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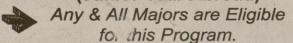
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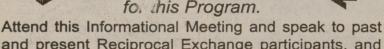


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# Freshman Pullig steps in as Aggies' leader

By K. LEE DAVIS

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

Freshman quarterback Corey Pullig found out one and one half before game time that he would start Saturday against the Louisville Cardinals.

Pullig said he was ready. And his performance showed it.

Starter or backup, that's not my decision, I just try to go out and try to get better each week and let the coaches decide who starts," Pullig said.

Sophomore Jeff Granger, who had started every previous game during Texas A&M's undefeated season, did not start because he had not practiced most of the week after suffering a mild con-cussion last week against Southern Methodist.

When Pullig was pulled from the game in the fourth quarter to allow Granger some playing time, he had led his team to 33 points, more than any Aggie quarterback

Pullig ended up completing 14 of 22 passes for 128 yards with one touchdown and no intercep-

"He (Pullig) is a pretty cool customer," A&M head coach R. C. Slocum said.

Pullig played so well in fact that he had several coaches and players comparing him to another A&M quarterback that made a major impact as a true freshman, Bucky Richardson.

'He looked like ol' Bucky for a while there," A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said. "Corey's going to be an outstand-ing quarterback before he's done

here,"
Slocum said that he was not concerned with putting Pullig into the role of starter against the Car-

"I have never been concerned about playing a young player," Slocum said. "I'm more concerned with the emotional maturity of a player."

Sophomore right tackle Jason Mathews also noted similarities between Pullig and the quarter-back that led the Aggies to an undefeated Southwest Conference season and a Cotton Bowl berth

last year.

"He came into the huddle like
Bucky and said, 'Give me some time and I'll complete this pass,"
Mathews said. "It was kind of shocking, but when he's doing as well as he doesn't matter."

Senior right guard John Ellisor also said the best is yet to come

for Pullig.

"He (Pullig) is a great athlete
and he is going to end up being a
really special player," Ellisor said.

Ellisor added that whether Pullig or Granger plays, his mission and that of his offensive line mates stays the same.

'We don't care one way or another who starts, just as long as one of them is hot and getting it done, because we're going to block for both of them," Ellisor

Pullig took little credit for moving the offense on Saturday, suggesting that his supporting cast was the difference in the game.

"It's really easy to complete passes when the offensive line is keeping guys off of you, and the receivers are so wide open," Pul-

A&M quarterback Corey Pullig (4) delivers a pass over the offensive line during the Aggies' 40-18 win over Louisville Saturday. Pullig started for the first time against the Cardinals, going 14-for-22 for 128 yards with one touchdown.

lig said. "The offense in general is clicking a little bit better now, and the coaches did a great job of calling plays, so it made it a little

Mathews added that while Pullig may have played well Saturday, he will be treated the same as

before at practice on Monday. 'We're not cutting him any slack," Mathews laughed. "He's still a freshman, we'll just promote him on gameday

As for who will be the starting quarterback for the Aggies Thursday against the University of

"It's not in my best interest to name a starter at this time," Slocum said.

## Whitley

**Continued From Page 5** 

19, started for the first time against Louisville and promptly took charge.

He completed 14 of 22 passes for 128 yards, including a six-yarder to Brian Mitchell for the first score of the game. But more than that, Pullig scrambled under pressure and gained yardage in clutch situations just like Bucky did so many times before. Pullig ran for three first downs, one of them a 12-yard jaunt on a thirdand-11 to keep a crucial scoring drive alive.

The offense played so well that some were actually criticizing the defense after giving up 12 points at the half. Those criticisms, however, were quickly put to rest in the second half when it totally shut out the Cardinals in total offense

The offense played so well that Louisville head coach Howard Schnellenberger gave the Aggies the type of praise that no opposing coach has given this

free offense," Schnellenberger said. He ought to know. He won a national title at Miami with the ultimate souped-up offense.

So now the Aggies take their blessings and head to the Astrodome in Houston, where in three days, they take on the Cougars.

Enter the Lord again. In a true form of heavenly inof poetic justice, Southern Methodist University garnered revenge over its greatest foe. After suffering the humiliation of a 95-21 defeat against Houston in 1989, the Mustangs returned the 1989, the Mustangs returned the favor with a 41-16 drubbing Saturday in Dallas.

The freshmen who remembered that horrible day three years ago are now seniors who felt vindicated with the win. And for a football program whose status will be in the balance when the school decides its fate on Dec. 4, the faces of those players do a lot for its cause.

And God saw that it was

If you still are not a true believer, you need not look any further than Fort Worth. Even the most devout Bible-thumpers didn't give Texas Christian a the fifth-ranked team in the coun-"They played flawless, error- chance against the anti-Christs of try was Rice.

Texas. After all, Longhorns have been beating Frogs ever since 1967. Texas came into the game looking solid, and TCU came in quivering like Jell-O.

But somehow, the Frogs prevailed, 23-14.

Peter Gardere was mincemeat for TCU's new, improved "Purple People Eater" defense. He fell victim to three interceptions and seven sacks for losses totaling 42 yards.

The win was a shot in the arm for new TCU head coach Pat Sullivan, whose job might have been saved with the win. It also gave the fans at Amon Carter their first opportunity to see a home victory over Texas since Eisenhower was president.

And God saw that it was

In Houston, the same Rice team that was blown off Kyle Field a scant three weeks ago de-molished Texas Tech, 34-3. As with Sullivan, Rice's win might have given a reprieve to Rice head man Fred Goldsmith.

It also marked the first time that Rice, SMU and TCU each won Southwest Conference games on the same day since November 12, 1949! On that day,

Forty-three years later, Texas A&M can gladly give up its No. 5 spot to assume a position one step higher. After sitting for what seems like forever at the fifth-ranked spot and watching three teams jump ahead of them during that time, the Aggies finally made it to the final four.

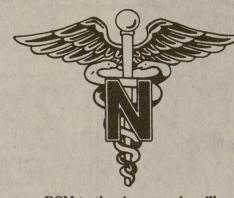
But that only happened after another miracle in Tucson. Washington managed only a field goal in its 16-3 loss to 12th-ranked Arizona, dropping the Huskies to sixth and moving everyone else up one.

Now, the only thing separat-

ing A&M from a national championship rendezvous with Miami is Alabama. Alabama would draw Miami toward the Sugar Bowl if the Tide stayed at No. 2 to set up a title showdown.

That's why the congregation of Aggies need the Lord to perform another miracle next week in Starkville, Miss. If former A&M coach Jackie Sherrill can work his Mississippi State magic against 'Bama, then the men in maroon can win all of its games and set the stage for a Cotton Bowl to decide the national championship on New Year's And God would see that as

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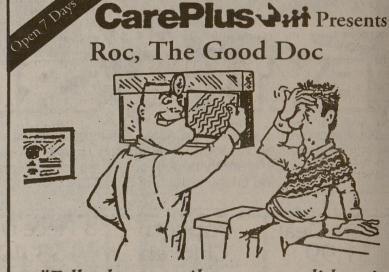
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