

SPORTS

Monday, November 15, 1993

THE BATTALION

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Victory helps A&M no-Bill earlier losses

Texas A&M broke the Buffalo Syndrome on Saturday.

The Buffalo Syndrome is a horrible ailment that occurs when a good football team fails to get any recognition because it can't win in big games.

Every time the Aggies have had an opportunity to cross the threshold of national prominence, they have been denied entrance. In the 1992 Cotton Bowl, Florida State kept it from A&M. In the 1993 Cotton Bowl, Notre Dame did the honors. Two months ago, it was Oklahoma.

On Saturday, the Aggies had another chance to face a Top 20 team in front of a nationally-televised audience.

And they won...big.

The 42-7 drubbing of the Louisville Cardinals at Kyle Field did more than prove that A&M stands clearly out in front of its Southwest Conference brethren. It did more than prove that Texas A&M deserves a spot in the ten best college football teams in America.

This time, A&M proved it can win the big game.

"You hear 42-7 and it opens people's eyes," said center Chris Dausin. "I hope we leapfrog some people. We spanked them pretty bad here."

Of course, there were a few things that set apart this victory from other



CHRIS WHITLEY
Editor-in-Chief

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A&M smashes Louisville, 42-7, in total team effort

By Michael Plumer

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Texas A&M rammed its perceived lack of national respect down the Louisville Cardinals' throats Saturday night, 42-7, before a crowd of 56,161 at Kyle Field, as well as a national audience courtesy of ESPN.

The victory moved the Aggies to 8-1 while the Cardinals, who were also beaten by 35 points last week by Tennessee, dropped to 7-3. A&M moved up a notch to number 10 in this week's Associated Press poll. Louisville, previously ranked 20th, dropped out of the poll.

The Aggies came out rolling on offense. Junior running backs Greg Hill and Rodney Thomas, who started together for the first time this season, scored touchdowns on the ground while fellow back, freshman Leeland McElroy, caught a touchdown pass.

A&M sophomore quarterback Corey Pullig, who had a career-high three touchdown passes, praised offensive coordinator Bob Toledo for his offensive game plan.

"We came out fired up which is something we haven't done in the last few weeks," Pullig said. "I think it really showed in our performance. Coach Toledo put in some new wrinkles, they opened up our offense and the scoreboard showed it."

Diversifying the offense could be key to future success, A&M senior wide receiver Tony Harrison said.

"Our goal is to win the Cotton Bowl, and we have to repeat our performance," Harrison said. "We have to open it up like we did." A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said it was an important and much-needed victory.

"We did a good job, and I am proud of the way

our players came out and performed," Slocum said. "We came out with focus. I thought we executed very well on both sides of the ball."

"This should give us momentum heading back into Southwest Conference play," Louisville head coach Howard Schnellenberger said it was very easy to tell who the better team was.

"I think it's obvious to everyone watching in the stadium and watching on TV that Texas A&M is a vastly superior team," Schnellenberger said. "They gave us a good old whipping."

"They have very good coaching, they are physical, and they execute well. There's nothing we did well."

A&M's roll to victory started with a little trickery. Toledo reached into his bag of tricks and opened the swinging gate. A&M senior center Chris Dausin snapped the ball directly to McElroy, who zoomed 29 yards to the Louisville 11 yard line.

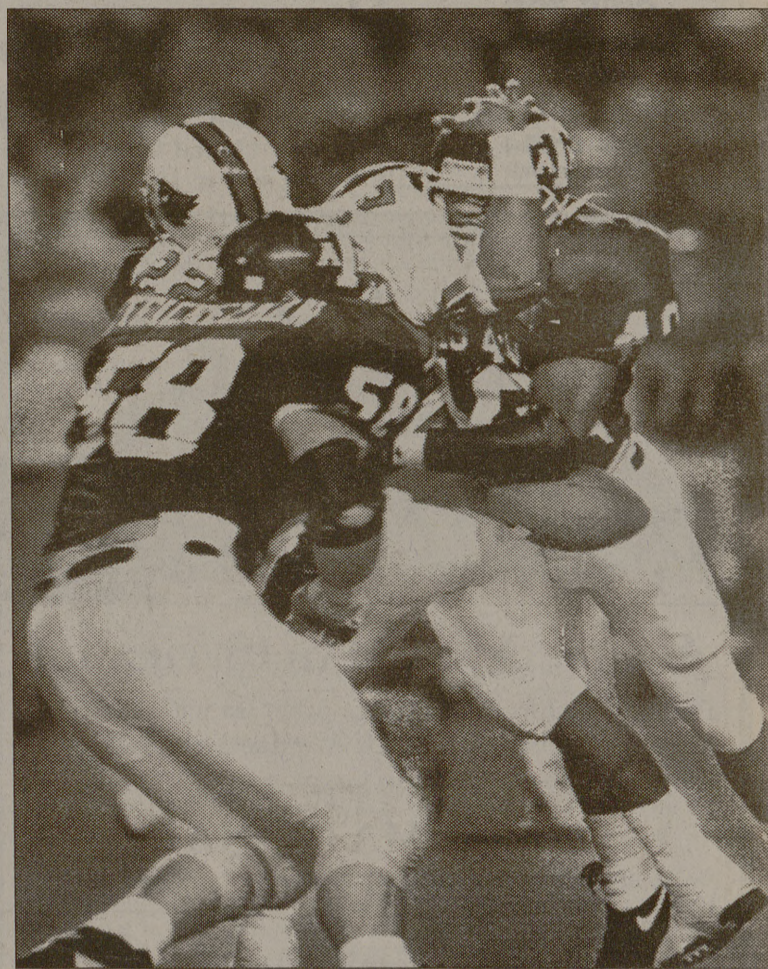
Three plays later, McElroy caught an inside screen and scampered nine yards for a touchdown to give A&M a 7-0 lead.

