

SPORTS BRIEFS

Aggies ready to face new challenge

By MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

There is nothing like a good, old-fashioned blowout to put a team in a positive frame of mind.

The Texas A&M Football Team resumed practice this week in high spirits after its brutally easy 63-13 demolition of Louisiana Tech at Kyle Field Saturday.

"I think we've definitely picked up a lot of momentum with this win," junior quarterback Bran-

ndon Stewart said. "I think going out and actually seeing it happen and realizing that if we play close to error-free like we did in the game and not have turnovers, then good things will happen for us."

Error-free is precisely how the Aggies played, committing no turnovers for the first time this year and forcing four Tech giveaways.

The other positive for the Aggies was the re-emergence of their running attack. Only a week after attempting a school-record

64 passes against Colorado, the Aggies returned to their ground game and ran roughshod over the Tech defense. The Aggies ground out 432 yards on 54 rushing attempts and scored seven touchdowns, while gaining nearly eight yards per carry.

Three Aggies exceeded 90 yards rushing against the Bulldogs, with freshman Dante Hall leading the assault with 101 yards on 14 carries.

After being forced to pass against Colorado and relying primarily on the run last week, Head Coach R.C. Slocum said he would prefer a healthy combination of the two in the Aggies' offensive attack.

"What I'd like to do is be a balanced team that has the ability of running and throwing," Slocum said. "The success we've had has been because we were able to run the football and the successful teams around the country all have that [ability]."

When the Aggies travel to Iowa State Saturday, they will not be the only team emphasizing the run. The Cyclones boast the nation's top rusher in running back Troy Davis, who averages 229.3 yards per game.

A&M defensive line coach Bill Johnson said the Wrecking Crew is happy to receive a break from playing teams with pass-happy offenses.

"I think [the defense is] excited for a change of pace as far as what they're seeing offensively," Johnson said. "We started out against some throwing offenses. I think we're go-

ing to see teams challenge us with the run to see who can control the line of scrimmage. I think we match up well with these types of teams."

Defensive end Brandon Mitchell said the Aggie front line is ready to play.

"I just want to play a running team," Mitchell said. "This way we can test our front seven."

Although the A&M front seven are considered the strength of the Wrecking Crew, they will face a difficult task in containing the elusive Davis.

Slocum is confident the Aggies are up to the task.

"We match up better against a team that runs the ball more than the one that's an all-out passing attack," Slocum said. "I've said all along, I really think if the season had not started out with the kind of teams that can put so much emphasis on your secondary and passing game early, it might have

been a whole different season."

Indeed, a whole different season commences for the Aggies as they embark on the first road game on their Big 12 Conference schedule.

"I think it's a game where we're at a point where we feel good about ourselves, but at some point, we've got to add to that," Slocum said. "This team has never really gotten untracked. Now we're back on the upswing, so at some point, we need to get this thing off the ground and add to where we

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R.C. Slocum
A&M Head Coach

are now."

Outside linebacker Keith Mitchell said the Aggies need a Big 12 momentum builder.

"We're going into the Big 12," Mitchell said. "We need to get some momentum going. We've got a loss in the loss column, we need to get some wins in the win column."

The Aggies should be relatively injury-free for the Cyclones, with only Aaron Oliver (urology surgery) and Marc Broyles (knee scoped) listed as questionable. Both have resumed practice this week.

Midnight Mania

Kicks off Monday

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Basketball Teams will officially kick off the 1996-97 season Monday with Aggie Basketball Midnight Mania at G. Reville White Coliseum. College basketball practices officially start at midnight on Monday.

Doors will open at 11:15 p.m., and admission is free.

Both teams will be featured along with the Aggie Band, yell leaders, Reveille VI, a dorm competition and a variety of games and prizes, including books for the spring semester and the free use of a cellular phone or pager for a year.

The event is sponsored by AT&T and AT&T Wireless Services.

Back surgery likely for Spurs' Person

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The Spurs are facing the prospect of playing without injured guard David Robinson for the regular season and perhaps longer.

Person, 32, a 6-foot-8 forward, may have surgery to correct the problems affecting a herniated disc in his back.

"There is a big likelihood that he will have to undergo surgery," Person's agent, Herb Rudy, was quoted as saying in Tuesday's San Antonio Express-News.

"But we want to see what surgery would mean as far as his playing basketball and/or living a normal life is concerned. Right now, we've had numerous tests performed and we're waiting for results," he said.

