

Sports

Monday, November 18, 1991

The Battalion

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Cotton Bowl taking shape

A&M moves to No. 12 with win over Hogs, 13-3

By Scott Wudel
The Battalion

Texas A&M continued its push Saturday towards the 1992 Cotton Bowl with a 13-3 victory over the Arkansas Razorbacks at Kyle Field.

A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson pushed four Arkansas defenders four yards into the end zone with 4:40 left in the third quarter to put the Aggies ahead by 10 points and eventually give them their eighth win of the season.

A&M, 8-1, and 6-0 in the Southwest Conference, ended any hopes the Razorbacks, 5-5, and 4-3 in the conference, had of going to a postseason bowl while dismissing the Hogs in their final trip to College Station as a member of the SWC.

The Aggies moved back up to No. 12 in the Associated Press Top 25 Poll released Sunday.

The Aggies need to defeat either Southern Methodist University or the University of Texas to clinch the SWC championship and guarantee A&M a trip to the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day. The Florida State Seminoles, ranked third in the nation, accepted an invitation Sunday to play in the Jan. 1 game.

Richardson rushed for 83 yards and passed Texas Marty Akins' as the SWC's all-time leading rushing quarterback.

Richardson's plunge in the third quarter gave the Aggies breathing room down the stretch.

"We were struggling to get the ball into the end zone," Richardson said. "So I tucked the ball and put my head down and tried to get into the end zone."

"As long as we're winning any personal goals are icing on the cake to me."

The Aggies had averaged more than 36 points a game before playing the Razorbacks. They had also scored on the



JAY JANNER/The Battalion

A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson escapes the grasp of Arkansas Mackenzie Phillips during A&M's 13-3 win over the Razorbacks. Richardson became the SWC's all-time leading rushing quarterback Saturday.

first possession of every game this season before Arkansas stopped the streak Saturday. A&M managed two Terry Venetoulia's field goals in the first half.

Both teams' defenses dominated the game. A&M halted the Razorbacks to a

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Seminoles accept Cotton Bowl bid

DALLAS (AP) — Florida State's fall from No. 1 was softened by an invitation to the Cotton Bowl Sunday.

Florida State (10-1) settled for the Cotton after losing to Miami 17-16 on Saturday when Gerry Thomas' 34-yard field goal attempt went wide right with 25 seconds left.

"Taking our team to the Cotton Bowl in the event of yesterday's loss was a personal preference of mine," Seminole coach Bobby Bowden said after accepting the invitation. "I really believe it will be a popular choice among our players as well."

The heartbreaking loss ended a 16-game winning streak for Florida State, which dropped from first to third in The AP Top 25. The Orange Bowl-bound Hurricanes took over the top spot, which the Seminoles had occupied all season.

The Seminoles' likely opponent on New Year's Day is 12th-ranked Texas A&M (8-1). The Aggies can clinch the Southwest Conference crown and the host spot in the Cotton for the first time since the 1987 season with a victory Saturday over Southern Methodist. SMU has lost 24 straight SWC games.

The Aggies also play Texas on Thanksgiving Day. Both games are at Kyle Field in College Station, where the Aggies are 25-1-1 against SWC teams since 1984.

The Seminoles, who have a game remaining Nov. 30 against No. 5 Florida (9-1) in Gainesville, still have an outside shot at the national title if Miami and No. 2 Washington both lose.

Florida State Athletic Director Bob

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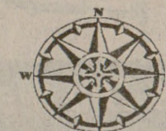
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