

Defense fast becoming art form at A&M

They, Steve Solari, talk about Texas A&M's defensive efforts in its 34-10 victory against the Houston Cougars on Saturday.



MICHAEL PLUMER
Sports Editor

"We took upon ourselves to get sacks and we ended up holding them under 200 yards," A&M's senior outside linebacker said. "When they got that field goal, we were upset. But we'd rather give them the three than the seven."

So, Steve, was A&M's performance smothering?
"No, I didn't say that," Solari said with a smile.

I will. At this moment, the A&M defense is playing as well as anybody in the nation. It has not given up a touchdown at home and came very close to posting a third consecutive home shutout.

Remember, Houston's lone score came on defense, a 52-yard interception return by redshirt freshman cornerback Delmonico Montgomery. Just a 40-yard field goal by Houston's junior placekicker Trace Craft averted a third straight game of defensive perfection.

Here are the numbers that produced an Aggie victory.
A&M had four sacks and pressured Houston's junior quarterback Jimmy Klingler into a 11-of-25 passing day and only 119 yards through the air.

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A&M sweeps past Houston 34-10

By David Winder

THE BATTALION

The return of junior running back Greg Hill, combined with a stifling defense, led the 14th-ranked Texas A&M Aggies to a 34-10 win over the Houston Cougars Saturday in front of 60,575 at Kyle Field.

With the win, the Aggies upped their mark to 4-1 overall, 2-0 in Southwest Conference play while the Cougars dropped to 1-4 and 1-1.

Hill made his 1993 debut after serving a five game NCAA suspension in grand style. He carried the ball 20 times for 128 yards. "I never really had any butterflies," Hill said. "All I was worried about was trying to stay calm and cool. I didn't want to get to excited so I pretended like it was practice."

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said he was pleased with the win despite some mistakes.

"I felt like we were playing solidly on defense, but had way too many penalties on offense that kept us from moving the ball consistently," Slocum said. "But, I don't ever want to get in a position where I'm apologizing for a 34-10 win."

