

Ags fumble, Buffs rumble

Frustration continues to mount as Colorado rolls over Aggies 24-10

By KRISTINA BUFFIN
THE BATTALION

Frustration was the name of the game on Saturday for the Texas A&M Football Team. Finding an answer to its problems might be the speed limit.

The Aggies are trying to put the pieces back together after their 24-10 loss to the University of Colorado at Kyle Field. The disappointing loss leaves them 1-3 and dizzy with questions of how they can regroup and still salvage the season.

Senior outside linebacker Keith Mitchell said the team has to start from scratch.

"We need to get back [today] and see what the problems are and try to correct them," Mitchell said. "We came out ready to play and think we were (pumped) up."

Saturday's opening kickoff was a bad omen for the Aggies. Freshman kick returner Michael Jennings took Colorado's Jason Lesch's 53-yard kickoff 16 yards before fumbling the A&M 28-yard line.

Colorado recovered the ball and capitalized on the game's first play from scrimmage. Buffalo senior quarterback Koy Detmer handed the ball to wide receiver Rae Carruth on an end around and the senior ran 28 yards for a touchdown just 13 seconds into the game.

A&M senior cornerback Donovan Greer said this was the opposite of what occurred last year when the two teams met in Boulder.

"It was a very important play because I think momentum switched to their side," Greer said. "Last year, we scored first on their fumble and we got momentum from that."

The Aggies continued to suffer from similar missed opportunities and driving mistakes.

After Colorado's game-opening touchdown, A&M got the ball back and put together a well-balanced 50-yard drive. However, the drive stalled and the Aggies were forced to settle for a Kyle Bryant field goal attempt.

Bryant, who had not missed a field goal at



Dave House, THE BATTALION

A&M free safety **Toya Jones** dives in an attempt to stop Colorado tailback **Herchell Troutman** from scoring a touchdown.

tempt all season, missed wide left following a bad snap, and the Aggies remained scoreless.

"It is very frustrating to play well and have the types of mistakes we did," A&M junior quarterback Brannon Stewart said. "That is what makes the loss so bad. If we go out and play well with no mistakes and get beaten by the better team, then I don't think we'd feel as bad."

A 50-yard touchdown pass from Detmer to junior tailback Herchell Troutman put the Buffaloes up 14-0 with 13:36 remaining in the second quarter.

A&M would get rolling on offense, moving down field to the Colorado 22-yard line before another Aggie turnover — this time a Dante Hall fumble — would prevent the Aggies from scoring.

"It (fumbles) has definitely been a recurring theme," Stewart said. "We would have a good drive and a big play, but then we would turn it over, which killed us. Hopefully this is not a habit but just a lack of concentration."

The Aggies got a second chance on their next series. The drive began at the A&M 36-yard line. On the first play, Stewart threw to an open Albert Connell for a gain of 46 yards.

Sophomore D'Andre Hardeman rushed for five yards, and after an incomplete pass, sophomore tailback Sirr Parker caught a 13-yard pass for A&M's first and only touchdown of the game.

The second half was basically a repeat of the first. The defense was able to keep the Colorado offense under control, but two lost fumbles by Stewart translated into a field goal for the Buffaloes.

On a crucial fourth-and-one play in the third quarter on the Colorado 3-yard line, Stewart passed to sophomore running back Marc Broyles but was pressured by the Colorado defense, causing him to overthrow Broyles.

A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said the play was designed as a passing play.

"It was a good opportunity to fake the run because he (Broyles) was open," Stewart said. "But we weren't able to get the ball to him."

In the end of the third quarter, the Aggies had an opportunity to convert on a Colorado mistake. Senior cornerback Andre Williams intercepted a Detmer pass intended for Carruth.

But two plays later, Stewart fumbled the ball and freshman nosetackle Sean Jarne recovered it on the A&M 8-yard line. Four plays later, Lesley hit a 32-yard field goal to make it 24-7.

"We got a couple of turnovers, but the fact is we lost," Mitchell said. "We just didn't play well enough."

