

SPORTS

Monday, October 5, 1992

The Battalion

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Final drive puts Aggies in elite ranks of football

With 5:19 left in Saturday's game, Texas Tech kicker Jon Davis ran to the Red Raiders' sideline, celebrating his field goal which put Tech ahead of Texas A&M 17-16.



STEVE O'BRIEN
Sports Writer

Across the field, the Aggie offense was preparing to take the field in a last ditched effort to win — to beat the Red Raiders on the scoreboard, knowing they had beaten them on the field.

Play after play. Series after series. Tech had played an inspired, courageous game, but they were outplayed.

The Aggie offensive line, led by junior guard Tyler Harrison, center Chris Dausin, and senior guard John Ellis who was returning from a knee injury, crammed the nation's best running attack down Tech's throat.

But the Aggies had been inconsistent throughout the game, and inconsistent play by a good team doesn't guarantee a win. It only promises that the game will be in reach near the end.

And for the Aggies, it was. So with five minutes left, after Davis' celebration had ended and A&M received the kickoff, quarterback Jeff Granger slipped his helmet over his head, snapped his chinstrap down and ran out onto the field. Behind him was a battered and bruised Aggie offense that had put up 387 yards of offense with only 16 points to show for it.

The Red Raiders had put up 293 yards of offense and had the lead. Starting on their own 20, the Aggies needed 80 yards. Eighty yards to stay in the Cotton Bowl race. Eighty yards to keep their ranking as the fifth best team in the country.

Eighty yards. Somehow, they did it.

The Aggies, in what has become a

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Aggies give Red Raiders the boot

A&M takes win from Texas Tech in final seconds

By DON NORWOOD
Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

Alfred Hitchcock was known as the master of suspense. But he would not have had anything on the storyline of Texas A&M's 1992 football season.

The Aggies added another chapter to the story of the comeback football team Saturday against Texas Tech at Kyle Field.

In the final play of the game, A&M place-kicker Terry Venetoulis might not have been kicking into a wind blowing north by northwest, but he did his best cool, Cary Grant imitation by nailing a 21-yard field goal to pull out the Aggies' 19-17 win over the Red Raiders.

A&M's first Southwest Conference win of the season was, to quote a line from a less-Hitchcockian movie, 100 percent pure adrenaline. With four lead changes in the second half alone, 381 yards rushing from the Aggies and 228 yards passing by Tech's Robert Hall, there might have been more than a few accelerated heartbeats.

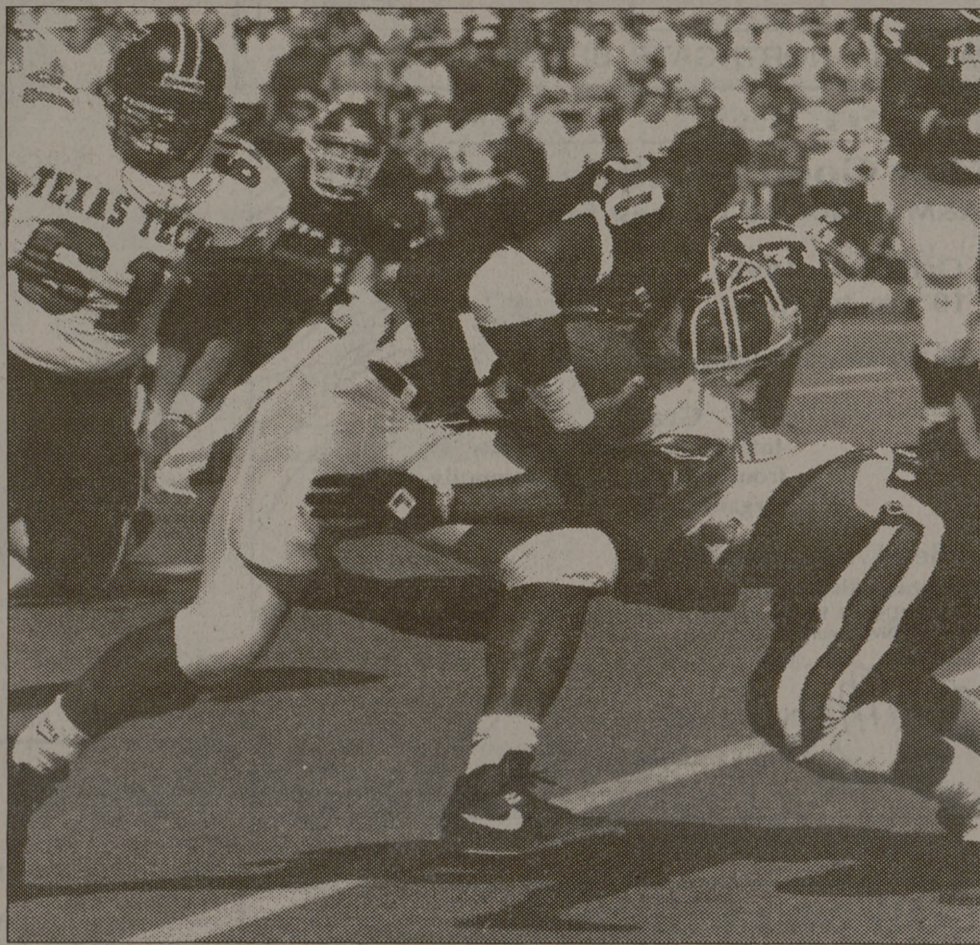
The Aggies final drive epitomized the high drama of a win that raised their record to 5-0, preserving their national championship hopes. Quarterback Jeff Granger shrugged off the weight of his critics' doubts in that drive, leading the Aggies 80 yards in just five minutes to set up Venetoulis' field goal.

