

College bowl system needs to be redone

It's that special time again when there is a lull between the Army-Navy game and New Year's Eve. More specifically, it's time for college bowl games and that selection process needs to be discussed.



MATTHEW J. RUSH
Sportswriter

The current system is based on poll rankings, but these rankings are not necessarily accurate. I'm not whining about Texas A&M's ranking or griping that West Virginia should be ranked number two in the nation. Simply, there is a need for a college football playoff system.

My main motivation for this proposed playoff system is to figure out how Nebraska and West Virginia are not playing for the national championship. A year ago, Texas A&M was a perfect 12-0, but finished the regular season ranked only fourth in the country. The Aggies then faced fifth ranked Notre Dame (9-1-1 at the time) in the Cotton Bowl, and lost, 28-3. But the point is the same.

Undefeated teams should at least have a chance to win a national title, regardless of a "weak schedule."

A playoff system, however, would certainly weed out any fluke teams, and it would be so simple. There would be only 10 regular season games and no "Kickoff Classic" type games, unless they counted as one of the 10 (those teams usually play 12 games instead of 11).

See Rush/Page 6

Texas A&M's 1993 season: One for the history books

By Michael Plumer

THE BATTALION

All hail Dennis Allen. Allen's fourth quarter interception of Texas quarterback Shea Morenz's pass at the Texas A&M three yard line sealed a trip to Dallas for New Year's Day and capped off the Aggies' Thanksgiving night. In a season that was filled with more ups than downs, Allen's pickoff had to be the highest of the highs.

The robbing of Shea allowed A&M to post

Analysis

a 18-9 victory, a 10-1 record and more importantly, a 7-0 record in the Southwest Conference.

As he skidded out of bounds along with a third straight SWC championship and a 22nd consecutive SWC win, he seemed to be a perfect metaphor for the Aggies' season.

Constantly, A&M had its back to the wall, but in some form managed to pull out a play that salvaged the victory. The Rice game was a perfect example.

The Owls statistically dominated the first half but still trailed, 21-10, thanks to the jet feet of Leeland McElroy who returned one, but two, kickoffs for touchdowns.

Sure, A&M stubbed its toe against Oklahoma, 44-14, but privately, players said the result might have been the best thing to happen to the team. Their reasoning was the blowout opened their eyes that they could be beat.

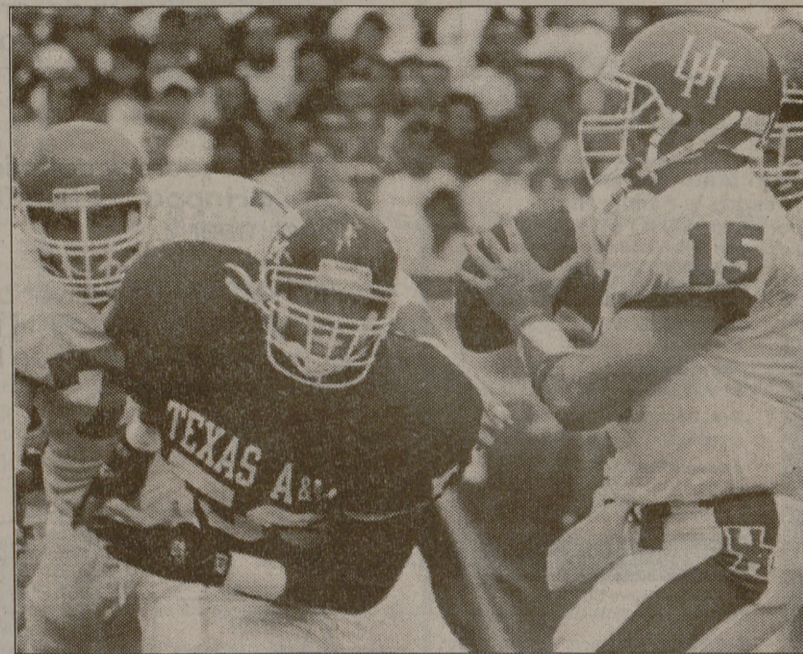
Maybe that lesson will be recalled in the Cotton Bowl. Besides the Texas game, the Aggies were never seriously challenged in victory. Most teams did not put up much opposition.

Need a reference? See Missouri (73-0). Louisville came strolling into Kyle Field ranked at 20th in the nation and were promptly handed a 35-point loss, 42-7.

In a year in which the team excelled, it makes sense that a few individuals had career seasons. The brightest star had to be cornerback Aaron Glenn.

His interceptions were down (three) but his punt returns for touchdowns were up (two). For good measure, he led the nation in punt returns, racing for almost 20 yards a pop. Nobody threw to his side, causing Glenn to suffer from "Kevin Smith Syndrome." But on the other side, the pickins were not easy, thanks to (Ray) Mickens.

Glenn probably wrapped up the Thorpe Award against Texas and Lovell Pinkney. Pinkney beat him a couple of times but Glenn seemed to arrive at the same time as the ball



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A&M junior outside linebacker Antonio Shorter (56) prepares to collapse the pocket against Houston quarterback Jimmy Klingler (15) in the Aggies' 34-10 victory at Kyle Field on Oct. 9.

See Football/Page 6

Lady Aggie basketball hits home opener with TSU

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie Basketball team will try to improve its record to 2-0 as they battle the Texas Southern Lady Tigers at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M head coach Lynn Hickey said that the Lady Aggies will need to execute on offense better than they did in the first half of their 73-68 road victory against Arizona State Saturday.

"Arizona State took us out of our game early," Hickey said. "They pressed us, and they set the tempo because we didn't handle their defensive pressure. We need

to try to establish our tempo of play (against Texas Southern)."

Because TSU's center, sophomore Artan Austin, is 5-foot-11 inches and the Lady Tigers do not have a starter taller than 6-foot, the Lady Aggies will be tested by their opposition's lack of size.

That message was not lost on A&M sophomore point guard Lisa Branch. She said that she will try to avoid a repeat of her four turnover performance she had against Arizona State.

"As the point guard, I think it is my responsibility for setting up our offense," Branch said. "And, I want to keep my turnovers to one or two a game."

Hickey said that although Branch is an integral part of the team, the whole game

does not rest on her shoulders. Hickey said the post players need to step up and take some of the pressure away from the guards.

"(Arizona State) would triple team our centers, and we had trouble handling it," Hickey said. "We need them to handle the pressure better."

Sophomore center Kelly Cerny said that in order for the offense to be more effective, the post players need to take advantage of their height.

"We need to keep the ball up higher," the 6-foot-5 inch Cerny said. "We have to be bigger targets."

By sending the shooting guard in the

See Hoops/Page 6

Volleyball playoff tickets at G. Rollie

Tickets for Wednesday's NCAA first round volleyball match between George Mason and Texas A&M at G. Rollie White Coliseum are now on sale. All-Sports passes will not be honored.

Ticket prices are:

- Reserve seats - \$7.00
- General Admission
- Adults - \$5.00
- Children under 12 - \$2.00
- Senior citizens - \$3.00
- A&M students - \$3.00

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