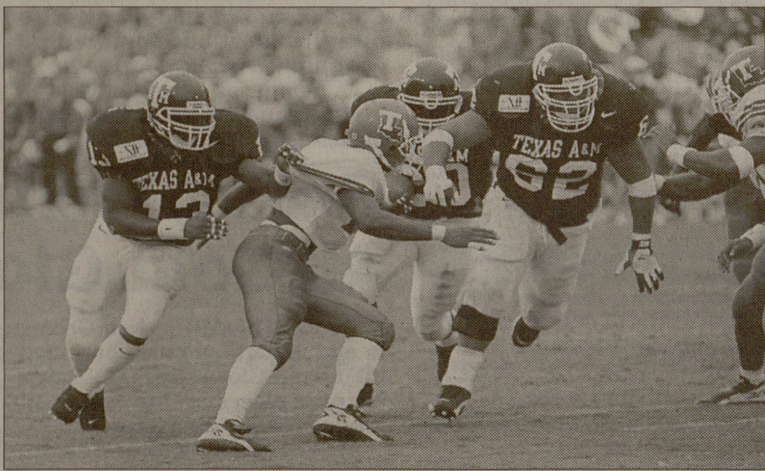
Cowboys' problems not because of Irvin

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Contrary to popular belief, Michael Irvin's absence isn't the only reason the Dallas Cowboys stumbled this season.

So just because Troy Aikman's favorite target will be back for Sunday's home game against Arizona doesn't mean the Cowboys will finally start playing like defending Super Bowl champions.

"I think we all have to realize that Michael back is a tremendous lift to us, emotionally and talent-wise," coach Barry Switzer said Tuesday.

"But if we continue to play the way we've been playing — making dumb mistakes — then Michael's presence doesn't help us."



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Running back Michael Williams and offensive guard Semisi Heimuli provide an escort for tailback D'Andre Hardeman against La. Tech.

Women's Golf finishes second

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M Women's Golf Team caught a glance of its future conference competition on Monday and Tuesday at the inaugural Big 12 Preview at Pebble Creek Country Club.

The host-team Aggies (314-308-305=927) finished in second place behind the University of Nebraska (300-296-313=909) at the two-day event.

Despite shooting the lowest team score of the day on Tuesday, the Aggies were unable to overcome the Cornhuskers, who shot a course-record 296 on Monday in building a 23-stroke advantage heading into the final 18 holes.

A&M junior Jamie Hullett's individual runner-up effort along with junior Isabelle Rosberg and junior Aurora Kirchner's top 18 finishes vaulted the Aggies past Missouri (310-309-319) into second place.

Although the appearance of country club member and singer Clay Walker added to the excitement of the day, it did not overshadow the action on the course.

Hullett (73-77-73=223) tied

Baylor's Mary Coleman over 54 holes and the two engaged in a suspenseful playoff on No. 18. Coleman claimed top individual honors when she chipped in a 20-foot shot from the rough for a birdie to win the playoff.

Rosberg finished tied for 13th with rounds of 82-73-77=232 while Kirchner finished three strokes back in a tie for 18th with a 79-81-75=235 showing.

Freshmen Anna Becker (80-78-80=238) and Amanda Rayford (83-80-84=247) tied for 25th and 49th, respectively.

A&M Head Coach Jeanne Sutherland was pleased with her team's showing.

"I was very proud of the way we played today," Sutherland said. "We had the low round of the day, and I think we will improve on that score the more we play."

"I was very pleased with Jamie's play. The whole team played well, and I was especially proud of the way everybody supported each other."

Senior Wendi Wight (77-83-79=239) tied for 27th to lead A&M's individual players. Sopho-



Rachel Redington, THE BATTALION

Junior Jamie Hullett putts at Pebble Creek Country Club Tuesday.

more Jennifer Emmons finished in a tie for 44th after posting rounds of 81-84-78=243, and sophomore Christie Arlitt (89-87-83=259) took 63rd.

The Aggies return to the course Oct. 14-15 at the Marilynn Smith/Sunflower Invitational at the University of Kansas.

Aggies return home following long road trip

The seventh-ranked Texas A&M Soccer Team embarked on its longest road trip of the season last weekend and ended up leaving a little maroon and white in its footsteps.

The Aggies' trip included conference games against the University of Colorado, Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

After shutting out all three opponents, the Aggies not only redeemed themselves after suffering their first loss of the season to the University of Nebraska on Sept. 29, but also gained some momentum for the upcoming weekend.

Big 12 Finish

The only thing different about the scenario this weekend is that the Aggies will be in their own territory facing two in-state Big 12 rivals — Texas Tech University on Friday and Baylor

University on Sunday.

These two games along with a make-up game against the University of Texas, mark the end of the line for the Lady Aggies in Big 12 regular season play.

With their three wins last weekend, the Aggies raised their record to 12-1 on the season and 6-1 in conference play.

Productive Trip

A&M posted a season-high 35 shots and 11 corner kicks in their matchup against the OSU Cowgirls. They also had their best weekend yet with three consecutive shutouts by a combined score of 10-0.

A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri said the Aggies' extended Big 12 road trip provided a good opportunity to integrate some younger players in the A&M game plan.

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Nicki Smith
Soccer Notebook

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