

Aggies send Bears back into hibernation, 24-7

BY JAMIE BURCH
THE BATTALION

Saddled with a 4-5 record entering Saturday's contest against Baylor University, the Texas A&M Football Team had two objectives for the game — reaching the elusive .500 mark and figuring out which quarterback is more adept at moving the Aggie offense, Brannndon Stewart or Randy McCown.

The A&M running game supplied half of what the team was looking for, rushing for 369 yards in a 24-7 victory over the Bears. The Aggies' ground explosion left little for Stewart or McCown to show, especially

during the second half.

Trailing 7-0 at halftime, the Aggie offense ignited in the third quarter. After forcing Baylor to punt on the first series of the half, A&M took over the ball on its own 48-yard line.

On their second play from scrimmage, sophomore tailback Eric Bernard broke free and scampered 40 yards for a touchdown. The score remained 7-6 after a failed point-after attempt by placekicker Kyle Bryant.

Two possessions later, the Aggies would stick to the ground game.

Using a combination of tailbacks, A&M capped off a 65-yard scoring drive with a four-yard touchdown run by sophomore running back D'Andre Hardeman to grab its first lead.

A spectacular catch by senior wideout Albert Connell in the back of the end zone for a two-point conversion put the Aggies up 14-7.

The Wrecking Crew held the Baylor offense at bay in the second half. A&M limited Baylor to 53 offensive yards in the half, while amassing seven tackles for lost yardage, including four quarterback sacks.

Senior noseguard Eddie Jasper said the key to A&M's defensive performance was Baylor's decision to stray from its game plan.

"For some reason in the second half, they completely went away from their running game," Jasper said. "If you can't run, I

don't think you can win the big game. But we like playing passing teams because it's open season on quarterbacks."

After a 40-yard Bryant field goal extended A&M's lead to 17-7 early in the fourth quarter, the Aggie running game exploded once more.

On second down and five from the A&M five-yard line, Hardeman burst through the Baylor line and sprinted 95 yards down field for an insurance touchdown. The play was the longest run from the line of scrimmage in Aggie history.

Hardeman said all he was thinking about was reaching the end zone.

"I just turned upfield and headed for the end zone," Hardeman said. "I thought about the possibility of someone catching up, but I just put it in my mind that I wasn't going to let anybody catch me."

A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said increased game experience for the team's younger players made a difference.

"You get better when you play," Slocum said. "Each time you play, you learn something else, and they've learned a lot."

It was Baylor that drew first blood in the contest. Surprising the Wrecking Crew with a passing attack, Baylor scored on a 13-yard touchdown run by tailback Dexter Ford on its first possession to grab the early lead.

The scoring drive was twice sustained with 22-yard pass completions on third down and long situations.

While the A&M offense remained in a lull throughout the first half, Baylor came up empty on several scoring opportunities. Late in the second quarter, Bear placekicker Kyle Atteberry missed a 39-yard field goal attempt.

In the third quarter, a Baylor offensive pass interference call erased a 14-yard completion and a first down at the A&M 22-yard line. The Bears then came up empty when Atteberry missed another field goal attempt from 54 yards out.

Stewart, who completed just 3 of 11 passes for 52 yards in the first half, was taken out of the game with 8:12 remaining in the second quarter with the Aggies trailing. However, redshirt freshman Randy McCown, last week's hero against Oklahoma State, failed to jumpstart the Aggie offense, completing just 1 of 3 passes for 11 yards. A&M recorded just 16 yards of offense in the second quarter.

Stewart started and played the entire second half.

Hardeman finished the game with 121 yards on seven carries while Bernard ran 21 times for 115



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Sophomore tailback **Eric Bernard** breaks loose from a pack of Bear defenders Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium.

yards. Tailbacks Sirt Parker and Dante Hall also got in on the action, running for 63 and 76 yards, respectively. The Bears were held to 58 rushing yards on 38 attempts.

The Aggies (5-5 overall, 3-3 in the Big 12) can still be eligible for a bowl berth with victories over the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas in their final two games.

Longhorns take control of first in Big 12 South

(AP) — The Texas Longhorns picked a good time to show their hearts, something fans were beginning to question.

The Longhorns could have added to a season of unfulfilled dreams by allowing Texas Tech to rally past them in Saturday's Big 12 South Division showdown.

The Red Raiders came back from 28-3 and 35-18 deficits, but the Longhorns (5-4, 4-2) held on for a 38-32 victory and moved into the division lead. The Raiders (5-4, 4-3) dropped to second place.

"We learned from our mistakes," Texas fullback Ricky Williams said. "We were sick of people saying we were under-achievers and didn't have heart. We knew that wasn't true. And we knew what we could do."

Texas Tech narrowed the Longhorns' lead to 35-32 in the fourth quarter but the Longhorns used 4:11 of the clock to set up a 53-yard field goal by Phil Dawson with 51 seconds left in the game.

