

UT tries to block out streak

□ The Longhorns have lost 10 of the last 11 against Texas A&M.

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas A&M's domination over Texas over the past decade has felt like forever for the Longhorns. The No. 16 Aggies (8-2, 5-1 Southwest Conference) have won four straight and 10 of the past 11 in one of the country's most intense rivalries.

But the ninth-ranked Longhorns (9-1-1, 6-0), who will try to overcome A&M's 31-game home winning streak at College Station on Saturday, are attempting to become firm believers that nothing lasts forever.

"We've all been involved in winning and losing streaks," said Texas coach John Mackovic. "Nothing lasts forever. You can't take it for granted on either side."

Mackovic has tried to keep his team's focus off of the Aggies' recent superiority. A&M's last four victories against Texas have been by an average margin of 18 points, including last year's 34-10 triumph in Austin.

"I am one of those who says to a player or a team, 'You are not accountable for someone else's sins. You have to be accountable right now,'" he said. "There is no burden on this team. I am not putting any on them."

Texas' fourth-year coach can talk all he wants, but his players say they are tired of losing to the Aggies.

"This is the biggest game of my career," said senior defensive tackle Shane Rink. "We haven't beaten them in my four years here. It's for the championship. It's for a Tier I bowl game. It's for everything."

Saturday's game will determine the 81st and final SWC champion. Texas, which will join A&M in the Big 12 Conference next year, has clinched at least a share of the title.

The winner will go to either the Sugar or Orange bowl with the loser facing Michigan in the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 28 in San Antonio.

Texas linebacker Tyson King said his hometown of El Campo, southwest of Houston, is a hotbed for Aggie supporters. His grandfather was in the A&M Corps of Cadets. He said losing to the Aggies has made it difficult to go home.

"Beating the Aggies is the main thing we've wanted to do since I've been here," said King, a junior. "After losing to them the past two years, I kept saying, 'I have another year. I have another year.' But I'm running out of years."

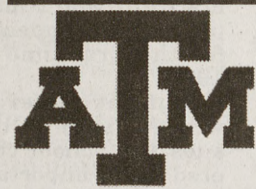
Texas A&M head coach R.C. Slocum, who is 5-1 against Texas, said consistently beating the Longhorns has helped

develop the Aggies' program in recent years.

"It's helped a bunch," Slocum said. "Around the country, every good team has a measuring stick. It's Ohio State-Michigan. It's Auburn-Alabama. You don't have to win all those games, but you have to be competitive."

"I think by beating Texas, we have gained credibility."

Varsity's horns? Sawed off at Kyle



Sega Shootout

Texas A&M 35
Texas 34



□ The Aggies stopped UT on a two-point attempt to seal the win.

In the end, senior Texas A&M quarterback Corey Pullig simply dropped to one knee, then left the ball to roll slowly across the turf of Kyle Field.

So ended the greatest Aggie-Longhorn game of all time, and so ended the Longhorns' shot at knocking A&M out of the national championship picture.

The final score was almost unimportant, for the game came down to one play, one classic play that defined the heart of the rivalry.

The play was an attempted two-point conversion by the Longhorns with 1:51 left in the game. The Longhorns had scored just seconds before on a 45-yard strike from quarterback James Brown to wide receiver Mike Adams.

Adams dunked the ball over the south end zone goal post, stunning the Kyle Field record crowd of 79,652. UT Head Coach did not hesitate in sending Brown and the offense back onto the field in an attempt to win the game.

But, as it has so many times in the past, the Aggies' "Wrecking Crew" defense took its game up a notch with the game on the line.

The Longhorns lined up in a classic option offense, and Brown pitched the ball to freshman run-

ning back sensation Reggie Williams.

Williams tried to sweep around the right end, but faced a horde of A&M defenders led by junior line-backer Larry Walker and senior safety Dennis Allen.

Williams reversed direction, hoping to find a seam, but instead found sophomore defensive lineman Brandon Mitchell. Mitchell drove Williams backwards and hauled him to the ground with the help of junior linebacker Keith Mitchell.

At that point, Kyle Field erupted in an explosion of noise that was rumored to have been heard as far away as Calvert.

The Longhorns attempted to recover and onside kick on the ensuing kickoff, but surehanded senior fullback Detron Smith snared the ball before any UT player came close to it.

The usual suspects put the points on the board for A&M. Pullig completed 14-of-30 passes for 350 yards.

Leeland McElroy, the runaway Heisman Trophy favorite carried the ball 14 times for 100 yards, scored a touchdown and also completed a 22-yard pass to Albert Connell when Offensive Coordinator Steve Ensminger threw a little razzle-dazzle into the Aggie attack.

Now the Aggies have put themselves into position for the only goal they had to begin the season: a shot at the national championship.



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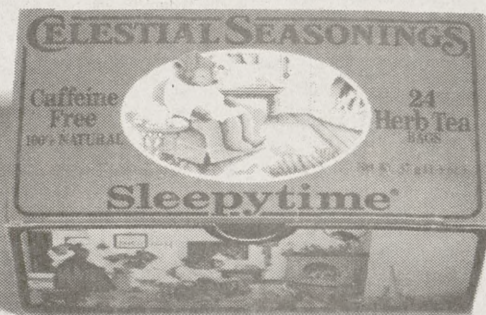
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Just a reminder that cramming for finals will only do so much.

Get a good night's sleep.