

# 13-10: Tech kicks Aggies



while they're down

Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Junior tailback **Byron Hanspard**, who is an ordained minister, leads the Red Raiders in prayer and reflection on the 50-yard line after Tech's 13-10 defeat of the Aggies Saturday at Kyle Field.

By TOM DAY  
THE BATTALION

Like pouring salt on an open wound, the Texas A&M Football Team's season went from good to worse Saturday at Kyle Field. Like Colorado and Kansas State before them, the Texas Tech Red Raiders showed little regard for the Aggies and another frened gathering of A&M supporters, pulling out a 13-10 victory in front of a sellout crowd of 70,147. Tech quarterback Zebbie Lethridge's 81-yard touchdown strike to freshman fullback Sam Morris with 6:20 remaining in the game stunned the A&M crowd and sent the Red Raiders to the top of the Big 12 South standings and to

their first victory at A&M since 1984. A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said the Aggies can stop worrying about the conference race and just concentrate on winning games. "It's been a long time since I was in this situation," Slocum said. "There are some conversations that you're no longer in. You let someone else talk about the conference race and we worry about our team and our next opponent." Suffering back-to-back home losses for the first time since 1984, A&M dropped to 3-5 overall and 1-3 in the Big 12 South. The Aggies must now win all four of their remaining games to be eligible for a bowl bid. However Slocum said that is the least of the team's concerns. "Bowls are not in my worries

right now," Slocum said. "I'm concerned about getting back and trying to win a game next week. We certainly took a big step backwards." The Aggies left Tech running back Byron Hanspard's Heisman Trophy hopes unharmed as the junior ran free for 198 yards on 41 carries. Lethridge, not recognized for a keen passing ability, also torched A&M for 181 yards through the air. But the Aggies' latest setback was characterized by the same problems that have plagued them all season long — costly turnovers and a failure to make big plays when they needed to. In the Aggies' favor, they were impressive defensively inside the red zone. Having recently strived to improve on stopping opponents inside the 20-yard line, A&M was given ample opportunity to do so.

Up 3-0 and driving with just under three minutes left in the opening quarter, the Red Raiders moved the ball down to the Aggie 3-yard line. On first down, A&M kept a rushing Hanspard out of the end zone. The junior plunged across the goal line a play later, but a Tech illegal procedure penalty nullified the score.

The Aggies took advantage of the lucky break on the next play, sacking Lethridge on the roll and forcing a fumble on the six that was recovered by inside linebacker Dat Nguyen.

A&M turned back another Raider touchdown opportunity in the second when it stuffed rushes by Hanspard and Lethridge at the 8-yard line. Following a sack by sophomore outside linebacker Warrick Holdman, Tech attempted a field goal, but came up empty when kicker Jaret Greaser's 27-yard kick banged the right upright and fell away no-good.

The Aggies had already forced Tech to settle for field goals after the Raiders were stopped by A&M on the Aggie 28 and again at the 26.

However, the Aggies gave up the big play with Tech pinned back in their own territory with the game on the line. Lethridge faked a handoff to Hanspard and the entire A&M defense, including Morris' cover man, cornerback Donovan Greer, bit on the decoy. Lethridge hit a wide-open Morris for a way-too-easy touchdown pass.

Senior noseguard Eddie Jasper said that play typified the Aggies' season.

"Mistakes have kept us down all year long," Jasper said. "I don't think we've played a team better than us, but we always find a way to self-destruct."

"I'm not shocked, I'm mad. Two or three plays and this season could be the other way around. It wasn't just that pass. We made mistakes throughout the game that we shouldn't have made — things we go over every day in practice like fundamentals. The season is halfway over with and you don't need to make those kind of mistakes this time of year, but we keep making them."

The A&M loss cancelled out a stellar performance by tailback Dante Hall who scampered to a career-high 186-yard rushing performance.

The Aggies were unable to fully capitalize on Hall's biggest moment of the day, a spectacular 74-yard, second quarter run that moved A&M down to the Tech 6-yard line. Tailback Sirr Parker lost a yard before a Stewart sack and incomplete pass forced A&M to settle for a Kyle Bryant 31-yard field goal.