On the same drive, sophomore linebacker Dat Nguyen had a near pick at the Aggie 14-yard line. There was no one in Nguyen's path to a touchdown.

"All I saw was green," Nguyen said. "It could of been a change in momentum. I saw the receiver run a curl and my job was to shut that down. When I broke on the ball it just hit my fingertips."

The Aggies tried to play catch-up in the fourth quarter with an emphasis on the passing game. As a result, Stewart set three A&M passing records with his 34-of-64, 385-yard performance. Connell also set an A&M receptions record with 18 catches for 208 yards.

However, the Aggies gained just 62 yards on the ground.

Slocum said the passing game has drastically improved, but he is still aiming for a more balanced attack.

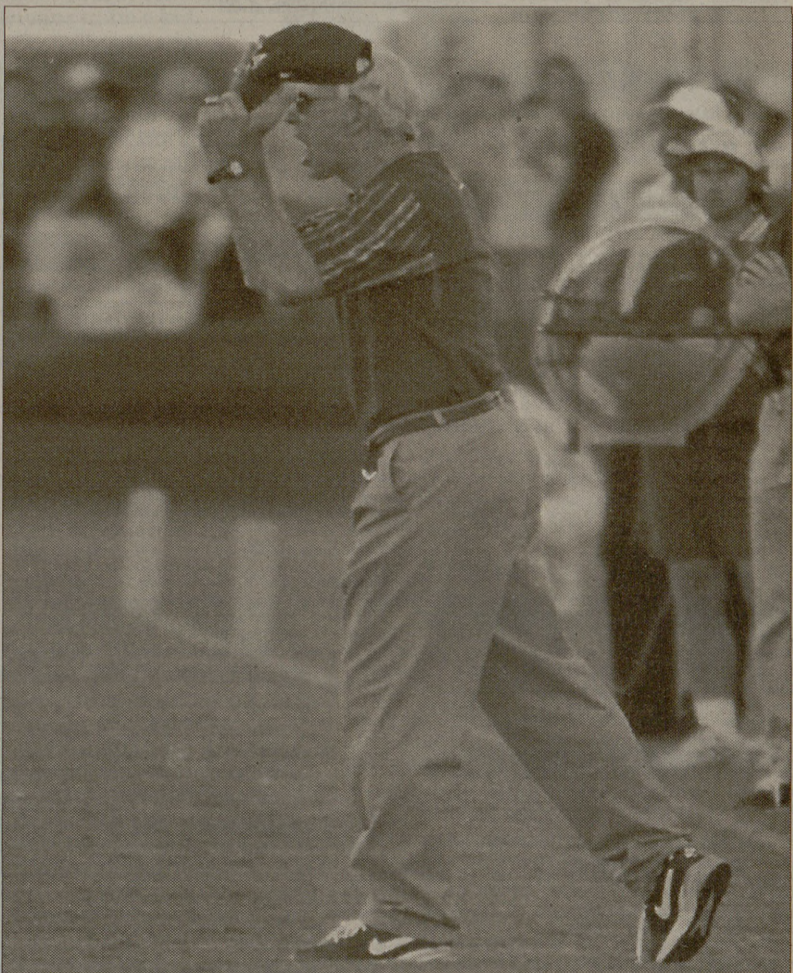
"Ideally, I want a more balanced game and we're not going to only average 60 yards rushing," Slocum said. "But when we're behind, I want to throw every down to try and conserve the clock and try and get something going."

Sophomore strong safety Rich Coady said the outcome of the game was frustrating because the Aggies held Colorado to 10 first downs and the Buffaloes were penalized eleven times for 107 yards.

"In the past, A&M wins these games (that are close)," Coady said. "We just need to get out there now and win some games."

Slocum said the frustration level is high, but the team will have to deal with it and correct the problems.

