

TEXAS BOWL
OKLAHOMA ST vs TEXAS A&M

Mond leads A&M to 24-21 win over Oklahoma St. in Texas Bowl

HOUSTON -- Texas A&M coach Jimbo Fisher talks to his team every day about the importance of grit.

On Friday night the Aggies showed the quality their coach talks about so much when they shook off a tough start to rally for 24-21 victory over Oklahoma State in the Texas Bowl.

“When they jumped out early we didn’t say, ‘Here we go again,’ Fisher said. “They said, ‘We’re going to fix this. We’re going to handle it. We’re going to keep our poise.’ Then they got in the groove and got their confidence back and started playing well.”

Kellen Mond ran for a career-high 117 yards and threw a touchdown pass as Texas A&M scored 24 straight points to overcome the early deficit.

“After a really poor start ... we were able to come out in the second half as an offense and make a lot of big plays,” Mond said,

Mond ran 67 yards to give the Aggies (8-5) a 21-14 lead early in the fourth quarter. Mond cut to the right to avoid a couple of defenders and outran everyone else. Tre Sterling had a shot to tackle him around the 25, but Mond ran away from his diving attempt.

“He did a great job of stretching the option which allowed everybody to get their blocks just sorted out,” Fisher said. “And then he got inside and ran away from everybody and it was a big-time play and a big-time moment.”

The Cowboys (8-5) went for it on fourth-and-1 from the Texas A&M 34 on their next possession, but Spencer Sanders was stopped for no gain. The Aggies added a 24-yard field goal to make it 24-14 with about three minutes to go. Oklahoma State cut the lead to three on a touchdown reception by Braydon Johnson with about a minute left. The Cowboys attempted an onside kick, but A&M recovered it to secure the victory. “They wore our front down as the game went on,” Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said. “We had some concerns coming into the game that they’re pretty physical up front on both sides of the ball and I think they just wore us out a little bit.”

Chuba Hubbard, who finished the regular season as the nation’s leading rusher, ran for 158 yards, and Johnson had 124 yards receiving and two touchdowns for the Cowboys. Hubbard finished the season with 2,094 yards rushing to become the second player in school history to reach 2,000, joining Barry Sanders, who did it in 1988 when he won the Heisman Trophy.

Mond, who threw for 95 yards, fumbled twice early and the Aggies trailed 14-0 after the first quarter and were down by seven at halftime. He had just 35 yards passing in the first half, but got going on Texas A&M’s first possession of the second half. He had a 28-yard completion on a drive that ended with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jhamon Ausbon which tied it at 14-14 early in the third.

Mond fumbled on A&M’s first drive and it was recovered by Oklahoma State. But the Cowboys came away empty when Matt Ammendola missed a 53-yard field goal.

The Cowboys took a 7-0 lead in the first quarter when they capped a 97-yard drive with a 42-yard touchdown reception by Johnson. Hubbard had a 37-yard run to power that drive.

Dru Brown connected with Johnson on a 57-yard pass later in the first quarter to give Oklahoma State a first down at the 9. The Cowboys pushed the lead to 14-0 when Brown dashed into the end zone on the next play. Brown threw for 184 yards and two touchdowns. Mond fumbled again early in the second quarter, but once again the Cowboys couldn’t turn the mistake into points and they had to punt it away.

The Aggies cut the lead to 14-7 on the next drive on a 1-yard touchdown run by Isaiah Spiller. Oklahoma State had a chance to pad the lead just before halftime, but Ammendola’s 46-yard field goal attempt sailed wide left.

THE TAKEAWAY
Oklahoma State: The Cowboys started out strong but were unable to build on their early lead and allowed Mond to control the game after halftime.

Texas A&M: The Aggies did a good job of shaking off their bad start and get the win to end the season on a positive note after losing their last two regular-season games.

FISHER’S 100TH
The victory was the 100th of Fisher’s career. He is 100-32 in a 10-year coaching career with eight seasons at Florida State and two years at Texas A&M. Fisher, who won a national championship with the Seminoles in 2013, is 17-9 with the Aggies.

CONGRATS TO CHUBA
Sanders tweeted congratulations to Hubbard after he reached the 2,000-yards mark and said: “I know the effort it takes to get there.”