After scoring the game's first touchdown on a 28-yard run by Hall with 6:23 remaining in the third quarter, the Aggies had a 10-6 lead and seemed to have the momentum.

The Aggies would start another drive, marching 50 yards to the Tech seven before a Hall fumble gave the ball back to the Red Raiders.

However, the A&M defense tightened, forcing Tech backwards to a fourth down situation at their own 1-yard line. With Tech pinned back and facing straight into a 15 mph wind, A&M called their final two timeouts in the waning seconds of the third quarter to force the Raiders to punt into the wind.

The play worked and A&M regained possession after a short Tech punt was downed at the 29-yard line. But the Aggies once again could not move the ball and were forced to punt.



Dave House, THE BATTALION

A&M Head Coach **R.C. Slocum** pleads his case about whether A&M linebacker Larry Walker II's sack of Zebbie Lethridge was a safety.

"I thought we had good momentum," Stewart said. "I thought we could hold them on defense and possibly put another touchdown in or just eat up the clock."

But the offense could not get the job done, giving the Raiders new life in the fourth.

Facing a 3rd-and-1 situation on their own 40 with just over seven minutes remaining, the Aggies were whistled for a delay of game penalty. Hall's two-yard run on the next play was not enough for a first down and A&M was forced to punt, setting the stage for Morris' heroics.

Following the touchdown, Tech seized control of the game and snuffed out a last-ditch A&M scoring drive when Stewart was sacked on 4th-and-3 after moving the Aggies down to the Tech 43.

The final numbers were not any prettier than the final score for A&M. The Red Raiders outgained the Aggies by 110 total yards, and Stewart could only muster 54 yards on 6-of-19 passing. A&M wideout Albert Connell, the Big 12's leading receiver entering the contest, did not catch a pass.

"They played well on defense today," Stewart said. "They covered our receivers well, played hard and

didn't make any mistakes." Having already lost five games in a season for the first time since 1988, this season has been a long, hard fall for the Aggies.

Slocum said the team's change in fortune hasn't caused him to change his style.

"I haven't all of a sudden started coaching differently and we haven't changed a bunch of things — we just have not gotten it done," Slocum said. "If you're not winning, that's about as bad as it can be if you're a coach. The expectation level that I have for our team makes it even worse."

**"I don't think we've played a team better than us, but we always find a way to self-destruct."**

Edward Jasper  
Senior noseguard

### Tx. Tech 13, Texas A&M 10

Tx. Tech	3	3	0	7	—	13
A&M	0	3	7	0	—	10

	A&M	Tx. Tech
First Downs	15	23
Rushes-yards	41-260	64-242
Passing yards	54	182
Comp-att-int	6-19-0	10-25-0
Return yards	33	52
Punts-avg.	8-44	7-34
Fumbles-lost	3-2	2-2
Penalties-yards	8-46	4-25
Time of possession	22:48	37:12



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Senior linebacker **Larry Walker II** displays the helmet of Tech quarterback Zebbie Lethridge after sacking Lethridge on the goal line.

# A&M Volleyball sweeps Kansas, Kansas State

By JEREMY FURTICK  
THE BATTALION

The Kansas Jayhawks stormed into G. Rollie White Coliseum Sunday looking to upset the 10th-ranked Texas A&M Volleyball Team, but were swept in three games, 15-10, 19-17, 15-0.

The Lady Aggies ran their record to 18-3 overall and 9-1 in Big 12 Conference play, while improving their home record to 11-0.

They moved into a tie for first place in the Big 12 after Texas Tech upset Nebraska Saturday, giving the national champion its first loss of the season.

Kansas came out firing in the first game, grabbing an early 6-3 lead over A&M, but could only manage four more points as the Aggies cruised to a 15-10 win.

It seemed that A&M had put any Jayhawk upset thoughts to rest, but in game two Kansas jumped on top early again.

