

SPORTS

Aggies a perfect 12-0, but still can't get past No. 4

Next stop for undefeated A&M: Mobil Cotton Bowl

By K. LEE DAVIS

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M and the University of Texas play a football game against one another every season, for bragging rights, respect, and quite often, a conference championship.

With the conference championship already in hand, the Aggies at least earned bragging rights last Thursday after a 34-13 drubbing of the Longhorns in Austin.

However, respect, in the form of moving up in the Associated Press poll, was not granted. In fact, the Aggies, who stayed at No. 4 for the fourth week in a row, lost ground to No. 3 Florida State.

A&M finished the regular season at 12-0 for the first time in school history and could win as many games (13) as any single team has done in major college football history. Nebraska finished 13-0 in 1971 on the way to winning a national championship, and Brigham Young University matched that feat in 1984.

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum

said he was pleased that the Aggies' win over Texas fulfilled their goal of going through their schedule without a loss, a feat that even Slocum was skeptical about achieving.

"Finishing the year unbeaten was something we really wanted to do," Slocum said. "I really didn't think we could go undefeated, and if I would have said so, somebody would have had me committed."

On an evening fraught with many emotions, the mood of the Aggies was perhaps best represented by defensive tackle Eric England.

"Winning here in Austin is something to be proud of," England said. "This team has a lot of poise and character. We've shown that all season, and we proved it again tonight."

Texas head coach John Mackovic was quick to credit the Aggies after losing by a three-touchdown margin Thursday night.

"I think A&M has an excellent chance to win the national championship this season," Mackovic said.

Unfortunately for the Aggies,

the sports writers that comprise the rankings will probably never give them that chance.

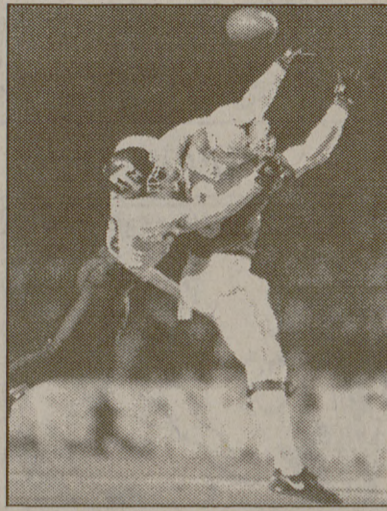
As things currently stand, No. 1 Miami would play against No. 2 Alabama in the Sugar Bowl, and the Aggies would more than likely play No. 3 Florida State in the Cotton Bowl.

Only Alabama has a game left to play this season, so even if they were to lose, a likely matchup for a national championship would never materialize as the Hurricanes and the Seminoles would face each other for the second time this season at the Fiesta Bowl in Arizona. Florida State lost to Miami, 19-16.

Slocum said that he hopes that the pollsters will give his team a chance.

"I would hope that if Alabama did stumble that the pollsters would decide to give us a chance at the national championship," he said.

A&M cornerback Aaron Glenn, who returned an interception 95 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter, said that the Aggies are ready to play whoever gets invited to the Cotton Bowl to



KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion



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A&M cornerback Aaron Glenn breaks up an attempted pass to Texas' Lovell Pinkney (left) during the fourth quarter of the Aggies' 34-13 win over the Longhorns Thanksgiving night, then celebrates the play (right). The win secured A&M's perfect 12-0 season, but the Aggies remained ranked fourth, and actually lost ground in points on third-ranked Florida State.

face them.

"We're not just a regular team," he said. "I think we could go out there and beat anyone in the nation right now."

Glenn added that he was not

really happy that A&M is behind Florida State in the AP poll.

"We're 12-0 and they've lost a game, so that speaks for itself, but

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AP Top 25

Rank	Team	Record	Pts	Pvs
1.	Miami	11-0-0	1,549	1
2.	Alabama	11-0-0	1,479	2
3.	Florida St.	10-1-0	1,417	3
4.	Texas A&M	12-0-0	1,382	4
5.	Notre Dame	9-1-1	1,291	5
6.	Syracuse	9-2-0	1,151	8
7.	Michigan	8-0-3	1,149	7
8.	Georgia	9-2-0	1,089	9
9.	Colorado	9-1-1	996	10
10.	Washington	9-2-0	988	11
11.	Nebraska	8-2-0	943	12
12.	Florida	8-3-0	860	6
13.	N. C. St.	9-2-1	859	13
14.	Stanford	9-3-0	819	14
15.	Ohio St.	8-2-1	702	15
16.	Boston Coll.	8-2-1	570	17
17.	Tennessee	8-3-0	514	18
18.	Wash. St.	8-3-0	415	21
19.	Mississippi	8-3-0	398	24
20.	N. Carolina	8-3-0	396	20
21.	Penn St.	7-4-0	293	22
22.	Arizona	6-4-1	230	23
23.	USC	6-4-1	203	19
24.	Miss. St.	7-4-0	199	16
25.	BYU	8-4-0	138	25