That meant a field goal couldn't tie the game and possibly force overtime.

"This time, we weren't worried at all," Taje Allen said. "I don't know why. I guess we learned how to play all 60 minutes."

The Longhorns almost blew a 21-point lead before beating Baylor a week ago and they did blow late leads to Notre Dame, Virginia and Oklahoma.

They came away smiling this time.

"You probably just saw one of the greatest shootouts of '96," Texas coach John Mackovic said. "That was one heck of a football game."

How the Big 12 South Division stacks up

What each school must do to claim the Big 12 South title

Texas must beat Kansas and A&M or could win with a loss and some help.

Tech must beat Oklahoma and hope Texas loses its two remaining games.

Oklahoma must beat A&M and Texas Tech and hope for a Texas loss.

A&M must beat OU and Texas and hope that with a Tech loss to OU.

1996 Big 12 Conference Football Standings

Division	Conference					Overall				
	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
South Division										
Texas	4	2	.666	228	137	5	4	.555	306	208
Texas Tech	4	3	.571	175	137	5	4	.555	245	172
Texas A&M	3	3	.500	126	107	5	5	.500	303	190
Oklahoma	3	3	.500	165	235	3	6	.333	234	337
Baylor	1	5	.166	127	195	4	5	.444	207	234
Oklahoma St.	1	6	.143	122	264	4	6	.400	205	310
North Division										
Colorado	6	0	1.000	197	109	8	1	.888	295	182
Nebraska	6	0	1.000	299	48	8	1	.888	419	90
Kansas State	5	1	.833	162	130	8	1	.888	290	140
Kansas	2	4	.333	129	206	4	5	.444	258	278
Missouri	1	5	.166	106	240	3	6	.333	187	308
Iowa State	1	5	.166	187	215	2	7	.222	273	337



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Sophomore tailback **Dexter Ford** is engulfed by members of A&M's Wrecking Crew. The Aggie defense limited Baylor to 58 rushing yards.

Soccer falls to Nebraska in Big 12 championship round, 1-0

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M Soccer Team overcame draining fatigue and cold weather conditions Sunday in the final of the Big 12 Conference Championships, but it could not overcome its toughest obstacle — the University of Nebraska.

Playing in a cloudy, blustery 37-degree climate, the sixth-ranked Aggies fell 1-0 in double overtime to the fifth-ranked Cornhuskers at the Anheuser-Busch Conference and Sports Centre in St. Louis, Mo.

Lindsay Eddleman's goal with less than two-and-a-half minutes remaining in the contest sealed a hard-

earned victory for Nebraska.

A&M was unable to avenge its only regular season conference loss, a 1-0 setback to the Cornhuskers Sept. 29.

The Aggies returned to play Sunday after eduring a tightly-contested semifinal match against Baylor on Saturday, a 5-4 A&M overtime victory.

Despite allowing a season-high four goals, A&M capitalized on multiple-goal efforts from Bryn Blalack and Kristen Koop to advance to Sunday's final.

While the second-seeded Aggies enjoyed a first round bye, Baylor (17-3-1) defeated the University of Texas 3-1 on Friday to earn a matchup with A&M.

The Aggies fell behind 2-0 to the Bears after 29 minutes, but Koop would cut the lead in half with a goal at the 34:02 mark.

However, Courtney Saunders' second goal of the match just 77 seconds later would post the Bears to a 3-1 halftime advantage.

"Baylor played terrific," A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri said. "They came out and played well and put us in the hole for a lot of the game. Courtney Saunders, over the course of two games, appears to be the player of the tournament, which is saying something considering how well Bryn played today."

A Blalack goal at the 56:41 mark followed by another Koop score six minutes later would knot the game at

three. Saunders gave the Bears the lead again with her third goal of the match in the 65th minute, but Blalack drove a penalty kick in for a score to send the match into overtime.

Blalack's direct kick goal 4:57 into the extra frame won the game for A&M. The score marked her fifth hat trick of the season and her 10th game-winning goal.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the courage and confidence our players played with to come back three separate times to pull off this win," Guerrieri said. "To be down two goals at halftime and one goal late in regulation, and then pull something out in overtime, is quite an accomplishment that will have a positive effect on our program in the future."

A&M senior defender Tina Robinson was named Defensive Most Valuable Player of the Championships and was also named to the All-Tournament team. Joining Robinson on the team were A&M senior defender Sandy Edwards, junior midfielder Diana Rowe and forwards Koop and Blalack.

First-round pairings for the 1996 NCAA Division I Women's Soccer Championships will be announced today at 5 p.m. by Kathy Lindahl, chair of the NCAA Women's Soccer Committee. The announcement will be televised live by FoxSports Network affiliates.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A&M senior forward **Kristen Koop** drives past a Baylor defender before passing off Saturday in St. Louis.



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Members of the A&M Soccer team bundle up on the bench to keep warm at the Big 12 Championships. The game time temperature was 37 degrees.