The Aggies struggled and the momentum had swung completely in Kansas' favor. The Jayhawks were in the middle of a big run when sophomore outside hitter Stacy Sykora made a diving dig.

The play wasn't significant to the score, but it was to the Aggies. Syko-

ra's momentum-shifting play was a preview of bigger plays to come from the sophomore.

Sykora said she was feeling confident on defense and knew the team needed a lift.

"We needed a big play and I was looking to make it," Sykora said. "I wanted that dig ... I would have dove across the gym to get it."

The Aggies fended off five Jayhawk game points, and rode Sykora's hot hitting to a 19-17 victory in a game that saw nine ties and five lead changes.

The third game was all Texas A&M as the Aggies rolled to a shut-out victory.

A&M Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said the Jayhawks gave A&M everything they had in the second game, but ran out of steam for the third.

"Kansas fought hard to win the second game," Corbelli said. "After losing that one, I think they got that 'given-up' feeling.

"I don't think my speech after the second game had anything to do with it (the game three shutout). We talked about some strategy and played game three with more intensity."

Sykora was the star of the match, recording team-highs in kills (19) and digs (14). More importantly, she made the plays the Lady Aggies needed at key moments of the match.

"Stacy was ready to play today," Corbelli said.

Junior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud also had a big day with 14 kills and 11 digs. Junior setter Farah Mensik recorded 52 assists, and junior middle blocker Cindy VanderWoude finished the match with 11 kills.

As a team, the Aggies outhit Kansas .336 to .154 and posted 61 kills to the Jayhawks' 40.

Corbelli said the victory gives the Aggies some positive things on which to build.

"Our focus lately has been on individual intensity," Corbelli said. "This match helped that. Anything can happen in this conference. Kansas

**"Our focus has been on individual intensity. This match (Kansas) helped that."**

Laurie Corbelli  
A&M Head Coach

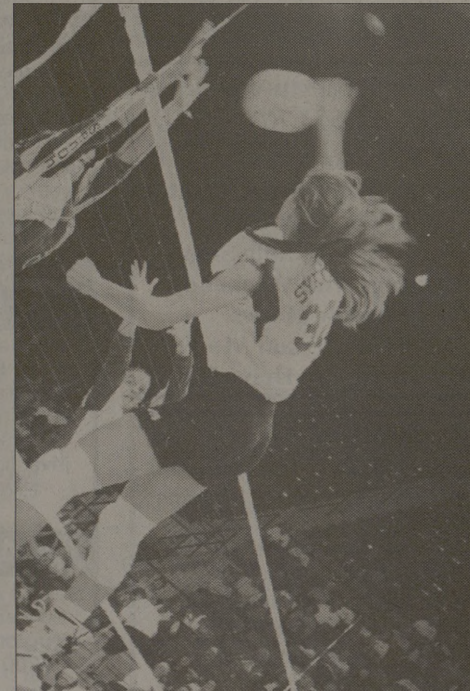
played above their heads, but we raised the level of our intensity and won the match."

In the first game of the Lady Aggies' sweep of 23rd-ranked Kansas State Friday night, A&M took an early 6-1 lead, but the Wildcats outscored A&M 4-0 to tie the game at 11. After exchanging sideouts, junior outside hitter Cindy VanderWoude served one of A&M's season-high 11 aces, and Sykora sealed the deal three points later with a kill to give A&M a 15-13 win.

In the second game, the Lady Aggies outhit the Wildcats .333 to .034 and reeled off seven points before the Wildcats could score. A&M led 7-2 before going on an 8-0 run to win the match 15-2.

A&M had to overcome a 12-5 deficit in the third game to pull off the sweep. With KSU ahead 13-6, the Lady Aggies scored two consecutive points on kills by junior Kristie Smedsrud and VanderWoude. Smedsrud later clinched the match with a game-winning kill.

The Aggies will hit the road Nov. 1 for a road trip to Iowa State Friday and Missouri Saturday Nov. 2.



Pat James, THE BATTALION

Sophomore **Stacy Sykora** kills the ball over Kansas defenders on Sunday.