

Wallace nails Aggie sack record

'Quiet Avenger' downs No. 38

By Richard Tijerina

Of The Battalion Staff

What started four years ago, when a raw but talented freshman sacked Louisiana State quarterback Mickey Guidry, ended Saturday at Rice Stadium. Aaron Wallace broke A&M's all-time sack record when he sacked Rice quarterback Donald Hollas in the first quarter.

Wallace, who has 6.5 sacks in 1989, moved ahead of former A&M defensive end Jacob Green on A&M's all-time list. Wallace now has 38 career sacks as an Aggie, but don't expect him to stop there.

In the second week of the season, when he needed only three sacks to break the record, Wallace said he'd like to finish his career with at least 45. He has three games left to reach the mark — Southern Methodist this weekend, Arkansas on Nov. 24 and Texas on Dec. 2.

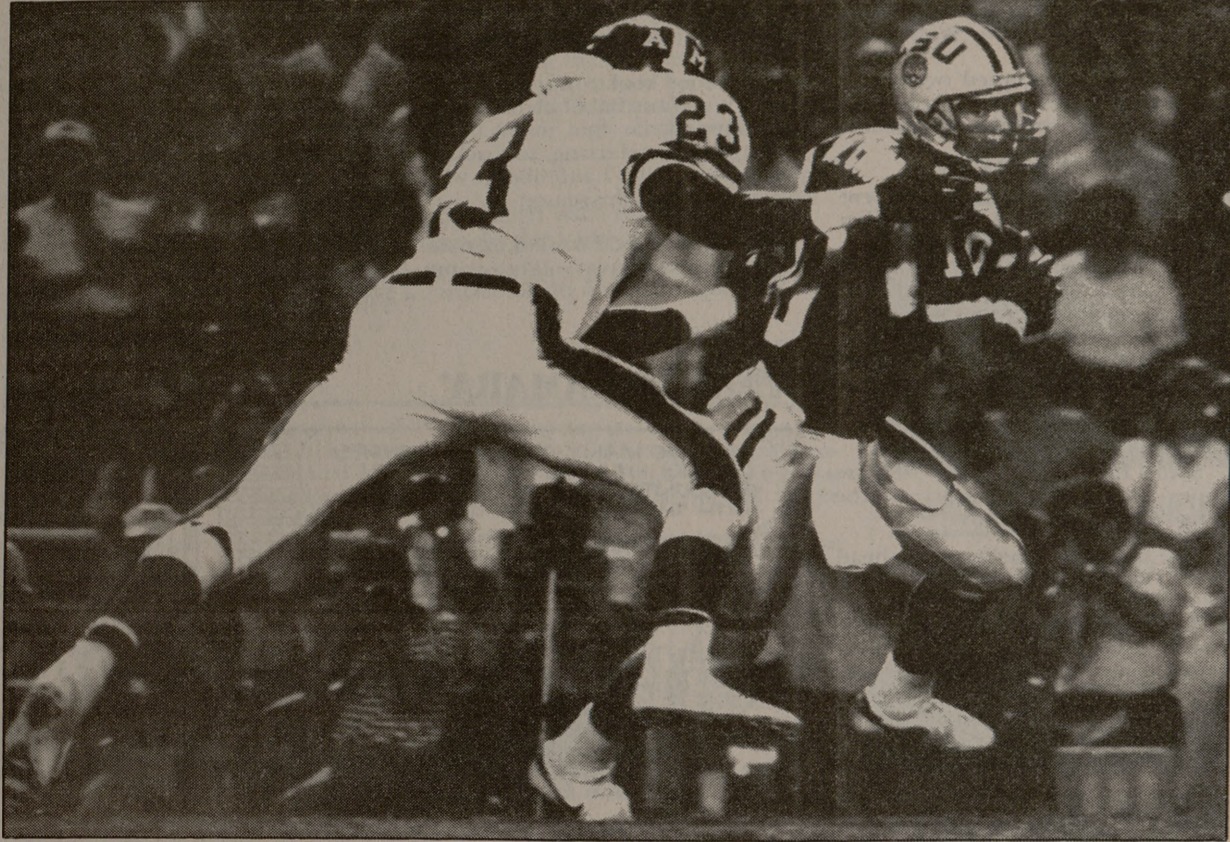
"(Breaking Green's record) would be an important accomplishment," Wallace told *The Battalion* on Sept. 5. "I've got my own goals to set, and if I can reach those goals I'll be happy."

He should be. Wallace, one of only four seniors on defense and the only returning starting linebacker from last year, is regarded as the squad's emotional leader.

