Walker at quarterback, and Curtis Dickey and David Brothers at halfbacks.

The left-handed Walker responded with three of six completions for 47 yards and moved the team well. Dickey flashed that speed and power briefly on six carries for 51 yards.

A&M stayed in the Wishbone, but it wasn't any old three-yards-and-a-ball-of-yarn offense.

You keep coming back to the defense.

It sacked Tech's quarterback four times, forced errant pitches and hounded the ball mercilessly. When George Heath broke for 25 yards against A&M's second unit with three minutes left in the game, Ballard sent his front-liners back in.

Result: The next three Tech plays gained a total of two yards.

Robert Jackson, the linebacker, had 11 tackles and five assists, covered a fumble and sacked the QB twice. Jimmy Dean had 13 tackles, five assists and caused a fumble. Just go down the lineup. There were no weak sisters in maroon this day.

"Everybody played together," Jackson said. "That's the way it's been around here the last several years."

"I thought we played real hard," said Bellard, perhaps savoring the upsetment. "I thought we got better as the game went on. I think we had control almost all the way.

"We're really together," big Woodard said. "The offensive line is really blocking. Doing their thing. With those guys in front of me, anybody can run with the ball.

"My personal goal is 1,000 yards this season and I believe I got a pretty good start today."

He also had a pretty good finish. He scored A&M's last touchdown of the day with a 10-yard burst over the left side.

Tech's active linebackers, with Razzano in a leading role, helped stymie A&M's ground game for 19 minutes, but the larger Aggies kept pounding at the tackles, punishing people inside, drawing a lot of attention from Tech's secondary when they did.

It was 0-0 with 9:04 left in the half.

The Aggies squandered a 38-yard Woodard run on their first possession when Shipman pitched wildly at the Tech 32. The Gobblers rode two big penalties to A&M's 34 in the first quarter and fumbled away their deepest penetration, Tony Franklin missed a 38-yard field goal.

Finally, with 9:04 left in the half, Shipman began a scoring drive from his 19, hit Cary Haack with a second-down pass for eight and a first and then lobbed a screen pass to Woodard that big George took 43 yards. He broke five tackles enroute to Tech's 27-yard line.

It was hammer, hammer, hammer then, with Adger Armstrong's nine-yard gain to the four a big play. Shipman scored from the one, carrying off Woodard and into daylight at right tackle.

Later, Shipman hit Haack, his tight end, with a 23-yard pass to the Tech three, but a pitchout sailed wide and Razzano covered seconds before halftime.

At the half, Virginia Tech had 27 rushing yards in 25 attempts to 212 passing.

The Aggies went 64 yards to score with their first possession of the second half.

Shipman's 17-yard keeper started it. Then, a screen to Armstrong worked for 20, later causing Tech coach Jimmy Sharpe to say, "We looked like we'd never seen a screen pass and that's what killed us."

Armstrong, however, broke two tackles on his run to Tech's 34. Two plays later, Shipman kept for 11 and on third down another screen to Armstrong got 11 to the two. On the next play, Razzano and Woodard met head-on in the hole at right tackle and George just kept motoring into the end zone.

That made it 13-0 with 8:33 left in the third.

The Walker backfield moved in the next A&M possession, but Woodard fumbled away bright opportunity. No matter. The defense got the ball back for Franklin to try a 61-yard field goal that was high enough, but wide.

Dickey gained 12 and 18 yards in a drive that reached the Tech five early in the fourth quarter, but Walker was hit as he pitched out and Tech covered. Then came a Tech fumble, a Walker interception, and a pitchout Jimmy Kocurek deflected to Phil Bennett to give A&M the ball at Tech's 10-yard line.

Woodard made it without touching the handlebars. He burst through a big hole over the right side and scored standing with 3:13 to play.

The Aggies are riding a one-game win streak.