"The swinging gate was a big one for us," Toledo said. "The kids did a great job. We knew we were playing a great defense so we had to do something."

A&M built a 21-7 halftime lead behind Hill's three-yard touchdown and 12-yard touchdown catch by junior wide receiver Brian Mitchell. But the story was A&M's defense.

The Cardinals had been averaging over 400 yards per game on offense but were held to just 189 total yards. Louisville senior quarterback Jeff Brohm was harassed into a miserable first half as he only completed seven passes in 16 attempts for

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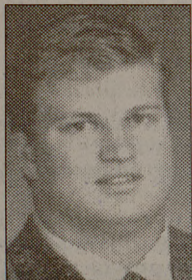
Kevin Ivy/The Battalion

Crunch! A&M senior noseguard **Lance Teichelman** (58) and junior strong safety **Michael Hendricks** (40) blasts Louisville senior running back **Ralph Dawkins** as he attempts to catch a pass. The Aggies cruised to a 42-7 win over the Cardinals at Kyle Field.

Aggie offensive line bulldozes Cardinals, clears path to win

By Mack Harrison

THE BATTALION



Dausin

Quick, identify these five players.

Seniors Chris Dausin, Tyler Harrison, Jason Mathews, Dexter Wesley and sophomore Calvin Collins.

Texas A&M's offensive linemen do not get the glory of making intercep-

tions or catching touchdown passes, but their coaches and teammates are more than aware of their contributions to A&M victories.

Especially during the 42-7 drubbing of Louisville Saturday night.

"I thought our offensive line did a good job controlling the front," A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said. "They did a good job of mixing it up and creating opportunities for us."

Although no A&M running back rushed for over 100

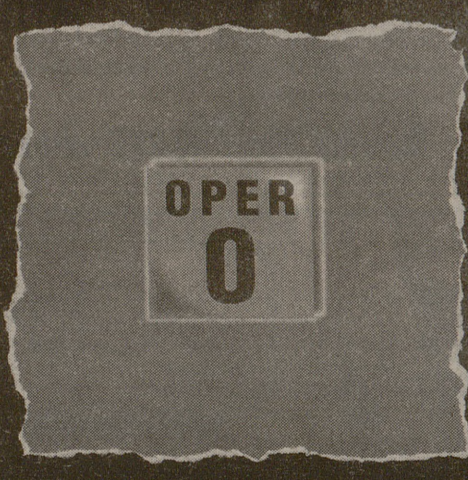
yards in the game, the five men in the trenches opened up gaping holes with powerful blocking that kept the Louisville defense — well, on the defensive.

"There's no doubt in my mind how good the offensive line is," said A&M junior running back Rodney Thomas. "They are one of the best in the country."

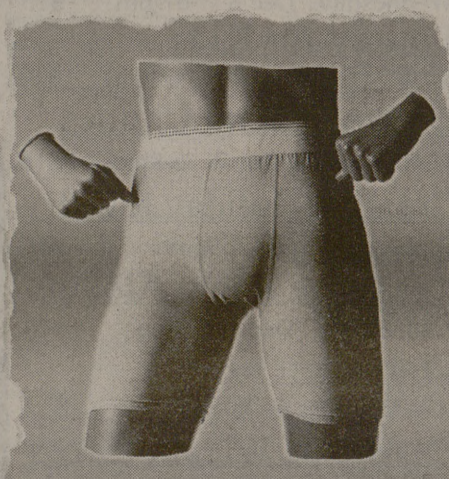
Senior center Chris Dausin said he and his teammates were fired up from the first play.

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what's out



what's in



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