

# SPORTS

Monday, September 13, 1993

THE BATTALION

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## Big 8 defuses SWC chances for respect

**N**ORMAN, OK - During the late 1960s, the University of Texas head coach Darrell Royal often made his feelings known about the preferential treatment teams like Notre Dame received from members of the associated press. Royal had quite a few good Longhorn teams back in those days and he felt his squad, as well as teams like the University of Arkansas and Texas A&M University, should get a little recognition for their abilities on a national basis.

**J. DOUGLAS FOSTER**  
Guest Columnist

Royal, who coached for 20 seasons at Texas and had a team that won 30 straight games at one time, had often said it would never be easy for a team from his league to get enough votes to be the national champion.

Royal once even went so far as to say that if a Southwest Conference team was going to win the national title, that team would have to go undefeated and Notre Dame would have to lose two games.

More than 20 years later, A&M head coach R.C. Slocum was probably feeling the same way after his A&M squad went 12-0 through the 1992 regular season, yet had climbed only as high as number 4 in the AP poll.

But after watching Slocum's Aggies get beaten all over the field by the University of Oklahoma Saturday, it looks as if it would take a lot more than two Notre Dame losses for the voters to place a SWC team in the top spot.

It seems many of us around these parts, myself included, felt the Aggies

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## A&M blown-out big at Oklahoma

Players blame selves after 44-14 trouncing

By Michael Plumer

THE BATTALION

**N**ORMAN, OK - Last week, the Texas A&M football team talked about the chance they had to make a national statement with a win over the Oklahoma Sooners.

A statement was made, but it was not by the Aggies.

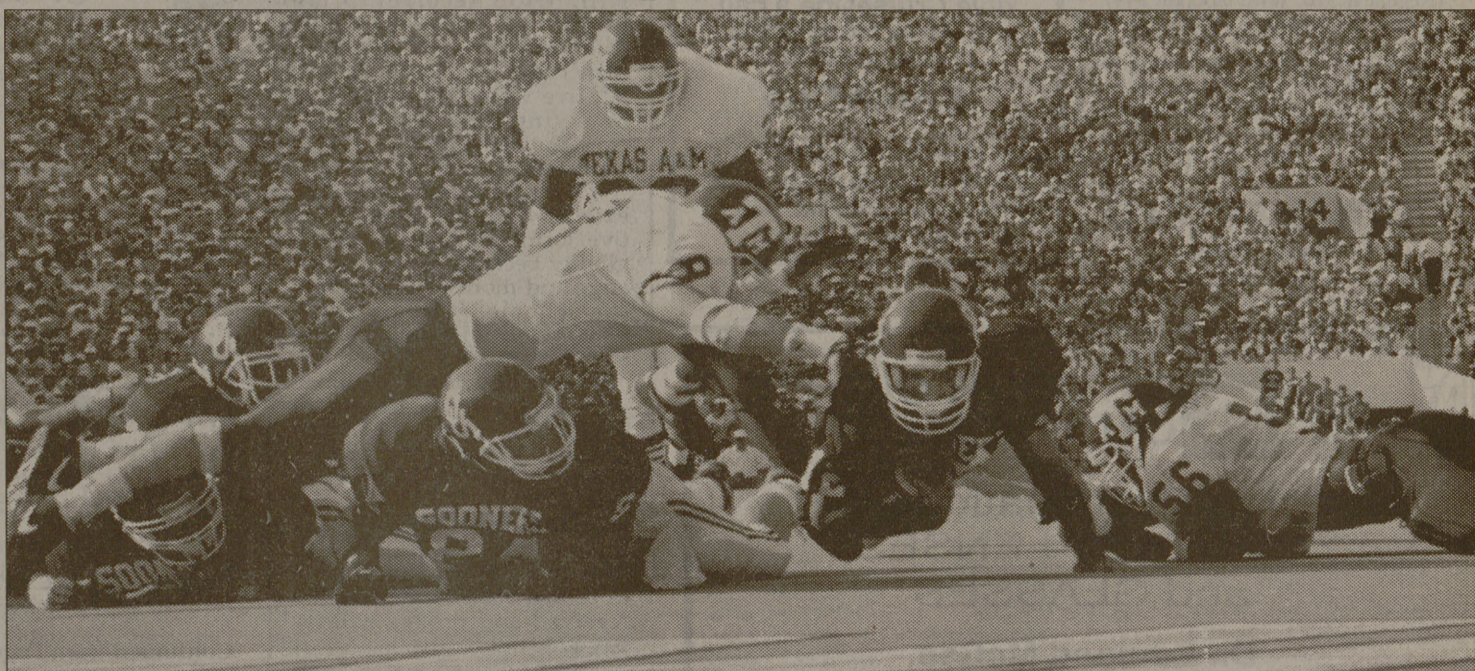
Seventeenth-ranked Oklahoma (2-0) walloped the fifth-ranked Aggies 44-14 on Saturday before 68,211 people at Memorial Stadium, putting an emphatic end to A&M's 22-game regular-season winning streak.

The Aggies drop to 1-1 for the season. "We had a chance to make a statement," A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "We probably made a statement, but it was the wrong one. OU stopped us dramatically and it was a thorough win for them."

A&M's offense sputtered for most of the game under the direction of sophomore quarterback Corey Pullig as the Aggies had trouble establishing a running game or a passing attack. The end result was the defense spending almost twice as long on the field as did the offense.

"Our defense played too long and as they stayed on the field, I thought they began to lose some of their zip," Slocum said.

Senior defensive end Eric England said



Melissa Filipp/The Battalion

Oklahoma senior quarterback **Cale Gundy** (10) dives past the outstretched arms of A&M sophomore linebacker **Chris Colon** (8) for a third quarter touchdown to give the Sooners a 27-7 lead. Oklahoma cruised to a 44-14 defeat of the Aggies on Saturday.

he still has the utmost confidence in A&M's offense but he began to feel the fatigue in the second half.

"I'm not going to ever give up on our offense," England said. "I have confidence in our offense because I know we have talent. As a defensive unit, we were out there a long time and got winded."

"What we did, we did to our ourselves."

But Pullig did not provide much support.

He threw three interceptions and passed for only 84 yards before being replaced by sophomore Tommy Preston in the fourth quarter.

"We have a young quarterback and he played like a young quarterback," Slocum said. "He struggled in the game and made some bad decisions. The inability of Pullig to throw the football allowed them to overplay our run."

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## Slocum and players say NCAA suspensions have no bearing on Oklahoma loss

By David Winder

THE BATTALION

**N**ORMAN, OK - Texas A&M head coach R.C. Slocum would not comment directly Saturday on the NCAA suspensions of five Aggie players but said it had no effect on his team losing to Oklahoma 44-14.

"I would never say that," Slocum said. "We had every opportunity to come up here and play but we didn't get the job done."

A&M quarterback Corey Pullig also would not use the suspensions as an excuse for the loss.

"I don't think that distracted us a bit," he said. "You can't take anything away

from Oklahoma. They played a good game."

The team learned of the suspensions before leaving for Oklahoma.

"I told them at practice (Friday) just about the time we were about to leave," Slocum said. "I tried to make it as clear as I could that we would not use it as an excuse for whatever happened. I don't

think it had anything to do with this game."

Slocum said he will talk to interim president E. Dean Gage privately about the matter this week.

"I want to get back and get with my president and the people at A&M and we'll decide what we want to do,"

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WED. SEPT. 15:	5-7 pm 7-9 pm 9-11 pm	BIOL. 113: CHEM. 222: CHEM. 101:	CH. 5, 6 TEST I CH. 3, 4
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