

At a
GLANCE

SPORTS BRIEFS

Barone suspends Ali from basketball team

Texas A&M Head Basketball Coach Tony Barone suspended sophomore forward Waseem Ali Saturday for violating team rules. Ali was penciled in as the Aggies' starting small forward for the 1995-96 season after averaging 2.5 points per game as a freshman last year.

Wente, Corbelli garner SWC yearly honors

DALLAS (AP) — The University of Texas' Demetria Sance and Texas A&M's Suzy Wente led the All-Southwest Conference volleyball team announced Sunday.

Sance was a unanimous selection to the team and Wente was chosen SWC player of the year, the conference said.

Wente, a senior from San Antonio, currently ranks third in the NCAA in assists per game with a 14.2 average. She holds the record for assists in a single season in SWC matches with 599 for the 1995 season. Wente also holds the second-place spot with 505 for the 1994 season. She recorded 76 assists or more in three matches this year.

Texas A&M's Lakisha Bledsoe was chosen as the SWC newcomer of the year. The redshirt freshman from Arlington ranks third in the league in hitting percentage (.292) and blocking (1.19 per game).

Texas A&M's Laurie Corbelli was selected SWC coach of the year. Corbelli, who led the Lady Aggies to the second round of the NCAA tournament in the last two seasons, brings her team into the tournament with a No. 17 national ranking.

Rockets wave forward Alvin Heggs

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets on Sunday waived forward Alvin Heggs, a team official said. Heggs saw action in four games with Houston, averaging 2 points and .5 rebounds in 3.5 minutes. He scored seven points Milwaukee on Nov. 16.

The Rockets' active roster stands at 11 with Tim Breaux eligible to come off the injured list after Monday's game with Boston.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

- NFL**
Cowboys 34, Raiders 21
Eagles 28, Giants 19
Packers 31, Browns 20
Colts 24, Patriots 10
Panthers 27, Cardinals 7
Lions 24, Bears 17
Steelers 49, Bengals 31
Falcons 31, Rams 6
Seahawks 27, Redskins 20
Buccaneers 17, Jaguars 16
Broncos 30, Chargers 27
Bills 28, Jets 27
Vikings 43, Saints 24
Chiefs 20, Oilers 13

- NHL**
Philadelphia 3, Vancouver 2
Buffalo 6, Ottawa 0
Florida 4, Anaheim 3
San Jose 3, Chicago 2

UPCOMING EVENTS

- A&M Volleyball**
The Lady Aggies take on Southwest Conference rival Texas tonight at Hofheinz Pavilion in the final of the SWC Tournament at 7:30 p.m.
- A&M Football**
The Aggies travel to Fort Worth Saturday to take on Texas Christian University in a 1 p.m. game.
- A&M Men's Basketball**
Tonight the Aggies continue their exhibition schedule with a game against the Conoco Oilers at G. Rolie White Coliseum at 7 p.m.

- NFL Football**
Thursday: **Cowboys** vs. **Chiefs**
Sunday: **Oilers** vs. **Broncos**

Everything works in Ags' 56-14 rout

□ The A&M Football Team exploded for 28 points in the first quarter.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

Yes, it was a joke. The competition, that is, provided by Middle Tennessee State University against the Texas A&M Football Team Saturday in the Aggies' 56-14 rout of a victory.

A&M scored early and often against the overmatched Blue Raiders, building up a 28-0 lead in the first seven minutes of the game, then cruising to the easy victory.

"It was a good start for us," A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said. "You hate to get in games with teams like this that just hang around. Teams like this come in all fired up, and if you let them hang around, then they start thinking, 'Hey, we can play with these guys.'"

The Aggie offense gave the Blue Raiders little time to think about anything — scoring on the second play of the game when quarterback Corey Pullig hooked up with Albert Connell on a short screen pass that Connell turned into an electrifying 61-yard touchdown reception.

A&M's "Wrecking Crew" set the tone for the MTSU offense on the Blue Raiders' first possession of the day.