"This is significant because it is important that young men do keep things in a positive light, and its different when we're 1-3 and they're not accustomed to that," Slocum said. "We have no choice but to deal with it and look at the big picture and see that we can be a good football team. We're not good now, but the defense played better and the offense showed signs of improvement."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A&M Head Coach **R.C. Slocum** vents frustration in the fourth quarter when Colorado's defensive linemen were piled on top of A&M quarterback Brannon Stewart.

Mistakes overshadow records in Aggies' loss

By ROSS HECOX
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Football Team shot itself in the foot again on Saturday and this time, the University of Colorado reaped the benefits.

The Aggies fumbled the ball over to the Buffaloes four times, missed two field goals, and failed to execute in key moments of the game.

Head Coach R.C. Slocum said the mistakes played a big role in the Aggies' 24-10 loss.

"The problems we had were self-inflicted," Slocum said. "We had too many turnovers, and really, throughout the game, we made critical mistakes."

On the game's opening kickoff, A&M redshirt freshman kick-off returner Michael Jennings fumbled the ball and turned it over to the Buffaloes on the A&M 28-yard line.

The next play, the Aggies were fooled when Colorado senior wide-out Rae Carruth coasted 28 yards into the end zone on a perfectly executed end around, putting Colorado up 7-0 just 13 seconds into the game. The play was a preview of things to come for A&M and indicative of what has plagued the Aggies all season — mistakes.

Down 14-0 early in the second quarter, the Aggies marched down the field to the Colorado 22-yard line before committing their second turnover.

Freshman running back Dante Hall fumbled the ball, killing a potential scoring drive.

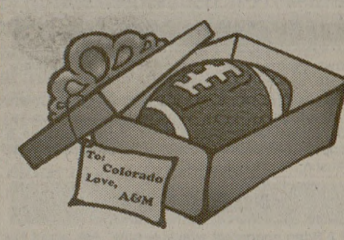
A&M coughed up its third fumble after driving to the Buffalo 28-yard line with 11:39 left in the third. This time junior quarterback Brannon Stewart lost the ball when he was blindsided in the pocket while looking downfield.

A&M's turnovers overshadowed a 447-total yard performance, as the Aggies outgained Colorado by 110 yards and broke four school passing records.

Stewart broke former A&M quarterback Edd Hargett's three records set against Southern Methodist University in 1968. His 34 completions, 64 attempts and 385 yards bettered Hargett's 32-of-58, 376-yard performance.

The 64 passes were the most Stewart has attempted in college or high school.

A&M senior receiver Albert Con-



Turnovers

- 1st Quarter**
Jennings fumbles at A&M 28, Colorado recovers — 15:00.
- 2nd Quarter**
Hall fumbles at Colorado 30, Colorado recovers — 11:19.
- 3rd Quarter**
Stewart fumbles at Colorado 28, Colorado recovers — 11:39.
Stewart fumbles at A&M 11, Colorado recovers — 2:40.

nell caught 18 passes — breaking Ken "Dude" McLean and Barney Harris' team record of 13 receptions — and amassed 208 yards receiving.

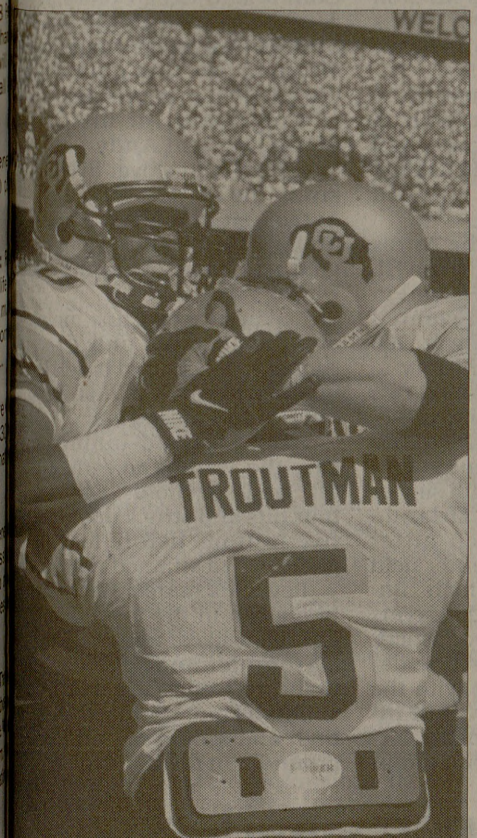
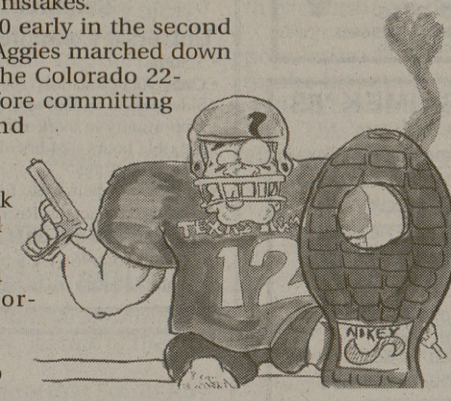
"He made great plays today, and it's really something beneficial to the program," Slocum said.

