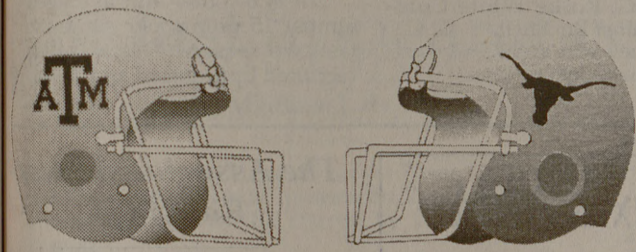


TEXAS A&M vs. TEXAS

Wednesday, November 24, 1993

THE BATTALION

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#8 Texas A&M versus Texas

Thursday, Nov. 25, 1993 Kickoff - 7:05 p.m.
Television - ESPN, Cable channel 32

Grudge Match '93 Cotton Bowl up for grabs

By Julie Chelkowski

THE BATTALION

A fire hotter and more fierce than Aggie Bonfire will explode Thursday night when Texas A&M and the University of Texas battle for the Cotton Bowl and state bragging rights in a rivalry that has been burning for a 100 years.

Although the intensity of this rivalry has endured since 1893, several other factors will add to the fight this year.

The Cotton Bowl is the main thing on the line. For UT, it's an all or nothing situation. With an Aggie loss, the Longhorns would tie A&M for first place in the Southwest Conference and travel to the Cotton Bowl since the Longhorns have a better head-to-head record.

With a loss, the Aggies would still have a chance to go to another bowl.

But A&M wants only cotton.

"It's Cotton Bowl or no bowl for us," A&M senior center Chris Dausin said. "That's the attitude we're taking. We don't want another bowl. We're going to the Cotton Bowl."

Dausin said if the team maintains the attitude they have had throughout the season, a win on Thursday will not be a problem. But, he said, that does not mean they are taking the Horns lightly.

"It's going to come down to who wants it most - who's going to be meaner, tougher, nastier ... It's the biggest rivalry that ever was."

- Chris Dausin,
A&M senior center

"Basically, we'll play smash mouth football," Dausin said. "Just go out there with a bad ass attitude and totally dominate. If we go in there with that attitude and that mentality, I guarantee we'll do great."

"We're not underestimating Texas. We're going to take them for real."

Texas' most effective weapons this season have included sophomore receivers Mike Adams and Lovell Pinkney in combination with the throwing power of freshman quarterback Shea Morenz.

A&M senior cornerback Aaron Glenn said controlling the two will be one of the deciding factors in the game.

"They have a talented crew of receivers," Glenn said. "Speed kills. If you take a guy with speed plus pretty good size, that's a perfect package. I respect (Adams) more than Lovell Pinkney, but both are very talented receivers."

"Texas is not afraid of anyone. They're going to go out and throw the ball like Louisville did. They're going to go out throwing the ball to both of them."

Another conflict, besides the traditional rivalry, will play havoc between players Thanksgiving Day. After A&M's 34-13 victory over UT last year in Austin, some A&M players performed a victory dance on the Longhorns' field - an act which Longhorn players and fans did not appreciate.

"I think it was pretty immature for them to do that," Texas sophomore tackle Blake Brockermeyer said. "That was just the way their team operates. There's nothing we could do about it because they won the game, but I thought it was pretty disrespectful."

Dausin agreed.

"It was pretty much uncalled for," he said. "It was a bad image for Texas A&M University, to stomp around on their field."

But Dausin also said he was determined to prevent the Longhorns from getting revenge on Kyle Field.

"We're not going to take anything from Texas," Dausin said. "I know they've been talking a little smack and how they're going to dance on our field if they win this game. To them, that's going to be a dream and that's all it's going to come to because I guarantee they're not even get close to dancing on our field."

Regardless of the conditions, including the 21 points that A&M is favored by, the A&M-UT showdown is the biggest of the season for the two teams.

"We don't care what the line is," Dausin said. "This is Texas. You can throw out all the records, you can throw out everything that is important in relation to the Texas game."

"It's going to come down to who wants it most - who's going to be meaner, tougher, nastier. And I think we want the most. To me it's an even match up. It's the biggest rivalry that ever was."

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said the players should put aside things such as rankings and the Cotton Bowl berth and concentrate on playing for the spirit of the rivalry.

"Who cares about all that stuff," he said. "(Those things) have nothing to do with this game. Why don't we play for snowcones? Just give all the players snowcones. They should be motivated enough to play in front of 70,000 people and on national television."

"(That's) characteristic of rivalries like this. But both teams are going to be trying to win, both teams have a chance to win."

THREE ACES in the whole



Photos by Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A&M deck stacked with three-back attack

By Michael Plumer

THE BATTALION

For once, the numbers do not lie. Junior Greg Hill has 582 yards and six touchdowns. Junior Rodney Thomas has 905 yards and 13 touchdowns. For good measure, freshman Leeland McElroy has 597 yards rushing, two kickoff returns for touchdowns, seven rushing scores and four through the air.

Simply breathtaking. Critics have suggested that A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo has sometimes been guilty of having his head in the clouds when determining how to use the triumvirate. But those cynics were quieted two weeks ago when all three were on the field at the same time in the Aggies' 42-7 victory over Louisville.

