

Successful title defense earned with hard work

It was a boring game at Kyle Field Saturday until about ten minutes left in the second quarter. The pouring rain and the lifeless play had taken what little enthusiasm there was out of the air.

But then, suddenly, the scoreboard drew the attention away from the field. It flashed with good news from Waco - better than any Aggie fans had seen all year long.



CHRIS WHITLEY
Sports Editor

BAYLOR 21
TEXAS 20

The 55,086 drenched spectators sang in amazement that our Baptist brethren up the highway had done their part. Even the Texas Christian fans were cheering.

After that, the Aggies needed only to demolish TCU, 37-10, to seal their repeat of a Southwest Conference crown and keep their undefeated season and their dream of a national championship alive.

So start making your reservations. We're going back to Dallas.

"We came through, and it's very gratifying," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum, who already has as many championship rings as Mr. T. "It's been a goal of ours, and it's extremely hard to do. You're fighting human nature when you repeat as champions."

And he couldn't be more right. Last year, it seemed like the Aggies walked over everyone and everything to reach their prize. Their schedule was laced with blowouts, games that were no longer in doubt at halftime. This year, they had to earn it. And

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Aggies reign supreme

Win over TCU, Texas loss gives A&M second-straight SWC title

By K. LEE DAVIS

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

When the 1992 football season started, A&M head coach R.C. Slocum's stated goals were to win the Southwest Conference and get back to the Cotton Bowl.

After destroying the Texas Christian University Horned Frogs 37-10 Saturday, Slocum's goals were realized, leaving him with the dreams of an undefeated season and a shot at the national title.

Greg Hill carried the ball time after time to bury the Horned Frogs, gaining 187 yards on 25 attempts with one touchdown for the game.

Hill downplayed his performance, but also said that he and the rest of his running mates could have done more under better conditions.

"The only thing I control is when I get the ball and make some yards," Hill said. "We came out in the first half and were just inches away from popping some big runs."

"In the second half we really took control and won the game."

After the game, Hill was quick to point out he didn't think the fourth-ranked Aggies were rated high enough in the Associated Press Top 25 poll.

"You saw the number one, number two or number three team in the country out there today," Hill said. "You did not see the number four team in the country play."

Sophomore Rodney Thomas added 69 yards on 14 carries and two touchdowns as six Aggies combined to gain 341 yards on 58 attempts.

Considering the Aggies gained a total of 447 yards, the game was won first and foremost in the trenches.

A&M offensive lineman John Ellisor pointed to a gambling TCU defense as the reason for the Aggies' running success.

"TCU's defense was taking a lot of chances with some blitzes," Ellisor said.

"You just can't play like that against an A&M offense."

Starting quarterback Corey Pullig completed 8 of 20 passes for 106 yards and one touchdown as he steadily led the team through a wet, cold and windy night of football.

Hill credited Pullig and former starter Jeff Granger with taking the Aggies to their second consecutive conference championship.

"I always say that the best thing about your quarterback is their record," Hill said. "We've had two quarterbacks, and they are both 11-0."

"He (Pullig) will push you to the point where he makes it happen," Hill added. "He is a quarterback who knows how to run the ship."

"That's the sign of a leader." Pullig said that the Aggies had more than just themselves to thank for their 14th consecutive conference victory.

"The Lord is watching over us," Pullig said. "He is really taking care of us, that's all I can say."

The Horned Frogs managed to keep the game close for the first half of the contest thanks in large part to a slippery field that caused A&M cornerback Derrick Frazier to slip down and miss the tackle on a routine slant-in pattern thrown from Leon Clay to Jimmy Oliver.

The 63-yard touchdown pass pulled TCU to within three points of A&M with 3:06 left in the half, but A&M place-kicker Terry Venetoulis extended the A&M lead to 13-7 with a 21-yard field goal just before halftime.

Slocum gave credit to TCU head coach Pat Sullivan for having a well prepared team ready to face the Aggies.

"I think Pat Sullivan did a great job, they were a well coached team," Slocum said.

But the Aggies reeled of 24 unanswered points in the second half to salt the game away.

The Horned Frogs scored on a field



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

A&M defensive lineman Eric England chases Texas Christian running back Curtis Modkins as Modkins slips on the wet turf. England and the Aggies defeated the Horned Frogs 37-10 to win their second-straight SWC title.

goal late in the fourth quarter to round out the scoring in the game.

Slocum attributed the close first-half margin to teams raising their level of play in an attempt to defeat the defending conference champions.

"Because we're the defending champion."

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