

A win is a win

The Aggies overcame a sluggish effort on offense for 24-21 win

By HEATHER PACE
THE BATTALION

Relying on key plays and big experience, the Texas A&M football team brought home a hard-earned road victory on a day the offense could not sustain a drive. The Aggies' 24-21 victory over Iowa State at Cyclone Stadium-Jack C. White Field on Saturday marks the first time the Aggies have won two games in a row this season. The nation's sixth-ranked offense have dragged its feet most of the day, but the Aggies made the most of their first road win of the year. A&M junior quarterback Brandon Stewart said the win moved the Aggies closer to contender status in the Big 12 South Division. "We took a big step toward get-

ting the momentum we need," Stewart said.

The Aggie win, combined with Oklahoma's upset over Texas, puts A&M in good position for the rest of the season. The Aggies are tied in the loss column with Texas Tech, the Longhorns and the Sooners.

The A&M offense, which entered Saturday's contest averaging 513 total yards per game, was limited to 323 yards by the Big 12's worst defense in yards allowed per game. However, big plays defined the game.

The Aggies put the first seven points on the scoreboard during their second possession, when sophomore tailback D'Andre Hardeman broke away for a 74-yard run that moved the Aggies down to the Iowa State 1-yard line.

Hardeman took the ball into the end zone on the next play, giving the Aggies an early advantage. But A&M was not done yet.

After a bad decision to field a Cyclone punt inside his own 5-yard line on the previous series, freshman Dante Hall redeemed himself with a 69-yard touchdown dash on his next return with just over eight minutes left in the first quarter.

A 42-yard Kyle Bryant field goal with 1:33 remaining in the opening quarter left A&M with a comfortable 17-0 lead over the Cyclones.

The margin faded midway through the second quarter as Iowa State senior quarterback Todd Doxzon walked into the endzone on a 1-yard run. The play capped a 19-play, 80-yard drive that consumed over eight minutes.

After coming out of halftime with

a 17-7 lead, the Aggie offense looked sluggish in the second half, while the Iowa State offense heated up.

After Aggie senior Albert Connell fumbled the opening kickoff in the second half to turn the ball over, Cyclone junior running back and Heisman Trophy candidate Troy Davis scored on a 2-yard run just 1:25 later to bring the Cyclones within three points.

The Cyclones seemed to have the momentum until sophomore kicker Jamie Kohl missed a field goal.

The Aggies stayed alive by shutting down Davis. The junior, who averaged 229.3 rushing yards per game coming into Saturday's contest, was held to only 130 yards on 39 carries.

A&M senior outside linebacker Keith Mitchell said the defense's primary goal was to keep Davis under control.

"All week long we kept hearing about Davis," Mitchell said. "We had already made a Heisman candidate out of the BYU quarterback, and we didn't intend to do it again for Davis. We wanted to shut him down."

Using an eight-man front and a strong safety, the Aggies did just that.

Mitchell said although the defense may have been caught off guard by Davis' impressive mobility, it was not stopped from doing its job.

"I would compare him to Trevor Cobb [former Rice running back], because he moves well from side-to-side and is quick on the perimeter," Mitchell said. "Davis surprised us by being as mobile as he was."

The A&M offense remained stymied throughout the game until Connell came up big in the fourth quarter.

Facing a third down-and-12 situation, Stewart connected with Connell on a 70-yard screen pass as the Cyclones blitzed Stewart.

Stewart said the play was called to give the defense some time to rest and to run the clock.

"We expected them to blitz and we needed to get in there and take some time off the clock," Stewart said. "We didn't go so much to Connell in the first half. But you can throw him a hitch and he'll go 80 yards with it."

Special teams proved to be the staying force needed to keep A&M in the game.

In the fourth quarter, Shane Lechler punted back-to-back punts of 70 and 76 yards, respectively.

"Before the last punt, they were right on top of me ... but I was just thinking about giving the defense a chance," Lechler said.



Mike Faas, IOWA STATE DAILY

Sophomore tailback **Eric Bernard** carried for 42 of the Aggies' 194 rushing yards against Iowa State Saturday.