Hubbard was asked what eclipsing 2,000 yards meant to him.

“I made a lot of bonds with these guys,” he said. “Relationships last a lifetime. 2,000 yards is just a number, but those friendships and bonds I’ve made will last forever.”

Final	1	2	3	4	T
OKST	14	0	0	7	21
TA&M	0	7	7	10	24

Scoring Summary -----				
FIRST QUARTER			OKST	TA&M
OKST TD 7:47 Braydon Johnson 42 Yd pass from Dru Brown (Matt Ammendola Kick)				
5 plays, 97 yards, 1:57			7	0
OKST TD 1:33 Dru Brown 9 Yd Run (Matt Ammendola Kick)			14	0
4 plays, 82 yards, 1:47				
second Quarter			OKST	TA&M
TA&M TD 5:39 Isaiah Spiller 1 Yd Run (Seth Small Kick)				
6 plays, 22 yards, 2:24			14	7
third Quarter			OKST	TA&M
TA&M TD 10:32 Jhamon Ausbon 10 Yd pass from Kellen Mond (Seth Small Kick)				
7 plays, 60 yards, 3:32			14	14
fourth Quarter			OKST	TA&M
TA&M TD 10:45 Kellen Mond 67 Yd Run (Seth Small Kick)				
3 plays, 88 yards, 1:28			14	21
TA&M FG 2:52 Seth Small 24 Yd Field Goal				
9 plays, 59 yards, 5:08			14	24
OKST TD 1:04 Braydon Johnson 5 Yd pass from Dru Brown (Matt Ammendola Kick)				
8 plays, 59 yards, 1:48			21	24

Team Stats	OKST	TA&M
First Downs	17	19
Passes for First	7	5
Rushes for First	8	12
Penalties for First	2	2
Third Down Efficiency	4-12	5-10
Fourth Down Efficiency	0-1	0-0
Total Yards	334	343
Total Plays	59	60
Avg Gain Per Play	5.7	5.7
Net Yards Rushing	150	248
Rushes	31	41
Yards Per Rush	4.8	6.0
Net Yards Passing	184	95
Comp-Att	15-28	13-19
Yards Per Pass	6.6	5.0
Times Sacked	4	1
Yds Lost To Sacks	-30	-6
Interceptions	0	0
Punts	5	4
Punt Average	36.4	38.8
Penalties	5	8
Penalty Yards	42	56
Fumbles	0	2
Fumbles Lost	0	2
Time of Poss	25:47	34:13

Individual Stats

RUSHING							
OKLAHOMA ST	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Chuba Hubbard	19	158	8.3	0	42		
Spencer Sanders	2	3	1.5	0	3		
LD Brown	1	-2	-2.0	0	0		
Dru Brown	9	-9	-1.0	1	12		
TEXAS A&M	Rush	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Kellen Mond	12	117	9.8	1	67		
Isaiah Spiller	19	77	4.1	1	12		
Ainias Smith	7	54	7.7	0	19		
Quartney Davis	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Team	2	-4	-2.0	0	0		
PASSING							
OKLAHOMA ST	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Dru Brown	15	28	184	6.6	2	0	43.7
TEXAS A&M	Comp	Att	Yds	Y/A	TD	Int	QBRat
Kellen Mond	13	19	95	5.0	1	0	65.8
RECEIVING							
OKLAHOMA ST	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Braydon Johnson	5	124	24.8	2	57		
Jordan McCray	2	21	10.5	0	13		
LD Brown	1	15	15.0	0	15		
Chuba Hubbard	2	15	7.5	0	16		
Landon Wolf	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Jelani Woods	1	4	4.0	0	4		
Dillon Stoner	3	1	0.3	0	6		
TEXAS A&M	Rec	Yds	Avg	TD	LONG		
Quartney Davis	6	48	8.0	0	15		
Jalen Wydermyer	1	28	28.0	0	28		
Ainias Smith	2	13	6.5	0	11		
Jhamon Ausbon	1	10	10.0	1	10		
Camron Buckley	1	0	0.0	0	0		
Isaiah Spiller	2	-4	-2.0	0	0		