Others receiving votes: Hawaii 61, Bowling Green 33, Kansas 10, Southern Mississippi 5, Virginia 3, Wake Forest 3, Illinois 2, Air Force 1, Fresno State 1, Rutgers 1.

Attention poll voters: Stop giving Aggies the shaft

This is an urgent plea to every sports writer and broadcaster privileged enough to have a vote in the Associated Press college football poll. Give Texas A&M a break. For the first time since Franklin Roosevelt was president, the Aggies have managed to go through the



CHRIS WHITLEY Sports Editor

regular season without losing. They've played more games than anyone else in America, and they've won more games than anyone else in America.

They've traveled to Anaheim to play Stanford, whom you have ranked 14th, and won. They've traveled to Death Valley, one of the toughest sites in America to play, to tackle Louisiana State and won. They've played Baylor, not only a tough rival but also a John Hancock Bowl participant, and won.

They've played Louisville, who contended with the likes of No. 6 Syracuse and No. 15 Ohio State, and beat them by a more decisive margin than the Orange-men or the Buckeyes did. They've traveled to the "House of Pain" to play the

University of Houston, who had the top-ranked offense in the country during the season, and won.

And now, they've gone to the belly of the beast to play the University of Texas, A&M's archrival and a team that you guys put on your list twice, and won... handily.

Twelve times the Aggies were challenged. Twelve times the Aggies prevailed.

Yet for all their accomplishments, all their accolades, the supreme beings of the college football world still refuse to accept Texas A&M as a football power worthy of being in the top three in the nation and even considered for a national title. It is a travesty of justice.

The question is not why the Aggies have no chance to win the national championship. The question is why the Aggies have no chance to play for the national championship.

If A&M played No. 1 Miami in the Cotton Bowl Classic on New Year's Day or played the winner of the Sugar Bowl between Miami and No. 2 Alabama, and the Aggies were trounced in either matchup, then you voters could put A&M wherever you want, and you wouldn't hear a peep out of me.

But the way it is now, the only way the Aggies could even hope to be No. 1 is if Florida beats Alabama, and Florida State finds out that it had an ineligible player for eleven weeks.

So A&M, if Alabama stays undefeated, will more than likely play Florida State in the Cotton Bowl. If the Aggies win, they will be the only team in the history of college football to be undefeated in 13 games and not win the national championship.

And you guys would have to deal with the guilt.

I understand the rap with the Aggies earlier in the season was that they were winning games over mild opposition by small margins. At one point this season, I couldn't have agreed more. They were winning unimpressively, no mistake about that.

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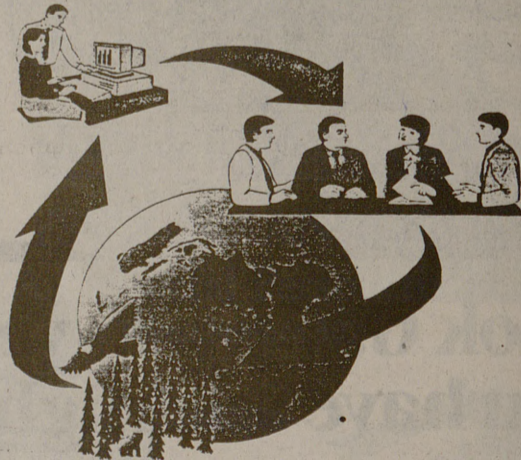
501	MW	12:40-1:30 p.m.	HECC 202
502	MW	1:50-2:40 p.m.	FRAN 206
503	MW	3:00-3:50 p.m.	HECC 202
504	MW	4:10-5:00 p.m.	FRAN 153
505	TR	12:45-1:35 p.m.	Commons Lobby Multipurpose Room
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