Big 12 South Roundup

(AP) — Texas coach John Mackovic blamed it on conditioning, but the Oklahoma Sooners likely had more to do with the Longhorns' discomfort. The winless Sooners fought back from an 11-point, fourth-quarter deficit to knock off then-No. 25 and 22-point favorite Texas 30-27 in overtime in a Big 12 Conference shocker.

While the Longhorns (3-3, 2-1 in Big 12 games) were losing their third game, Texas Tech (4-2, 3-1) was rearranging the Big 12 South standings with a solid 30-17 comeback victory over Kansas with another 100-plus-yard performance by Byron Hanspard.

In other Big 12 South games: Nebraska blanked Baylor (3-2, 0-2) 49-0, and Colorado beat Oklahoma State 3-2, 0-2) 35-13.

Mackovic said the Longhorns' second day game of the season caused them to tire in the fourth quarter. Blake was just happy to get his first victory as the Sooners' coach.

"This win is really unexplainable," Blake said. "All I can think about is what we went through. It really is a tremendous relief."

Reserve tailback James Allen scored on a 2-yard run in overtime for the victory ending the Sooners' seven-game losing streak, longest in school history.

"Lose or win, I wanted to be a part of something," Allen said. "The road has been bumpy and rough, but I kept my head up. I knew it would turn around some day. Today was the day."

Oklahoma rallied from a 24-13 deficit to tie the game on Jarrail Jackson's 51-yard punt return with 6:44 left in regulation play and a 44-yard field goal by Jeremy

Alexander with 2:26 to go.

Meanwhile, the Red Raiders moved to the top of the Big 12 South standings and got another big game from Hanspard, who didn't get his fifth 200-yard game but came close, finishing with 190 yards on 37 carries. He also caught his first touchdown pass of the season.

Zebbie Lethridge had two fourth-quarter touchdown runs of one yard each as the Raiders rallied from a 17-7 halftime deficit. Both of Lethridge's touchdowns followed interceptions. The Aggies used big plays to win their first Big 12 game. Albert Connell caught a pass behind the line and produced a 70-yard touchdown play, and D'Andre Hardeman returned a punt 69 yards for another score.

The big plays perked up an uninspired offense.

"We won a conference football game, I'm not going to make any excuses for it," A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "We'll go back and try to correct the mistakes we made. We had some bad things happen, and we hung in there and found a way to win the football game."

Connell's big play came in the fourth quarter and gave the Aggies a cushion because Iowa State rallied for the final touchdown after intercepting a pass by Brannndon Stewart.

Connell wanted to atone for a third-quarter fumble that led to an Iowa State touchdown.

"I was disappointed with myself because I wasn't protecting the ball," Connell said. "That play would have been a big part of it if we had lost. I wanted an opportunity to make up for it."



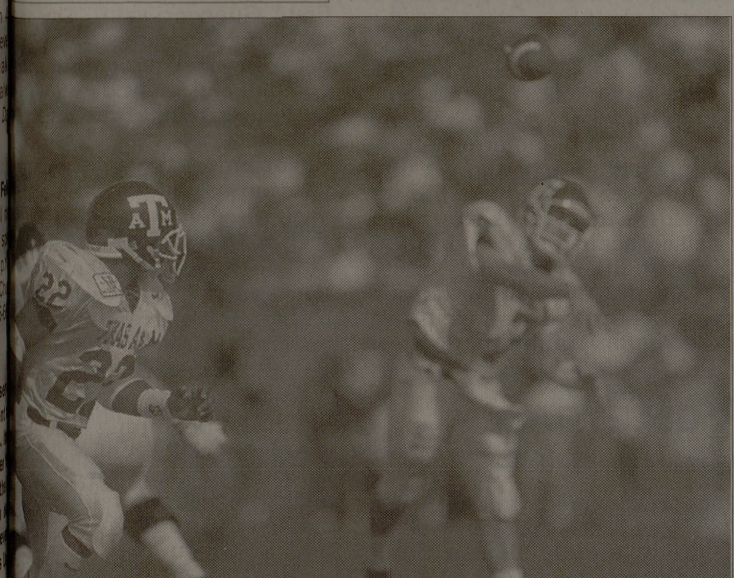
Containing Troy Davis

Rushing

Att-net yards-TD
39 130 1

Pass Receiving

No.-yards-TD
2 23 0



Mike Faas, IOWA STATE DAILY

Tailback **Eric Bernard** eyes a pass from junior quarterback **Brandon Stewart** during the Aggies' 24-21 victory over Iowa State Saturday.