"Aaron's the leader out there," said linebacker James Webb, Wallace's backup at the linebacker position. "But he's not a loud guy. He leads by example. We see the way he plays and it lifts us up."

"Seeing him make big plays wants us to play at a higher level."

Webb has been Wallace's backup probably for longer than he'd care to remember — they both played high school football at Dallas Roosevelt. After Wallace's graduation this year,



Battalion file photo

Aaron Wallace wraps up Louisiana State's 17 loss to LSU. Saturday, Wallace recorded Mickey Guidry for Sack No. 1 at A&M in a 35-17 loss to LSU. Saturday, Wallace recorded Sack No. 38 to break A&M's all-time mark.

Webb figures to step into Wallace's starting spot in 1990.

But Wallace has three more games left before he's through, and he hopes to make a big impression. Wallace has been named a candidate for the Butkus Award, given annually to the nation's top linebacker.

It's been somewhat of an off year for Wallace, who has been slowed by a nagging foot injury. Offenses have been weary of running to his side of the line, and he's found it difficult to get to the quarterback quick enough

to sack him. But he got to Hollas very quickly on Saturday to break Green's record. The sack came on the first play of the game.

He also recovered a fumble later in the game which led to a touchdown in the Aggies' 45-7 romp over the Owls.

Wallace has had a storied career at A&M. He and former Aggie linebacker John Roper formed the "Blitz Brothers" — the name given them because of the two outside line-

backer's reckless style of play.

Roper, who now plays for the NFL's Chicago Bears, holds third place on the school's all-time sack list with 36.

Wallace's play this year has inspired his defensive teammates — an unproven group at the start of the season. A&M has two redshirt freshmen starting in the defensive

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Ags move to No. 20; Irish retain top rank

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

After its 45-7 victory over Rice, Texas A&M inched up one notch in the Associated Press' college football poll. A&M, No. 21 last week, now resides at No. 20.

A&M has been in the Top 20 three times in 1989, and it is the second time this year that four Southwest Conference teams have been in the Top 25.

Arkansas, fresh off of a 45-39 win over Houston, climbed two spots to No. 11 as the Cougars fell from number 12 to 16. Although Texas was idle last weekend, the Longhorns bumped up two notches to No. 22.

However, Florida State is back where it started in the poll.

The Seminoles were sixth in the preseason rankings, but dropped out of the Top 25 after losing their first two games. However, they have won six straight and climbed back to No. 6 in Monday's poll.

Saturday's 24-10 victory over Miami moved the Seminoles up three places in the rankings. Miami fell from No. 2 to No. 7 after losing for only the second time in its last 50 regular-season games.

The victory put Florida State back into contention for a major bowl bid and probably ended Miami's bid for the national championship.

Meanwhile, Notre Dame strengthened its grip on the top spot by routing previously unbeaten Pittsburgh 45-7. The Fighting Irish, who have won 20 in a row, received a season-high 58 of 60 first-place votes from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

The other two votes went to second-ranked Colorado, whose 20-3 win over Oklahoma was its first victory in Norman since 1965. The Buffaloes are ranked

just ahead of Nebraska, which also improved to 8-0 by beating Iowa State 49-17.

The winner of Saturday's Colorado-Nebraska showdown in Boulder will probably play for the national championship in the Orange Bowl.

Michigan, which beat Indiana

AP Top 25 Poll

Team	Last Week
1. Notre Dame	1
2. Colorado	3
3. Nebraska	4
4. Michigan	5
5. Alabama	6
6. Florida St.	7
7. Miami	2
8. Illinois	8
9. Southern Cal.	10
10. Tennessee	11
11. Arkansas	13
12. Auburn	16
13. West Virginia	15
14. Pittsburgh	7
15. Arizona	17
16. Penn St.	14
17. Houston	12
18. N. Carolina St.	20
19. Florida	19
20. Texas A&M	21
21. Clemson	22
22. Texas	24
23. Brigham Young	18
24. Virginia	—
25. Fresno St.	—

38-10, is ranked fourth while Alabama, which remained undefeated by edging Penn State 17-16, is fifth. Florida State and Miami are next, followed by Illinois, Southern California and Tennessee.

Illinois stayed No. 8 after beating Wisconsin 32-9, Southern Cal rose one spot after blanking Stanford 19-0 and Tennessee went from No. 11 to No. 10 following its 45-39 victory over Louisiana State.

Arkansas leads off the Second Ten. Auburn is 12th, followed by West Virginia, Pittsburgh, Arizona, Penn State, Houston, North Carolina State, Florida and A&M.

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