On the first play from scrimmage for MTSU, A&M junior linebacker Keith Mitchell barreled through the Raider line to sack quarterback Mark Quinn for a nine-yard loss. Quinn's day only got worse as the Aggies sacked him 10 times — one short of the A&M all-time record.

"We tried to come out and make a statement early," Mitchell said. "We weren't too worried about the score. We just wanted to get something on every single snap."

The first MTSU drive ended with a 40-yard punt that was returned by senior Ray Mickens 32 yards to the A&M 42-yard line. On the next play, junior tailback Leeland McElroy danced and weaved his way 58 yards for a touchdown, giving the Aggies a 14-0 lead at the 12:14 mark in the first quarter.

Neither the Aggie offense or defense let up after grabbing the quick lead. Two drives later, Mitchell deflected a Quinn

pass into the waiting arms of senior linebacker Reggie Brown, who rumbled 22 yards for a touchdown.

Brown, who enjoyed a magnificent game with eight tackles, an interception, a pass broken up, a quarterback sack and a forced fumble, said he was pleased with the team's effort.

"Overall, we played pretty well," Brown said. "There was no letdown, and we didn't underestimate them."

The defense accounted for 21 of the Aggies' points Saturday. In the second quarter, junior defensive lineman Pat Williams scooped up a Quinn fumble and returned it 47 yards for a touchdown with just two seconds left in the half.

After scoring its first touchdown, MTSU attempted an onside kick with 1:30 left in the third quarter. But plans went awry when redshirt freshman linebacker Dat Nguyen recovered the kick at the MTSU 46-yard line and returned it into the end zone for his first career touchdown.

"We were ready for a kick (onside)," Nguyen said. "I suddenly saw a big, old seam. I was on Cloud Nine. I never expected to score on a kickoff. I only saw the kicker, but I used my speed to get around him."

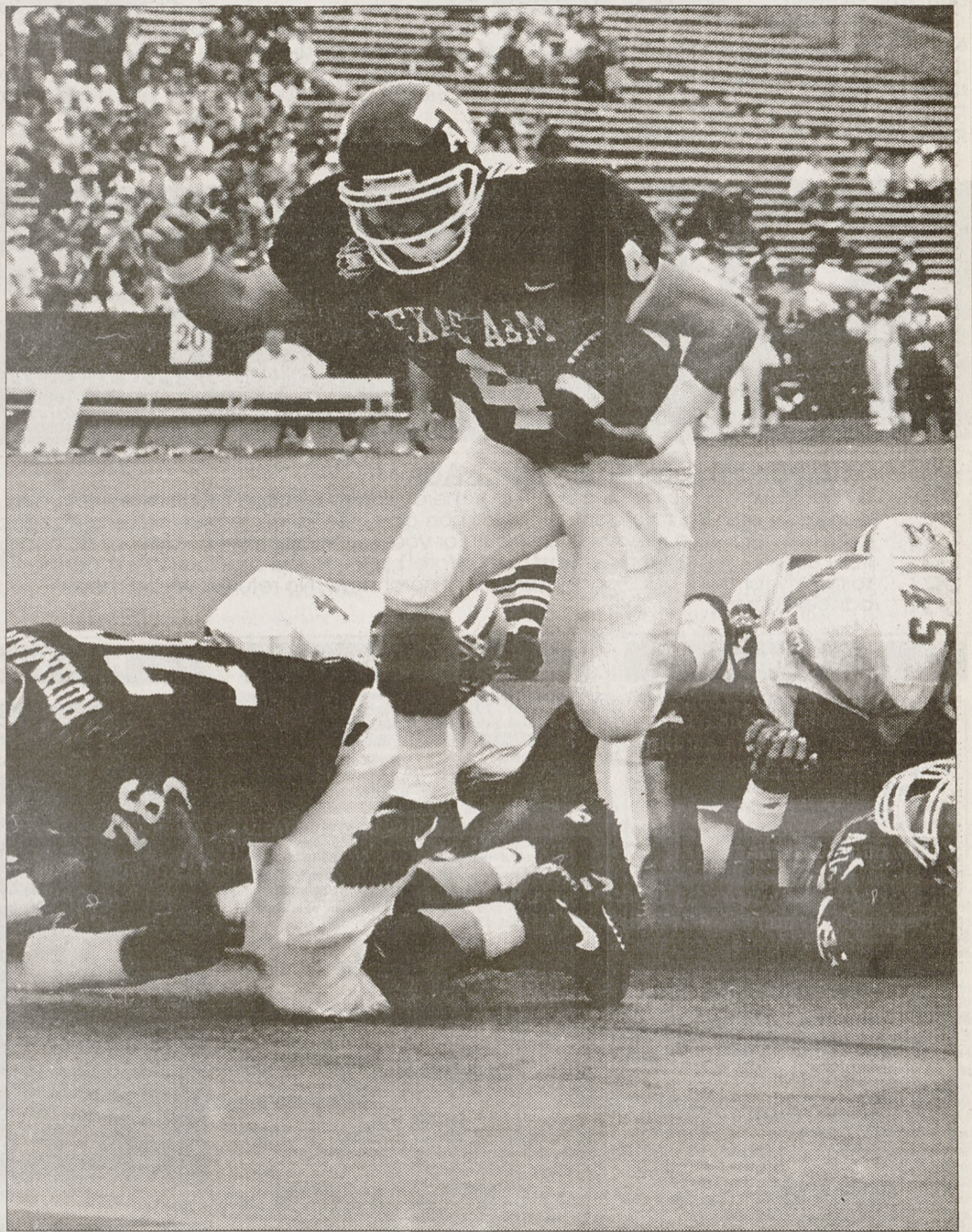
The Aggies capped off their biggest scoring day in two seasons when junior quarterback Stormy Case threw the first touchdown pass of his career — a 12-yard pass to Aaron Oliver on a fourth down with five minutes left in the game.

