

Sooners pummel Red Raiders, 34-9

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK — Forget the run. Cale Gundy has 15th-ranked Oklahoma's offense looking more like the run-and-shoot.

Hiding behind an offensive line comprised of four huge underclassmen, Gundy threw for a school-record 341 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for a score as Oklahoma defeated Texas Tech 34-9 Thursday night.

Gundy completed 22 of 28 passes on the way to breaking the school yardage mark of 329 he set in a 48-14 victory over Virginia in last year's Gator Bowl.

"The numbers don't affect me

at all," Gundy said. "I care about winning 12 games this season and winning a national championship. I don't care what else happens."

Oklahoma coach Gary Gibbs promised before the season that Gundy and the pass would be the focus of his team's offense, replacing the Sooners' traditional ground attack. Gundy didn't let him down Thursday night.

"Cale played an outstanding game and did a heck of a good job changing things up when he needed to," Gibbs said.

Gibbs also lauded his offensive line which starts two freshmen and two sophomores who average more than 280 pounds.

"I thought our offensive line

did a good job of adjusting. ... They just got stronger as the game progressed," Gibbs said.

"Cale Gundy is a great quarterback," Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes said. "He made a lot of big plays tonight."

Tech safety Tracy Saul said Oklahoma's mix of long and short passes frustrated the Red Raiders.

"They threw a bunch of quick stuff and we didn't give our line a chance to get to him (Gundy)," Saul said. "I don't care who you are, it's just hard to stop that kind of passing game."

Gundy's 1-yard keeper early in the fourth quarter put the Sooners in charge at 27-9 in the teams' season opener.

Kenyon Rasheed made sure Oklahoma's once-proud ground attack wasn't forgotten, rushing 11 times for 73 yards. But in keeping with the tone of the game, his touchdown came on a pass from Gundy.

Oklahoma's defense struggled with Texas Tech's wide-open offense for much of the first half.

The Sooners grabbed the momentum with 1:40 left in the half when Aubrey Beavers broke up a pitch from Tech's Robert Hall to Byron Morris, and Reggie Barnes recovered at the Raiders 48. Four plays later, Gundy threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Earnest Williams through tight coverage for a 20-9 halftime lead.

Medrano

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serious. But in Death Valley, well, let me say dis, dad, I don't think your boys can handle it."

"Oh you think so, huh?" I said. Man, was I getting him back or what?

"In Baton Rouge, day play football like it should be played...on grass. Not that pretty

AstroTurf like you all got in dat little stadium of yuh."

"Little?" Just call me the comeback kid.

"Yeah, little," he said with a little grin which let me know I was about to get more on behalf of my beloved school. "I even heard A&M went over budget when day installed dat turf because day installed a state of deh art sprinklah system."

Cue the Clint Eastwood music.

"Well the only reason you all have natural grass is so your cheerleaders will have a place to

graze." Buh-dum-bum.

"Now I believe you ain't evah been to 'Death Valley' or you wouldn't say something like dat." He said turning away so I wouldn't notice his grin.

"But seriously, when dat Tiguh band stahts playin' 'Hold Dat Tiguh' and the crowd starts roaring, it gives ya goose bumps, daddy."

"Kind of like the Aggie War Hymn," I said with my nose in the air just daring him to compare school songs, or even bands for that matter.

Being the great friend, I even

shot a few lines of the song at him.

"I heard about dat song and dat's what I don't unduhstand about you guys, daddy. Why have a song about a school you don't care too much for? What about everyone else?"

"Phil, you don't ask questions like that, you just accept it."

If Phil wasn't such a good friend of mine, I never would've went toe to toe with him. He actually knows quite a bit about football. But LSU by 20? A sprinkler system on Kyle Field would be smarter than that.

LSU

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After one game, quarterback Jeff Granger leads the team in total offense with 158 yards and ranks as the Aggies' leading rusher with 26 yards on four carries. Tight end Greg Schorp leads A&M in receiving with four catches for 68 yards and one touchdown.

The Tigers are coming off a disappointing 1991 season in which they finished 5-6 overall and 3-4 in the Southeast Conference.

"They improved last year, and they got better every week that they played," Slocum said.

Second-year head coach Curley Hallman, a Class of '70 graduate of Texas A&M, is seeking revenge on his old alma mater. His first loss as coach came at the hands of the Aggies, who embarrassed a young Tiger team, 45-7, at Kyle Field.

"It will be tough," Slocum said. "They had their share of athletes last year. The team that we beat last year was the same team that beat us down there the year before."



The Texas A&M defense swarms around Louisiana State fullback Odell Beckham in last year's 45-7 Aggie romp at Kyle Field. Beckham, now a senior, will start against the Aggies Saturday.

Death Valley

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evenings in Baton Rouge were still less than pleasant.

"Growing up in Alabama, I followed the Southeastern Conference and was always hearing about Tiger Stadium," he said. "I was excited to play there. It was something I looked forward to. I was not in awe of it."

"But, it was still an eye-opening experience."

The eyes of the Aggies are open now as they try to break a Tiger Stadium losing streak that dates back to 1975. And although they drubbed LSU, 45-7, in College Station a year ago, that game is an-

cient history in a stadium where the fan reaction to a last-minute winning touchdown over Auburn in 1988 registered on a campus Richter scale.

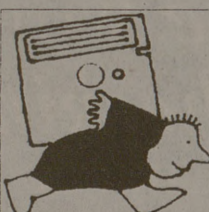
"It's one of the most imposing places around," A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said. "It's a fun place to play in, and it's great for the fans. The stadium doesn't have a track, so the fans are real close to the field."

The fun that Slocum described might be waning for the Aggies, however, as the rivalry between the two schools grows. During that 1975 season, the Aggies earned a share of the Southwest Conference championship under head coach Emory Bellard, while LSU boss Charlie McClendon endured his only losing season in 18 years in Baton Rouge.

That year marked the end of

the A&M-LSU series until 1986, when both teams ended up 9-3 after the Tigers cruised to a 35-17 victory over A&M in the season opener in Tiger Stadium.

In the current series, A&M has prevailed only twice, both times in Kyle Field against LSU squads that ended their respective seasons at 4-7 and 5-6.



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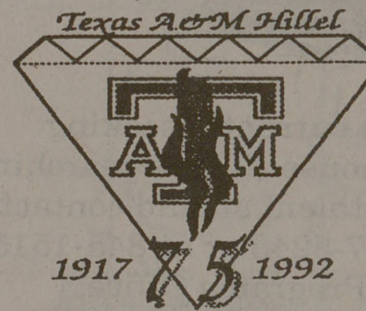
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