"Actually, we did not do anything different against Louisville," Toledo said. "There were some new formations, but the key is we had all three guys together. As a team, we executed so well when they were out there that it seemed like it was new."

Hill said the three-back attack is the wave of the future for the Aggies.

"We confuse defenses because they can

not key on one back," Hill said. "It adds a little trickery to the game which can only help us. Each of us knows that when we get our chance on the field we have to make the best of it."

"Another thing is we do not lose concentration, and we focus a lot harder. Playing in short spurts allows us to stay fresh, and in the fourth quarter the defense will be tired."

"But not us." Dealing with the backs can leave opposing defenses gasping for air. A&M senior defensive end Eric England said he is glad he is a teammate and not the opposition.

"If I played on another team, and I was the defensive coordinator, I would be scared of those three," England said. "The things those guys do in practice and in games are amazing."

"It makes our defense better because we get to see those guys everyday."

In a situation like A&M has, there is always the danger of a rift developing. But all three backs said there is no danger of that occurring.

"Whether it is business or football, there is going to be competition," Thomas said. "We take the stance that

whatever we do benefits the team. That is the main point."

"This is a team game, and we realize that."

McElroy echoed Thomas' sentiments. "I am part of the team as Greg and Rodney are, and if we have problems, then it would cause everybody to have problems," McElroy said. "When Greg came back, Rodney and I expected my reps to go down, but we respected that. Everything will be fine."

Hill said the special bond between the three eases any potential conflicts.

"The type of friendship we have allows us to be the best," Hill said. "When you have got somebody supporting you, it gives you a sense of not being on the same level as the opponents."

Another area where the group wants to pull away is in the nickname category. Thanks to ESPN, the A&M trio has been named - the Back Breakers.

"I liked that name a lot," Hill said. "Opponents are going to get our best shot in a game and when they do, we are going to rip their spine out."

"Once we break their spirit, it is all over."

100 Years of Maroon and Orange

By Mary Kujawa

THE BATTALION

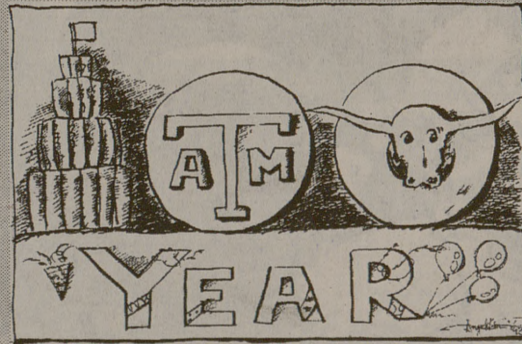
Two fledgling football teams took the field for a scrimmage game in Austin's Hyde Park in 1894. Those same two teams will take the field for the 100th time when the Aggies and Longhorns meet in one of the oldest college football rivalries.

At the time, the University of Texas Varsity Squad (now the Longhorns) was only in its second season while the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College Farmers (now the Aggies) was in its first season. The Aggies had only played one game against Galveston Ball High School before they scrimmaged against the Longhorns.

The Longhorns trounced the Aggies, 38-0, at that first game which was the state's first intercollegiate football game. The Longhorns scored eight touchdowns and three conversions. Touchdowns were valued at only four points while conversions were two points apiece.

The game ended the Aggies season. They did not field a team the following year. Although the Aggies resumed play in 1896, the Aggies and Longhorns would not meet again until 1898.

In those early years of the rivalry, Texas and



Angel Kan/THE BATTALION

A&M often played each other twice in the same year and at various locations, including Austin, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston. Of the first 21 games, none were played at College Station. In 1900, A&M and Texas began playing a Thanksgiving Day game.

The Longhorns continued to trounce the Aggies until 1902 when the Aggies' luck seemed to be turning. In their first meeting that year, the Aggies and Longhorns battled to a 0-0 tie. At their second meeting, the Aggies claimed their first victory against the Longhorns with a 11-0 score.

The Aggies would not beat the Longhorns again until 1909 when A&M began a three-

game winning streak.

With the streak in tow, the Aggies traveled to Houston in 1911 to meet the Longhorns at the city's annual Fall Carnival. Although the Aggies were favored to win, the Longhorns came up as winners by a 6-0 score. Exuberant fans spilled into the streets of Houston where it is said that student brawls occurred.

The following day, the University of Texas Athletic Council decided to break off athletic relations with A&M. Several days later, the Texas Athletic Council released a statement to the press saying the break was the wisest course to pursue based on the heated state of opinion among students and alumni of both institutions. Although no one incident was blamed, the riots of 1908 and 1911 as well as accusations of dirty play were all mentioned.

The Aggies and Longhorns did not play each other for three years, which allowed old wounds to heal. The formation of the Southwest Conference in 1914 also helped reestablish the ties between the two schools.

In 1915, the Longhorns and Aggies resumed their series, and the Longhorns came to play on Kyle Field for the first time. The Aggies sent a message to Austin which said, "You won't win at College Station."

Former A&M head coach Charley Moran

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