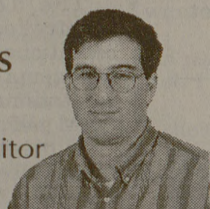


Upsets, crazy plays abound college scene

NICK GEORGANDIS

Asst. sports editor



There's a word for the weekend of college football that was. Weird.

Teams lost that shouldn't have, teams won that had no business even covering the spread. Bizarre plays abounded across the country. Here's a re-cap of what you might have missed.

First of all, the Top 25 Associated Press poll is beginning to look like a NCAA basketball poll. Now in the Top 25 are Duke, North Carolina, Syracuse, Michigan and Arizona. Duke is undefeated at 6-0, and the general opinion around Durham, North Carolina, is "What, we have a football team?"

In the conference, the Houston Cougars denied themselves a shot at a perfect 0-11 season by outlasting Southern Methodist 39-33 in Dallas. Now the two teams who share the 'Houston' moniker have combined for two wins. Rumor is the Cougars and Oilers are thinking of playing each other at the end of the year, to ensure at least one of them will pick up another victory somewhere.

Notre Dame lost their second straight game, 21-14 to Brigham Young, and fell out of the rankings for the first time since 1986. The Fighting Irish are a (for them) horrible 4-3. Could there be a January 1 without Notre Dame? Isn't there something in the Constitution about that?

The Florida Gators were defeated in 'The Swamp', where only Florida State had defeated them since before the dawn of time. First Miami loses at the Orange Bowl, then on Saturday Michigan and Florida lose at home. A&M better watch out at Kyle Field, home field advantage ain't what it used to be.

A&M's game was weird because the Aggie offense was totally dominating while the defense was not. Texas A&M's defense didn't record a sack for the first time in what seems like ages, while Corey Pullig again threw for more than 260 yards. Brandon Ward, a senior offensive lineman starting for the first time,

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Baylor no match for A&M's explosive offense

Balanced attack nets 541 yards, 41 points

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

"Uh, oh."
The above statement is not a direct quote from any one person, but it is probably the dominating thought in the minds of the defensive coordinators of Rice, Southern Methodist, Texas, Louisville and Texas Christian—otherwise known as the rest of Texas A&M's 1994 schedule after seeing highlights of the Aggie offense from Saturday.

"I was very pleased with our mixture of offense," head coach R.C. Slocum said. "Corey (Pullig) did a great job of taking advantage of their defense."

Saturday's 41-21 defeat of Baylor University marked the true coming-of-age for the offensive system of Steve Enslinger, which has shown modest improvements from week to week before cranking out 524 total yards against the Bears.

Not only was A&M's attack highly explosive, it also achieved its season-long goal of being a balanced effort, with 255 yards on the ground and 269 through the air.

Junior quarterback Corey Pullig enjoyed his second banner day in two weeks, completing 15 of 27 passes for 269 yards and two touchdowns. The yardage was the second-highest total of Pullig's career,

and his best day ever at Kyle Field. "In the first half, they weren't expecting us to run because of the weather," Pullig said. "In the second half they played us more often and it really opened up the running game."

The running game opened up indeed, thanks largely to a retooling of the offensive line. All-Southwest conference performer Calvin Collins was switched back to his natural position of left guard, while senior Brandon Ward started at center and red-shirt freshman Chris Ruhman started at right tackle. Ward was the surprise of the game, as he did not even earn a letter on last year's team. As pleased as he was with his own move back to guard, Collins was even more excited with Ward's success in his first-ever start at A&M.

"The center's the hardest position in football, and I just love to play guard," Collins said. "Brandon is a talented strong, he's very strong. He only weighs 250 pounds but he can bench press 400 pounds. Coach 'D' (offensive line coach Joe D'Alessandris) did an excellent job this week (with the line)."

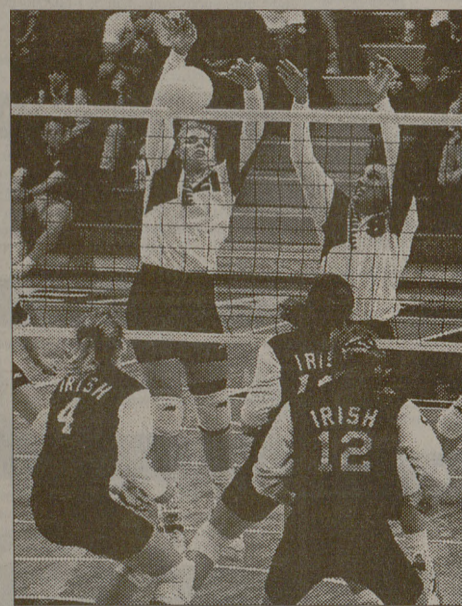
The improved line showed markedly in the numbers of senior Rodney Thomas and sophomore Leeland McElroy.

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Chris Sanders scores on a 75 yard pass play in the third quarter.

Stew Milne/THE BATTALION



Carrie Thompson/THE BATTALION
Cindy VanderWoude (#21), Jennifer Bronner (#9) block a Notre Dame spike.

