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GEORGANDIS: Coaching, pitiful Pullig keys to losses

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then games, and ultimately championships.

Again and again on Saturday, foolish play calling stalled A&M drives and gave the Longhorns more and more opportunities to run precious time off the clock.

There were times when quarterback Corey Pullig lined up and ran the option. The option for crying out loud! In his four years at A&M, Pullig has probably run the ball about 20 times, and let's face it, the man's no Bucky Richardson when he has to scramble

There were also plenty of those near-lateral passes from Pullig to junior wide receiver Albert Connell. Now Connell is a big-play receiver and a big target. No defense is going to lose sight of Connell just because he drifts along the line of scrimmage to take a little swing pass

Pullig has one game left - and can't you see those Michigan Wolverines licking their chops after watching tapes of the UT game.

Connell needs to be sprinting downfield where he can use his long arms and tremendous leaping abilities to outjump smaller defensive backs and get big chunks of yardage for the offense.

There's also my favorite offensive play — the almighty third-down draw to McElroy. Every time A&M needs between 13 and 15 yards for a first down, there's nothing finer than a draw to Leeland that's guaranteed to pick up seven to nine yards before the linebackers collapse on him.

Of course, you don't need seven to nine yards, you need 13 to 15. All the draw accomplishes is getting McElroy a few more yards and giving Sean Terry more room from which to punt from.

The second theory revolves

around Pullig, A&M's triggerman for the last 3-and-1/2 seasons Whenever Pullig's effectiveness has been criticized this year, Head Coach R.C. Slocum has been quick to point out two things: 1) Corey Pullig has a 32-6 1 record and 2) Corey Pullig is the most underrated quarterback in the Southwest Conference.

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Addressing that second point, how many people at Kyle Field Saturday night were wishing A&M had one of those really overrated SWC quarterbacks calling the signals? Mr. Underrated had two fumbles and three interceptions -- the last of which erased the heroics of McElroy, who had scrambled 51 yards to the UT 17-yard line just two plays before.

Pullig did show up for the postgame interviews - which was surprising since has not shown up for a big game during his career. Yes, his career record is 32-6-1, but those six losses have been against UT, Colorado, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and two against Notre Dame. Those have

been six of the Aggies' 10 most important games in the past four years. Most of Pullig's wins have been against teams like UH, Rice and SMU. Heck, even Jeff Granger went 5-0 when he was the quarterback.

There's a lot of bitterness in Aggieland these days. The gap between an 11-0 expectation and an 8-3 reality is huge. Only the defense saved the Aggies in games against Rice and SMU - otherwise the offense would-n't have had to pull out late scoring drives, it would have been too late already.

Pullig has one game left — and can't you see those Michigan Wolverines licking their chops after watching tapes of the UT game. Hopefully, Ensminger has only one game left as well. The Aggies' offense needs an overhaul. It needs to start soon.