The scariest point of the drive came at third down and eight yards to go at the Tech 42, when Granger slipped out of Tech defensive end Dusty Beavers' grasp to hit tight end Greg Schorp for a 13-yard first down reception.

Although Venetoulis' field goal was obviously the most crucial play of the game, Granger's Houdini act in escaping Beavers was a close second, as A&M head coach R.C. Slocum was quick to admit afterward.

"I was really proud of Jeff in that situation," Slocum said. "He's made some key plays in tough situations (this year)."

"I think a drive like that gives you confidence for the entire year that if you get in that situation again, you can do it," A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said. "If you don't do it there, then when you get in that situation again down the road, your kids don't believe you can do it."



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

A&M running back Rodney Thomas lowers his head to break a tackle from a Texas Tech defender during the Aggies' 19-17 win over the Red Raiders. Thomas had his best day as an Aggie, running for 179 yards on 24 carries.

"But our kids right now believe that we can win in the fourth quarter and we can win in the final drive, and that's half the battle."

Granger himself described his completion to Schorp matter-of-factly, which is pretty much the same manner in which he performed the play.

"I took a step and I felt some pressure from the back side, so I started to move up in the pocket and the next thing I know I almost went down," Granger said. "It was good to see Greg Schorp right there. He was wide open and there was nobody around him. I threw a strike to him and he turned around and got first down yardage."

"That was the biggest offensive play of the game, I think, because the game was on the line and it was a crucial situation."

Tech coach Spike Dykes grudgingly echoed Granger's assessment of the play.

"We had a chance for a sack on third down, but give Granger credit - he made a great play," Dykes said.

"I think Granger did a good job for them. He made the plays when they needed them."

For the most part however, Granger's primary job against Tech was to hand off to running backs Greg Hill and Rodney Thomas and watch them trip the light fantastic. The former continued his return to the glory he enjoyed a year ago, rushing for 141 yards before leaving the game late with a minor groin injury.

And Thomas enjoyed the best game of his short college career, carrying the ball 24 times for 179 yards, including a key, 22-yard touchdown to put the Aggies up 16-14 in the fourth quarter.

The duo's output on the ground

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Venetoulis bounces back after miss

By MICHAEL PLUMER
Sports writer of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M place-kicker Terry Venetoulis, in a brief fifteen minute span, went from being the fall guy to the player that heightened the Aggies' chance for a possible national championship in 1992.

The junior kicker missed an extra point in the fourth quarter in Saturday's game but rebounded with a game winning kick on the last play of the game that gave the Aggies a 19-17 victory over the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

While watching A&M embark on its game winning drive, Venetoulis was hoping for a chance to gain redemption. He said he wanted to show Texas A&M fans that he was better than his last extra point attempt.

"That was great," Venetoulis said. "I accept a challenge like that, I want a challenge like that, I like a challenge like that."

"I take the last second field goal the same as the first quarter field goal. It's all the same kick."

"If it comes down to it for me to win the game with a field goal, I prepare in practice each week to make it."

On the sideline before a kick that would extend A&M's winning streak to 14 straight regular season games, Venetoulis said he was trying to keep his focus on the upcoming field goal attempt and not worry about his past indiscretions.

"I'm not telling myself 'God, I have to make this,' because I'll send myself to a nuthouse if I start thinking like that," Venetoulis said. "I know what I did wrong, I know where I messed up on the missed extra point so I had to make the adjustment come back and make the next one."

"It's part of life. You have to overcome big obstacles and true champions always come back."

Venetoulis did admit that his

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Fall Workshops

SPECIAL INTEREST

Plan Your Own Wedding

Tues. Oct 6 - 27
6-8pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Bike Maintenance

Tues. Oct 13 - Nov 3
7-9pm (6-10pm last class)
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Low Cost, No Cost Energy Efficiency

Tues. Oct 13
7-8:30pm
Tues. Nov 17
7-8:30pm
No fee for class. Be sure to register.