The Wrecking Crew defense gave the Aggies some momentum in the third quarter when sophomore linebacker Dat Nguyen stripped Buffalo receiver Phil Savoy, and A&M recovered the football.

The Aggies drove 26 yards to the Colorado 3-yard line and elected to pass on fourth-and-one. However, Stewart's throw to the flat was out of reach for a diving Marc Broyles and the Aggies came up empty.

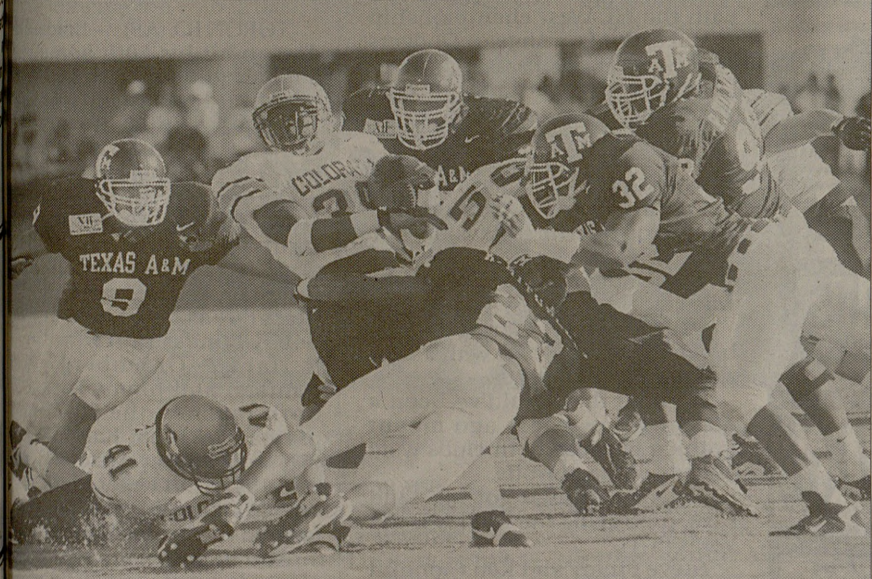
"It was a good opportunity to fake the run," Slocum said. "We thought it would be open and it was. We just didn't get the ball to [Broyles]. That's the difference in winning and losing — those kinds of plays."

On Colorado's following possession, the A&M defense again



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Colorado tailback **Herchell Troutman** hugs his teammates after scoring the Buffaloes' second touchdown.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Members of A&M's Wrecking Crew swarm Colorado junior tailback **London Henry** (#39) as he gains five yards at the end of the third quarter.

Colorado 24, Texas A&M 10					
	Colorado	7	14	3	0-24
	A&M	0	7	0	3-10
			A&M		Colorado
First Downs			27		10
Rushes-yards			33-62		29-91
Passing yards			385		246
Comp-att-int			34-64-0		16-27-1
Return yards			99		9
Punts-avg.			5-35		8-38
Fumbles-lost			6-4		2-2
Penalties-yards			5-52		11-107
Time of possession			33:18		26:42

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