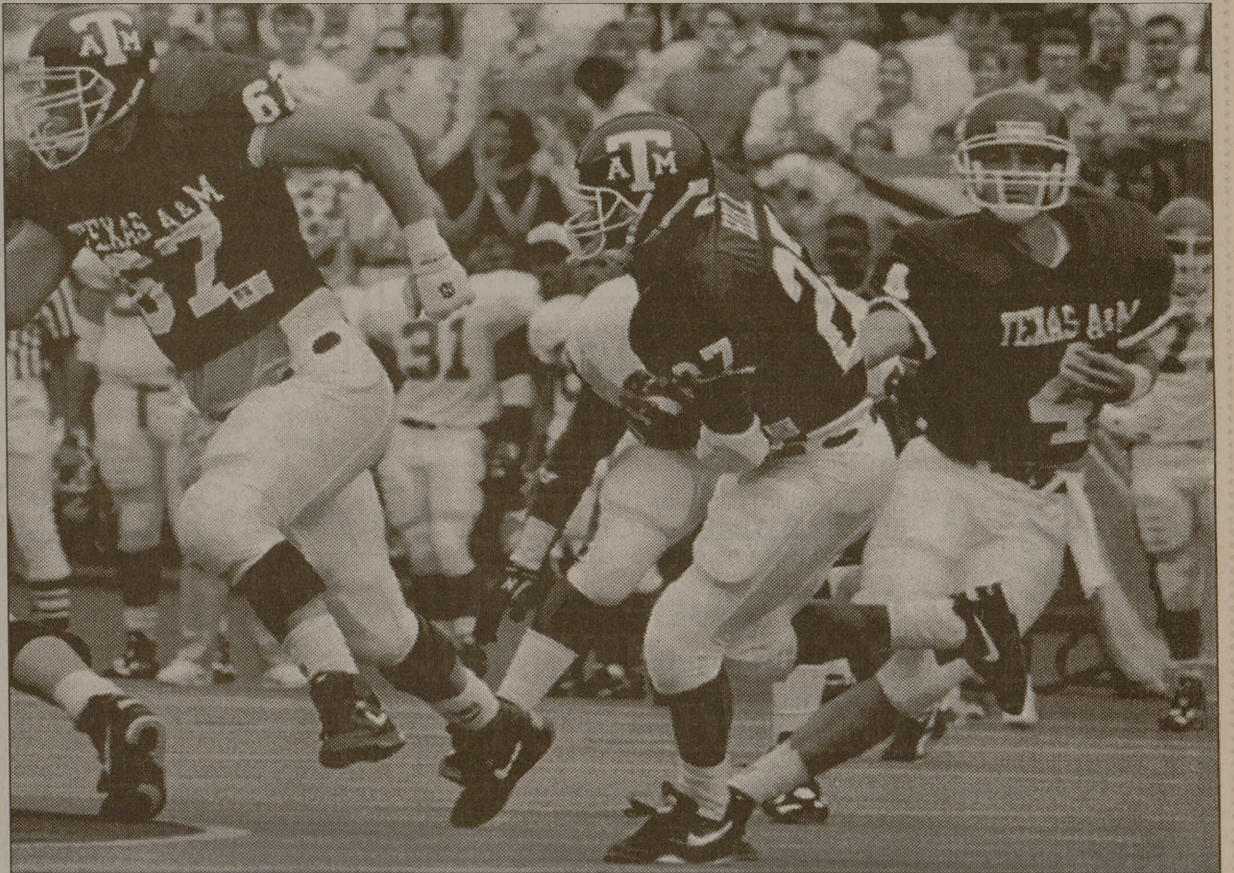
The A&M defense did not need to apologize either as they held the explosive Cougar offense to 178 total yards and no touchdowns which, dating back to the 1992 season, extended a streak of 14 straight quarters without the Aggies allowing a touchdown. Last season, Houston rolled up 582 yards with junior quarterback Jimmy Klingler passing for 488.

In Saturday's game, Klingler threw for only 119. "This season we came out and played a lot of zone coverage," junior cornerback Ray Mickens said. "They couldn't complete any passes. I mean our front four was getting so much pressure on him (Klingler), he was just running around throwing it away."

A&M opened the scoring early in the second quarter when quarterback Corey Pullig found receiver Ryan Matthews for a four yard touchdown reception to complete a 12 play, 64 yard drive.

"It seems like they were leaving our wideouts open," Pullig said. "I believe they concentrated a lot on our underneath game because that is where we have been hurting people in the past."

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Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

Texas A&M junior running back **Greg Hill** (27) takes the handoff from sophomore quarterback **Corey Pullig** (4) as senior offensive tackle **Jason Matthews** (67) prepares to clear some running room. Hill rushed for 128 yards in his first action since November in A&M's 34-10 victory over Houston Saturday at Kyle Field.

Hill's return gives Aggies full house backfield in victory over Cougars

By Julie Chelkowski

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M added an old weapon to its offensive attack on Saturday, one that the University of Houston had faced before, but still could not handle.

Returning after a five-game suspension, junior running back Greg Hill held nothing back as he played for the first time since A&M's 34-13 victory over the University of Texas last Thanksgiving night.

Hill rushed for 128 yards on 20 carries and was selected as the Raycom Player-of-the-Game and showed A&M fans what they had been missing all season.

"I was surprised," Hill said. "I didn't know what to expect. But when I was out there, I thought I heard a lot of people calling my name and saying, 'He's back. It's Greg Hill time.'"

Hill said he was pleased with his performance. One of the keys, he said, was trying to keep his composure during the game.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "I was dreaming about playing again and I got out there and did okay. I was trying to stay calm and cool and not get too excited. I just got out and tried to pretend like it was practice."

But, A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said Hill had difficulty in containing his

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