Billiards

Sat. Oct 24 - Nov 21
11am-1pm
\$28/student \$33/nonstudent

Star Gazing

T/Th. Oct 6 - 29
7:30-10:30pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

How to Purchase a Diamond

Wed. Oct 7 - 21
7-8pm
\$14/student \$19/nonstudent

Writing Children's Books

Thurs. Oct 22 - Nov 12
6-9pm
\$33/student \$38/nonstudent

Electronics

Wed. Oct 7, 14, 21, 28
6:30-9:30pm
\$24/student \$29/nonstudent

POTTERY

Beginning Pottery

M/W, Oct 5 - Oct 21
5-7pm
M/W, Oct 5 - Oct 21
7:30-9:30pm

Sat. Oct 3 - Oct 31

9:30am-12noon
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Advanced Pottery

Wheel Throwing
M/W, Nov 2 - Nov 18
7:30-9:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

COMPUTERS

Intro to Mac

Sat. Oct 10
9-12am

Intro to DOS/IBM PC

M/W, Oct 5, 7, 12
7-9pm

Windows

T/W, Oct 13, 14
6-7:30pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

Lotus 1 2 3

M/W, Nov 3 - Nov 19
7-9pm
\$45/student \$50/nonstudent

WordPerfect 5.1

T/Th. Oct 20 - Nov 5
7-9pm

LANGUAGES

Chinese

M/W, Oct 5 - Nov 11
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Japanese II

M/W, Oct 26 - Dec 9
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

English as a 2nd Language (ESL)

M/Th. Oct 26 - Nov 23
6-7:30pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Russian

M/W, Oct 5 - Nov 11
6:30-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Sign Language II

M/W, Oct 19 - Nov 18
6-8pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Spanish II

T/Th. Nov 3 - Dec 10
8-9:30pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Register Now
MSC Basement
845-1631



SELF HELP

Be Assertive

Thurs. Oct 22 - Nov 12
7:30-9pm
\$17/nonstudent

First Aid

T/Th. Oct 6 - 15
6-8pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

CPR

T/Th. Oct 6, 8
6-10pm
M/W, Nov 2, 4
6-10pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

BUSINESS

Job Interviewing

T/Th. Oct 20 - 29
6:30-8pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

GRE Success

MTWTh. Oct 19 - Nov 5
7:30-9:30pm
\$70/student \$75/nonstudent

Tools for Success

Thurs. Oct 8 - Nov 5
7-8:30pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

DANCE

Adv. C&W Dance

Wed. Oct 28 - Nov 18
6-7:15pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Ballroom Dancing I

Tues. Sept 22 - Oct 27
7:15-8:30pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

Ballroom Dancing II

Tues. Nov 3 - 24
7:15-9pm
\$18/student \$23/nonstudent

Beginning Jitterbug

Mon. Oct 12 - Nov 9
6-7pm
Mon. Oct 12 - Nov 9
7:15-8:15pm

Woodworking I

M/W, Oct 13 - 22
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Woodworking II

T/Th. Nov 3 - 12
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Adv. Woodworking

Sun. Nov 8 - 22
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

MUSIC

Suzuki Strings II

Mon. Oct 26 - Nov 23
6:30-8pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Voice Training

Tues. Oct 20 - Nov 10
6-9pm
\$16/student \$21/nonstudent

Music Appreciation

Thurs. Oct 8 - 29
8-9:30pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

THREADS

Hand Quilting

Wed. Oct 7 - 28
6-8pm
\$16/student \$21/nonstudent

Sewing II

Mon. Oct 19 - Nov 16
6-9pm
\$35/student \$40/nonstudent

Smocking

Mon. Oct 19 - Nov 9
6-9pm
\$22/student \$27/nonstudent

Puppet Making

Thurs. Oct 8 - 29
6-9pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

ARTS & CRAFTS

Stained Glass

Wed. Oct 7 - Nov 4
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Leaded Glass

Mon. Oct 26 - Nov 23
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Potpourri

Tues. Oct 20
6-9pm
\$12/student \$17/nonstudent

Cake Decorating

Thurs. Oct 22 - Nov 12
6-8pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent

Painting II

Thurs. Oct 22 - Nov 19
6:30-9:30pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Drawing II

Tues. Oct 20 - Nov 17
6-8pm
\$20/student \$25/nonstudent

Woodworking I

M/W, Oct 13 - 22
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Woodworking II

T/Th. Nov 3 - 12
6-9pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

Adv. Woodworking

Sun. Nov 8 - 22
6-8pm
\$30/student \$35/nonstudent

PHOTOGRAPHY

Beg. B&W Darkroom

Thurs. Oct 22, 29 Nov 5
6-9pm
\$25/ \$30/nonstudent

Beginning Photography

Mon. Oct 6 - 27
6-9pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

Matting & Framing

Tues. Nov 3 - 17
6-8pm
\$25/student \$30/nonstudent

VCR and Camcorder

Thurs. Oct 29, Nov 5, 12, 19
7-9pm
\$15/student \$20/nonstudent