

## Blame school, fans for frenzy at Wisconsin

In football, especially college football, rushing the field after the game is not uncommon and some cases are expected. Despite the fact that Aggie fans don't run onto the field after games, it is a sort of tradition around the state.



ROY L. CLAY  
Sportswriter

Last year, Texas Christian students ran onto the field after beating Texas Tech for the first time in 25 years. Old newsreels show fans running onto the field after the conclusion of a game between rivals like Southern California and Notre Dame. And last year there were more incidents.

On Halloween weekend Kansas State and Wisconsin played football under remarkably similar circumstances. Both teams played highly ranked conference opponents, both at home field advantage. Kansas State and Wisconsin both upset their opponents, and both student bodies rushed the field.

This is where the similarities end. Kansas State fans left in euphoria after celebrating on the field as the Wildcats beat the Sooners of Oklahoma for the first time in over twenty years.

Wisconsin students, too, tried to rush the field after a 13-10 victory over Michigan - the first time they had beat the Wolverines in 12 years. But there was no happy ending at Wisconsin.

As fences and unyielding security guards tried to block the students' way, people in the front of the mob

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## Thomas keeps spirit despite low showings

### Aggie running back sacrifices for team success

By Andrew J.A. Tomczeszyn

The Battalion

As one of the nation's leading rushers, junior Rodney Thomas carries a large load in Texas A&M's top-ranked ground game. That load, however, has become significantly reduced in recent weeks due to the return of junior running back Greg Hill from a five-game suspension and the emergence of talented freshman Leeland McElroy.

But Thomas insists he doesn't mind his diminished role.

"You have to look at the big picture," Thomas said. "While my carries may have been reduced and my playing time had been reduced, the team is doing well, and we're winning...that's the big picture."

The "big picture" is that after averaging over 130 yards in the first four games, Thomas' yards and carries have dropped dramatically averaging less than 61 yards per game, with a season-low 40 yards on 12 carries against Rice University on October 23.

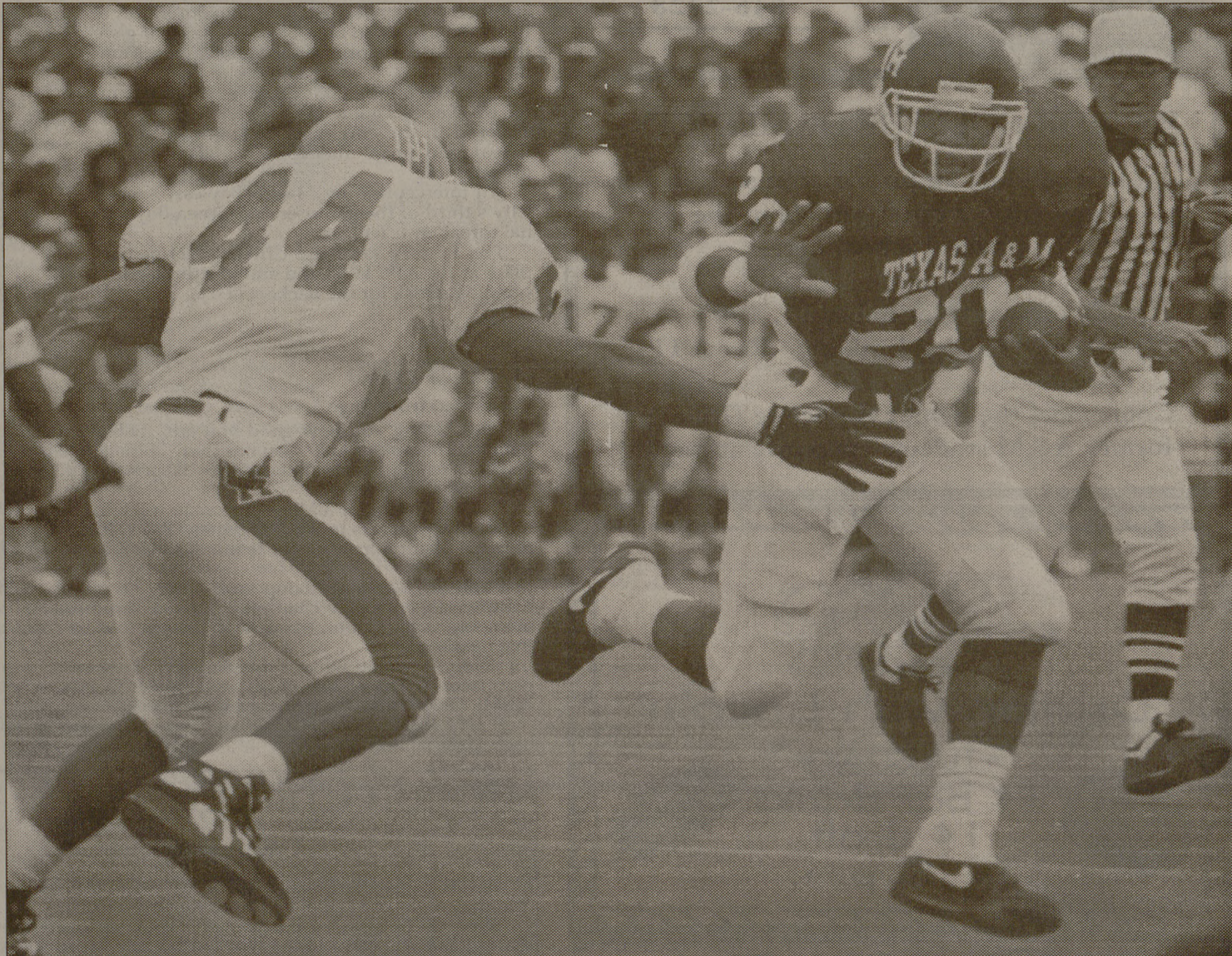
Despite the loss in playing time, Thomas has maintained his "team first" attitude throughout the season.

"My role has changed since the beginning of the season," Thomas said. "I don't get the ball as much, but I'm not the only back in the offense. We're a winning team no matter who gets the carries."

Offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said Thomas' positive attitude is an admirable quality, but his serene personality can be a disadvantage at times.

"He's such a nice kid, we (the coaches) just tell him to hang in there and keep going," Toledo said. "He won't say anything (negative) and we, as coaches, forget about him because he's so quiet. 'Sometimes I wish he'd get mad about it.'"

At the start of the season, Thomas was listed among the Heisman Trophy hopefuls. But now, after beginning the season



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A&M junior running back Rodney Thomas dodges a Houston Cougar on his way to help set up for a touchdown. Thomas rushed for 82 yards on 21 carries as he shared playing time with freshman running back Leeland McElroy and junior Greg Hill.

with a 201-yard performance against Louisiana State University and being amongst the nation's leading rushers for the first four games, Thomas currently ranks 20th among the nation's running backs.

"If we didn't have such a good back-

field, maybe it would be a problem," Thomas said. "But my role has changed, and we have to mix it up to be successful."

"I'm still part of the team and all I can do is make the best of what carries I do get, but everyone on this team does what we need to do to be successful - to be a

national championship caliber team."

Thomas said he is firm in his belief that the Aggies are still a national championship caliber team.

"With other people, like writers and

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