

Tulsa's a new team when facing A&M

Someone who watched Saturday night's game in Kyle Field should write a note to Texas A&M athletic director John David Crow and convey to him the following message: KEEP TULSA OFF OUR SCHEDULE!!!!



CHRIS WHITLEY
Sports Editor

What is the deal with these guys? Normally, a mild-mannered football team, when the Golden Hurricane takes on A&M, they play like there's no tomorrow.

Last year, after the Aggies rolled in their opening game at home and steamrolled into Tulsa with momentum, the Hurricane shocked the football world by staging a second-half comeback and upending A&M, 35-34.

For the men in maroon, it was a stinging defeat that would become their only regular season loss. It was a bitter pill to swallow.

Not this year. Miracles weren't going to happen twice. Not in Kyle Field.

After suffering the wrath of Stanford in Disneyland and Louisiana State in Death Valley, the then seventh-ranked Aggies weren't going to let their nemesis from the north steal their show again.

The fans knew it. The players knew it. Even the bookmakers, who favored the Aggies by more than three touchdowns, knew it.

But the Hurricane didn't know it Saturday. And ignorance is bliss.

The Aggie offense bumbled in the first half as they have in the two prior games. They gave up three turnovers, racked up less than 100 yards total offense and had the ball less than 11

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Aggies continue late win tradition

Wear-down tactic gives A&M 19-9 win over Tulsa

By J. DOUGLAS FOSTER

Sports Editor of THE BATTALION

During Texas A&M's 1991 Southwest Conference championship football season, the Aggies developed a pattern of jumping on opponents early and killing the clock during the second half.

In A&M's 19-9 win over Tulsa Saturday, the Aggies continued a different pattern that has become commonplace during the '92 campaign.

That tactic: Wear down the opposition and do all the scoring in the second half.

After accumulating only 95 yards in the first half, the A&M offense finally started firing on all cylinders to amass 191 yards in the second half and score the two touchdowns that would help pull out the victory.

Defensively, the Aggies never had any trouble getting started. Tulsa was only able to gain 136 yards in the first half and had even less success in the final half, gaining only 48 yards.

The biggest of the defensive stands for A&M came at the close of the second quarter, when two fumbles gave Tulsa the ball twice deep in Aggie territory.

The first drive started with the Golden Hurricane owning a first-and-goal from the A&M 10-yard line. Four plays and a five-yard penalty later, Tulsa was forced to kick a 22-yard field goal.

The second fumble produced the same results as Tulsa started at the A&M 21-yard line, and had to settle for a 40-yard field goal.

Tulsa's three scoring drives went for a combined six yards.

Junior linebacker Jason Atkinson said those two unsuccessful attempts by the Hurricane gave the Aggies the momentum they needed to take the win in the second half.

"I thought that was a major milestone, holding them out of the end zone," Atkinson said. "Sometimes bad things like fumbles are going to happen, and it all comes down to how you react to the bad things that happen."

The members of the A&M offense are



KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion

A&M fullback Doug Carter cuts the turf during the Aggies' first scoring drive in A&M's 19-9 win over Tulsa Saturday. Carter left the game in the second quarter with a sprained ankle and didn't return the rest of the game.

quick to point out that during the first three games of the season, it has been the famed 'Wrecking Crew' that has given the Aggies the chance to wear down opponents and grab the victory at the end of the game.

"Texas A&M is always going to have

great defenses," sophomore tailback Greg Hill said. "It seems like sometimes the offense struggles, but the defense never struggles."

"The defense is the reason we won this game," sophomore quarterback Jeff

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Buckley, Frazier becoming big-play specialists

By DON NORWOOD

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

The big play is the hallmark of an intimidating, big-time defense. From Tommy Nobis to Hugh Green to Steve Emtman, the torch has been passed over and over again as the great college defenses have separated themselves from the weak and forgotten.

For Texas A&M, the last few years have seen them fulfill the expectations that are inherent in featuring a defense called the "Wrecking Crew." Every week, there are a select few that step up and make a difference, batting down a key pass or stopping a runner just inches from a first down.

Saturday against Tulsa, it was simply Marcus Buckley and Derrick Frazier's turn.

The important statistic for senior outside linebacker Buckley, who has made a habit of taking control of games, was not his seven tackles, but the fact that four of them were for losses totaling 19 yards.

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As for cornerback and fellow senior Frazier, his third interception in as many games was merely a timely reward for a game that saw he and his secondary mates effectively shut down the Tulsa passing game.

"The big plays are what you expect from your seniors," A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said. "They've been there before and they know how to handle pressure and make the big plays."

"That's why coaches put such a premium on their senior players."

Buckley turned in what became one of the most important plays of the game with 8:25 left in the first

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■ Terri Girvan Shires (B.S., Chemical Engineering, Texas A&M University, 1989)

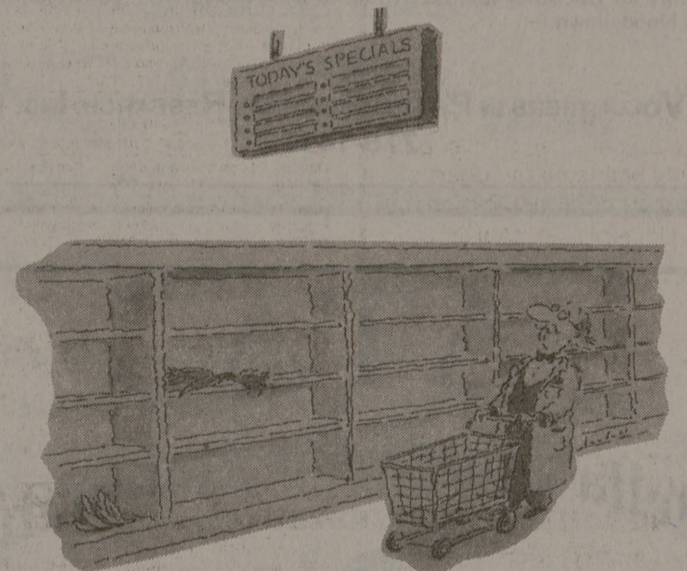
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