

Sports

Disaster strikes in Baton Rouge



A&M's Larry Horton fights for yardage during Saturday's game against LSU.

Photo by Dean Saito

Tigers swamp Aggies for 27-0 win

By Hal L. Hammons
Sports Editor

BATON ROUGE, La. — Call it weather, call it fans, call it injuries, call it what you will. What it was was a thrashing.

A hostile crowd of 79,018 screamed with delight as it saw the 11th-ranked Texas A&M Aggies methodically destroyed 27-0 by the No. 17 Louisiana State Tigers.

The Aggies were beaten, pure and simple. Beaten in the trenches. Beaten in the backfield. Beaten in the secondary. Beaten in their own minds. Beaten up.

The tone of the game was set immediately, as LSU stopped the Aggies on three plays to start the game. Tom Fabacher blocked the punt by Sean Wilson that followed, the Tigers got the ball at midfield, and they were stopped short of the end zone only by a fall by quarterback Tom Hodson on second and five.

David Browndyke kicked a 37-

yard field goal, and the rout was on.

Bucky Richardson, the starting quarterback for A&M, stayed in for only two drives that added up to six plays. By that time it was 6-0.

Lance Pavlas came in for the first time this season, and he, like Richardson last week, threw an interception on his first pass.

Pavlas' toss was blocked at the line of scrimmage by linebacker Ron Sancho and taken in for a touchdown.

It seemed A&M might be recovering on the next possession. The Aggies started with excellent field position after a 15-yard offensive interference penalty was marked off against LSU. The penalty occurred on the failed two-point attempt after the touchdown.

Pavlas moved the team to the LSU 33 but threw another interception when he was flushed out of the pocket and tried to force a pass down the sideline.

The team never seriously threatened to win the game after that.

The only other Aggie drive of note was conducted early in the fourth quarter by Chris Osgood, who played the entire second half.

Trailing 20-0 by this time, the Aggies drove from their own 36 to the two yardline. But three attempts ended in a pass to Wally Hartley in the end zone that bounced off the crossbar incomplete.

And if that wasn't psychologically destructive enough, the Tigers took the ball 98 yards to punch it in themselves.

The raucous Tiger crowd was a big part of the game, particularly on the goal-line stand.

Osgood said, "When we got down near the end zone I couldn't even hear myself, but the referee told me to run the play."

A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill

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Ags functioned as a team in embarrassing setback

BATON ROUGE, La. — Somebody asked Adam Bob after the game what went wrong, and his answer says it all: "I don't know, it was just a team effort."

Generally that's a statement that comes from someone on the winning side who's trying to be humble about his part in the victory. Here it's just a simple statement of fact.

What went wrong for the Aggies? Let's look at a partial list:

Rushing offense. Passing offense. Rushing defense. Passing defense. Offensive line of scrimmage. Time of possession.

Turnovers. First downs. Third downs. And if that isn't enough, you can factor in the intangibles. Things like inexperience, injuries, weather and the home-field advantage.

But don't get the impression that Texas A&M lost to Louisiana State because of the second group. The bottom line is, the Aggies got waxed by a team that, under any conditions and circumstances, would have beaten them. Easily.

In the three years since the Jackie Sherrill Renaissance at A&M the Aggies have made it a habit to lose games from time to time. But in each of the losses, including the Kickoff Classic Aug. 27, it is easy to see the Aggies coming out as the victors. All they would have had to do is play the way they were capable. The only possible exception I can think of would be Ohio State in the Cotton Bowl two years ago. And that loss could almost be single-handedly attributed to Kevin Murray's inept performance.

This game was different. And Aggies everywhere might just as well admit it.

The thing that makes it so scary is that LSU didn't particularly play well. The Tigers could have, and arguably should have, won by 35 or 40.

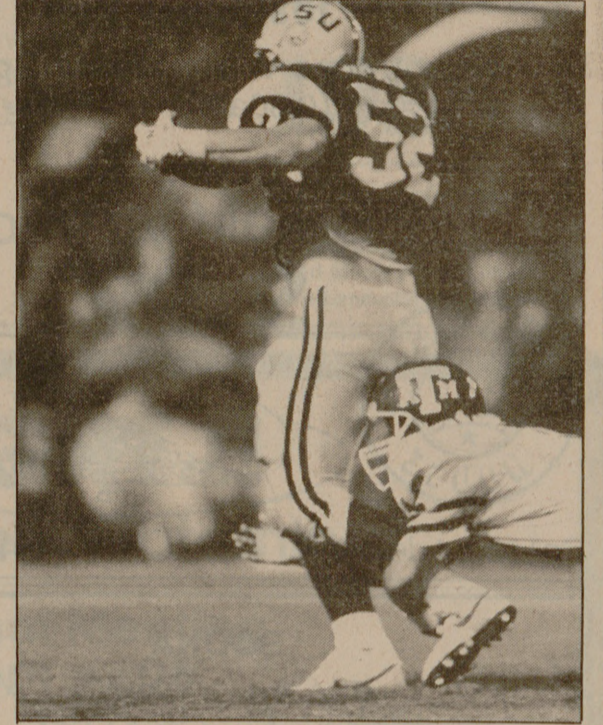
How many times are you going to see Tom Hodson go 7-for-21 in a game this year? Not many, I'll assure you.

How about the first Tiger drive — the one that ended in the first Tigers points? Only a fluke fall by Hodson on a rollout killed the drive. There's absolutely no reason to think LSU wouldn't have driven into the end zone just as easily as they had driven the rest of the field.

What is going to happen when this team gets its act in gear?



Hal L. Hammons



Ron Sancho runs through Lance Pavlas to return an interception for LSU's first touchdown.

Photo by Dean Saito

Remember how all the Aggies said the last two years that they would have creamed LSU if they had played the Tigers at the end of the season? Well, if these two teams met at the end of 1988 it might be 60-0 LSU.

All the credit the past two years has gone to Harvey Williams — "The Aggie Killer." Well, if you will recall, Williams didn't play Saturday. Rather, it was the Tiger second- and third-string tailbacks who both outrushed the entire A&M team in the first

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DIVISION(S): Co-Rec B
SIGN-UP DATE(S): Entries Close Tuesday, September 6
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SPORT OR ACTIVITY: Table Tennis Singles
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SPORT OR ACTIVITY: Flag Football
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Donald D. Carter
Registrar