A&M Volleyball quickly dismisses Missouri, Iowa State

By ROSS HECOX
THE BATTALION

The mere mention of a Lady Aggie upset would be ridiculous.

The 12th-ranked Texas A&M Volleyball Team made short work of the University of Missouri and Iowa State University this weekend, winning both matches in three games at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M defeated the Cyclones 15-6, 15-9, 15-9, on Saturday and Missouri 15-4, 15-9, 15-4, on Friday to improve its conference record to 6-0 and 15-2 overall.

A&M's opponents carried a combined 4-24 record. The biggest threat facing the Lady Aggies was looking beyond the weekend contests and into next weekend's matches against the University of Nebraska and the University of Colorado.

A&M has not faced a top 20 team since it defeated the University of Texas Sept. 25, and made it a point not to overlook Iowa State and Missouri.

Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said A&M did a good job of stay-

ing focused against the unranked teams.

"I'm not as worried anymore about preparation for these teams," Corbelli said. "I am pleased with how [the players] have prepared themselves and jumped on teams like they should. They are self-motivated and confident not to let [an upset] happen."

In the first game against Iowa State, the Lady Aggies held an 11-6 advantage when Smedsrud's shot sparked a four-point run. On the final play, sophomore outside hitter Stacy Sykora made a diving save, setting up junior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud's game-winning block.

Cyclone outside hitter Colleen Henican's kill evened the score at eight in game two, but Smedsrud's hard shot ended the Cyclone threat. A&M followed with a 7-1 run to take a 2-0 lead in the match.

In the final frame, A&M's lead was cut to 10-8 on Cyclone middle blocker Rachelle Van Scoyoc's kill. After five scoreless possessions

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Home Sweet Home

The A&M Soccer Team defeated Big 12 opponents Texas Tech and Baylor.

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

Aside from the fact that 794 seats were added to the stands, nothing out of the ordinary happened this weekend at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

It was the usual sight as the Texas A&M Soccer Team trounced two more of its Big 12 foes, beating Texas Tech University 8-2 on Friday and Baylor University 4-1 on Sunday.

With the victories, the seventh-ranked Aggies improved their record to 14-1 on the season and 7-1 in the Big 12, which leaves them in second place in the conference behind the undefeated University of Nebraska.

In addition, the team earned its 14th straight win on home turf, while improving its Soccer Complex record to 30-1.

Head Coach G. Guerrieri said he was pleased with the way the Aggies came out to play this weekend.

"We scored 12 goals in two games this weekend," Guerrieri

said. "We played two of the better teams in the conference, and our style of play proved to work very well. Not only did we do a good job keeping possession of the ball three-fourth of the game, but we also made several adjustments that worked well for us."

As the final score over the Red Raiders indicated, adjustments made by Guerrieri in the new lineup seemed to be working in the Aggies' favor. Junior forward Bryn Blalack was positioned closer to her opponents' goal in order to set up more A&M shot attempts.

A four-goal momentum builder in the opening 10 minutes of the first half in the Tech game helped put the game out of reach. Blalack sparked the four-goal streak by heading the ball into the net off a cross from senior forward Yvette Okler just 36 seconds into the game.

Later junior midfielder Diana Rowe followed up with a score of her own, heading in another ball off of a corner kick by senior midfielder Tania Castillejos.

Senior forward Kristen Koop and Okler added their own two



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Forward **Kristen Koop** collides with Baylor goalkeeper **Amanda Banar** at the Aggie Soccer Complex Sunday.

goals to increase the lead to 4-0 just 10 minutes into the game.

Okler, Blalack and junior midfielder Jessica Mouske would add additional scores for the Aggies before the end of the first half.

Although the Red Raiders would score two goals early in the first half, freshman midfielder Julie Pinkerton sealed the game for the Aggies with one more goal.

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Rony Angriawan, THE BATTALION
Sophomore **Stacy Sykora** launches a shot against two Iowa State defenders at G. Rollie White Coliseum Sunday.