Despite the general lack of competition, the Aggie offense continued to improve itself for its run at the final Southwest Conference crown.

In all, A&M compiled 455 yards of offense — with McElroy leading the way with 118 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries. Pullig continued to polish his game, completing 11-of-23 passes for 191 yards and one touchdown. Pullig also achieved his first rushing touchdown of his career — a two-yard dive that put A&M ahead 42-0 in the third quarter.

The win marked the final non-conference game in SWC history. The Aggies face Texas Christian University Saturday in Fort Worth, then close the 1995 season against Texas at Kyle Field on Dec. 2.

With the new bowl alliance, if the Aggies win the SWC, they will play the loser of the Florida-Florida State game Jan. 1 in the Sugar Bowl.



Shane Elkins, THE BATTALION

Senior quarterback Corey Pullig slips into the end zone in the third quarter of A&M's 56-14 win over Middle Tennessee State Saturday. It was Pullig's first career rushing touchdown.

SMU KOs Aggie Soccer dreams again



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Sophomore forward Bryn Blalack (left) and junior forward Yvette Okler battle for the ball with an SMU defender in the game that ended in a loss for the Lady Aggies.

□ The Aggie Soccer Team was defeated Saturday by the Mustangs 2-1 in the NCAA Tournament.

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

In a clash of Southwest Conference titans on Saturday afternoon, the Texas A&M Soccer Team was defeated 2-1 by the Southern Methodist Lady Mustangs in the second round of the NCAA Championships at SMU's Wescott Field.

Down 1-0 at halftime, SMU rallied with two second-half goals to beat the Lady Aggies for the third consecutive time this season and extend its unbeaten streak.

The loss ended A&M's first-ever trip to the NCAA playoffs and brought its overall season record to 18-6.

Junior forward Kristen Koop gave the Lady Aggies the early lead when she knocked home a misplay by the SMU goalkeeper with just under nine minutes to play in the first half.

SMU's Erin Poole mishandled the ball after charging out of the goal and allowed Koop, the only Aggie near the goal box, to easily register A&M's only score of the day.

After failing to capitalize on several first-half scoring opportunities, SMU got on the board when sophomore forward Danielle Garrett tied the game with barely a minute gone by in the second period.