Lady Aggies fall to Notre Dame in four sets

Costly errors allow Fighting Irish to take match 15-10, 15-8, 12-15, 15-10

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

Revenge was on the minds of the Lady Aggie volleyball team when they played the University of Notre Dame Saturday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Despite the obvious motivation factor for the Lady Aggies, Notre Dame defeated the A&M 15-10, 15-8, 12-15, 15-10.

"I'm proud of this team," head volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli said. "It is obvious there was a lot of effort. We came out swinging hard."

After a 3-0 loss at the University of Colorado Tournament in September, the Lady Aggies were looking to show Notre Dame that the team could play better.

"We had a big loss earlier and wanted revenge," senior outside hitter Jennifer Bronner said. "We just wanted to play a better game."

Notre Dame head coach Debbie Brown had nothing but compliments for A&M after the game.

"Their play was a lot different from the Colorado Tournament," Brown said. "They played better in every aspect of the game."

The Lady Aggies' effort was undermined by mental lapses in the first two games. The team had 24 kills and 41 digs, but they committed 23 errors to allow the Irish to take the first two games.

"Games one and two were loaded with errors," Corbelli said. "We killed ourselves a lot, and they had a lot to do with it."

The best performance by the Aggies came in the third game. The team had only seven errors and consistent blocking helped the Lady Aggies win 15-12.

"We tried to get our momentum together," sophomore Page White. "Every point was a struggle and the third game is always tough. Our

blocking was much, much better." Despite the eventual loss in four games, the Lady Aggies are looking at this match as a learning experience.

"This was a huge learning experience," Corbelli said. "I refuse to play a team that we beat all the time. We play these types of teams to get better as we should."

Tonight will present another challenge for the Lady Aggies as they face 21st-ranked Duke University. The Blue Devils are coming off a 3-1 victory over 18th-ranked Texas Saturday night.

Corbelli said the Lady Aggies' top priority against the Blue Devils will be containing top hitter Ashley Wacholder.

"Duke is a very experienced team," Corbelli said. "We know we are the underdogs, so it would be great to upset Duke. If we give our best, we can get better and take the win too."

Women's soccer team improves home winning streak to 12

By Stewart Doreen
THE BATTALION

If the Texas A&M soccer team didn't have enough to worry about with their opponents, nature stepped in and made it tougher for the Aggies to win three straight games this weekend.

"There were a lot of distractions with all three games," head coach G. Guerrieri said. "They did a great job coming away (with three victories). We set a goal that we wanted to win all three games and we wanted to give up no more than one goal (over the weekend)."

The Aggies, 9-2-2, were tough under

all conditions this weekend. Ranked eighth in the South region, A&M continued its winning ways at home, running their all-time home record to 12-0 (5-0 at the Aggie Soccer Complex).

Sunday's game at the complex, which resembled a swamp more than a playable surface, showed the athleticism of the team. After a scoreless first half, the Aggies overcame the elements to score three times in their 3-0 win over the University of South Alabama.

Freshman midfielder Bryn Blalack led the scoring with two goals, and sophomore midfielder Jaime Csizmadi, A&M's

leading scorer last season, scored her first goal of the current campaign.

"We had to change the philosophy of how we normally play," Blalack said. "We just got our job done and continued our home winning streak."

The battle against the elements was the second straight for the Aggies. Saturday's 3-0 over U.S. Military Academy's (Army) Lady Knights at Houston's Meyer Park featured balanced scoring with goals from senior forward Anna Whitehead, freshman midfielder Rachel Wilkinson and Blalack. A tough defense came up strong with the shut out against

the normally-potent attack of the Northeast region's ninth-ranked team.

"These types of games are tough, because they take our advantages away as far as being soccer players," Guerrieri said. "The only advantage we have is our athleticism."

Friday's game against the University of Arkansas-Little Rock at the Aggie Soccer Complex ended with a 1-0 win for the Aggies. Kristen Koop's team-leading eighth goal, and freshman goalkeeper Amy Chandler's shutout in her first career start were all the Aggies needed to win.

This day in Aggie football

October 17, 1992: Running back Rodney Thomas races 84 yards for a score and running back Greg Hill adds a 40-yard scoring burst to lead A&M past Baylor, 19-13 at Kyle Field.

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JUNIORS

Class of '96! Hop on down and get your class pictures in the 1995 Aggie Land AR Photography will take Junior Class pictures from 9 to 5, Monday-Friday for the AGGIELAND until Friday, Oct. 28.

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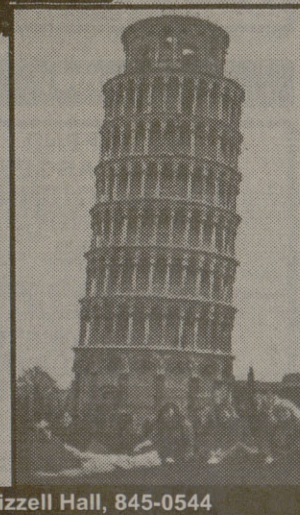
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For more information, contact the Hall Fundraiser at (409) 847-6507. Contract and sign-up deadline is October 31st, so call today!

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SOCCER Oct. 21 vs. TCU 3 p.m.

FOOTBALL Oct. 22 vs. Rice 1 p.m.

SOCCER Oct. 23 vs. N. Illinois 1 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL Oct. 26 vs. Rice 7 p.m.

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