The goal proved particularly frustrating

See **SOCCER**, Page 8

Smith, Aikman more than enough for Cowboys' win

□ Dallas broke its one-game "losing streak" with a 34-21 win.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Who needs Deion Sanders on offense? Certainly not the Dallas Cowboys.

Emmitt Smith ran for three touchdowns and Troy Aikman threw a 17-yard scoring pass to Michael Irvin as Dallas provided yet more proof of the NFC's continuing superiority with a 34-21 win Sunday over the Oakland Raiders.

With Sanders adding a key interception, Dallas rebounded from last week's thrashing by NFC rival San Francisco. After that humbling 38-20 loss, Cowboys owner Jerry Jones vowed Sanders would see much more action this weekend.

But Sanders made only a cameo appearance on offense, getting body-slammed by Rob Fredrickson after a 1-yard gain on an end around.

Dallas began a week in which it will face the AFC's two best teams by battering the Raiders. Oakland played the second half without quarterback Jeff Hostetler, who reinjured his left shoulder on a hit by Chad Hennings.

The Cowboys (9-2) host the Kansas City Chiefs, who have the NFL's best record, on

Thursday. The NFC has won 11 straight Super Bowls, with the Los Angeles Raiders the last victorious AFC team in 1984.

Vince Evans had touchdown passes of 24 yards to Tim Brown and 16 yards to Kerry Cash as the Raiders (8-3) pulled within 31-21 early in the fourth quarter after trailing by 24 points in the third period. Harvey Williams had a 7-yard TD run for Oakland in the first half.

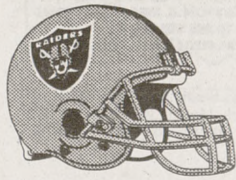
The Raiders, who were penalized 13 times for 113 yards,

lost at home for the first time since moving back to Oakland this season.

Smith, who gained 111 yards on 29 carries, had touchdown runs of 13, 4 and 4 yards. Irvin had seven catches for 109 yards, the ninth game this season he has gone over 100 yards. Aikman was 19-of-24 for 227 yards.

After Irvin's scoring catch, Sanders returned his interception 34 yards to set up Smith's first 4-yard TD run. Sanders held the ball aloft during the return and showed the same bravado that made him a fan favorite in San Francisco last season.

Williams' scoring run completed an 82-yard drive and pulled Oakland within a touchdown, but Chris Boniol kicked a 26-yard field goal to give Dallas a 17-7 halftime lead.



Dallas Cowboys 34
Oakland Raiders 21



Ags move to 15th; Texas ninth in AP

□ Northwestern moved up to fourth.

(AP) Nebraska, Ohio State and Florida remained 1-2-3 in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday, while Northwestern moved up one spot to No. 4.

Nebraska (10-0), which didn't play Saturday, received 44 first-place votes and 1,529 points from a nationwide media panel.

Ohio State (11-0) got 13 firsts and 1,477 points after beating Indiana 42-3. Florida (10-0), which downed Vanderbilt 38-7, received five firsts and 1,458 points.

Northwestern (10-1) passed Tennessee (9-1) in the rankings after the Vols struggled to beat Kentucky 34-31. Northwestern concluded its regular season with a 23-8 victory over Purdue.

Tennessee was fifth, followed by Florida State (9-1), Notre Dame (9-2), Colorado (9-2), Texas (8-1-1) and Kansas State (9-2).

Florida State beat Maryland 59-17, Notre Dame defeated Air Force 44-14, Colorado topped Kansas State 27-17, and Texas beat TCU 27-19.

Notre Dame and Colorado each moved up one notch, Kansas State fell three places and Texas rose one spot.

Kansas was 11th, followed by Oregon, Virginia Tech, Penn State, Texas A&M, Auburn, Southern Cal, Michigan, Virginia, Washington, Alabama, Syracuse, Arkansas, Clemson and Miami.

Kansas rose four places after beating Oklahoma State 22-17. Oregon jumped four notches after downing Oregon State 12-10, and Virginia Tech soared seven spots after defeating Virginia 36-29.

Penn State and Auburn each moved up five spots. Penn State beat Michigan 27-17 and Auburn defeated Alabama 31-27.