

# Strong second half leads to Aggie win

By MATT MITCHELL  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Football Team is doing its best Red Raider impression Saturday looking like they would be the second consecutive Big 12 conquest for the North Texas Mean Green.

Luckily, freshman Jeff Wilson did not let Quentin Coryatt's impression of the Aggies used an inspired second-half effort by the Wrecking Crew and dominant special teams to squish pesky North Texas 38-10 before 42,224 at Texas Stadium in Irving.

After watching (North Texas) play last week as well as they played, I didn't think we'd go out and knock them out in the first quarter," A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said. "I felt like it would be a competitive ballgame."

After jumping out to a quick 10-point quarter lead behind the relentless attack of running backs Dante Hall and Sirt Parker, and the accuracy of place kicker Kyle Bryant, the Aggie attack fell in disarray.

The North Texas linebackers looked to have in the Aggie backfield the entire second quarter, repeatedly attacking their offensive line counting off the snap, and collected 11 first-half sacks, including three from Scott Blanks.

Meanwhile, North Texas managed to tie the game on a field goal on a touchdown pass right before halftime. The Mean Green was aided by a roughing the passer penalty and a sloppy tackling as the Wrecking Crew gave up its first touchdown of the season.

Things got no better on the Ag-

gies' first possession of the second half, as they went three and out and punted from deep in their own territory. It was looking as though it was going to be a long afternoon for the maroon and white.

Salvation arrived in the form of defensive back Jeff Wilson, who beat his man down the field and leveled UNT return man Tubby Coleman a split-second after Coleman fielded the punt. Coleman fumbled the football and freshman Michael Jameson returned it to the UNT 18. It took 3 plays for the Aggies to score and establish a lead they would never relinquish.

For Wilson, who should set his VCR to catch his hit on the plays of the week, it was the second tackle of his career.

"I beat my man down the field and I could feel it coming," Wilson said. "I think it was a big momentum change."

The Aggies' success Saturday was more a result of timely big plays than offensive consistency. Despite the disturbing first-half performance by the offensive line, supposedly the strongest area on the team, the Aggies rushed for 336 yards, including 156 yards on 19 carries for Hall and 124 yards on 17 carries for Parker.

"I was really pleased with our backs—I thought they gave great efforts," Slocum said. "They really ran hard and made some big plays for us. Whichever one is on the field, I feel like we've got a good back out there."

The Aggie quarterbacks were less proficient, with junior Brandon Stewart and sophomore Randy McCown combining to complete just 7 of 18 passes for 76 yards, with no touchdowns and no interceptions.

"They did a lot of different things



Texas A&M freshman defensive back Jeff Wilson causes North Texas punt returner Tubby Coleman to fumble the football Saturday afternoon at Texas Stadium. The fumble was recovered by A&M freshman Michael Jameson.

as far as defensive structure and the way they moved their line and their linebackers around," Stewart said. "They did a good job of disguising it, but we were able to correct some of those things at halftime."

If they corrected anything, it was not readily apparent in the third quarter, as the Aggies continued to struggle offensively. North Texas hung around and kept the outcome in doubt until the fourth quarter when the Aggies pulled away with Bryant's third field goal of the day, a

51-yarder that put the Aggies up 23-10. Touchdown runs by McCown (1 yard) and junior running back D'Andre Hardeman (9 yards) rounded out the scoring.

Senior defensive end Brad Crowley said the tough win will help the Aggies down the road.

"I think it builds character for our team," Crowley said. "We need to learn how to play with a little adversity. We regrouped at halftime and made some adjustments, and they worked well for us."

## Kicking game provides spark in 38-10 victory

By PAUL MITCHELL  
Staff writer

Deadlocked at 10 entering the second half against North Texas and forced to punt after a quick three-and-out possession, the Texas A&M Aggies were looking for a spark.

Luckily, Jeff Wilson brought a flame thrower.

The little-used cornerback from Temple outraced the UNT defense on a booming Shane Lechler punt to lay a bone-jarring, de-cleating hit on return man Tubby Coleman that nearly knocked the Mean Green back to Division 1-AA.

Coleman's fumble and the ensuing return to the UNT 19 took the Mean out of the Green and spurred the sluggish Aggie offense to a 26-point second half in what would become a 36-10 victory.

"I think it changed the whole momentum of the game," said senior Brad Crowley. "It was pretty much a constant struggle for both teams, and I think that was the breaking point."

Wilson's vicious hit highlighted a special teams effort that limited the UNT return men to a total of 4 yards

on the day. Punter Shane Lechler was equally brilliant, averaging nearly 49 yards on seven punts, including a 56-yarder.

Placekicker Kyle Bryant dialed long distance, connecting on field goals of 48, 27 and 51 yards. In a performance reminiscent of his freshman season, Bryant's long-distance heroics repeatedly rescued the Aggie offense when drives stalled outside the red zone.

"I felt really good today," Bryant said. "I checked my distance in pregame, and it was 55 yards. I told coach I could make a 51-yarder if he would just let me try."

After pushing a 50-yarder wide right in the second quarter for his first miss of the season, Bryant rebounded to nail two field goals in the second half, including the 51-yarder that gave the Aggies some breathing room.

"You can't stumble over things that are behind you," Bryant said. "I've kicked a thousand field goals. You just have to go with what's working for you."

A&M coach R.C. Slocum thought the special teams' effort was pivotal in the Aggies' victory.

"In most games, you go back and analyze plays that are significant, and a lot of them occur in the kicking game," Slocum said. "You work hard and good things happen to you."



Bryant

### Sports Briefs

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

#### Volleyball Team beats Sooners in three games

The 14th-ranked Texas A&M Volleyball Team took back the winning track Saturday night by defeating the University of Oklahoma in three games, 15-12, 15-2, 15-5 at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Oklahoma jumped out to an early 8-0 lead in the 1 before the Aggies battled back. Senior Kristie Smedsrud and sophomore Amber Woolsey had back to back spikes which gave A&M an 11-10 lead.

After the Sooners tied the game at 12, senior Kelly Lothspeich put down one of her game-high kills to give A&M a 13-12 lead. The Aggies never looked back from that point on.

"Early in the match we were tight and uncertain," coach Laurie Corbelli said in a press release. "From our service receive to our setting attack, we were very shaky and tentative. But once we saw we could handle them, we came back with a point here and there."

"We had some key blocks to close the gap. The coaches told the players during the timeout that blocking is critical and that the digging would come together. After that our blocking and passing got on a roll."

The Aggies dominated the next two games. The win was helped by an entire team effort. Along with Lothspeich's 18 kills, A&M also got from junior Stacy Sykora, 12 from Woolsey, and from Smedsrud. Sykora also had a match high 19 digs in addition to 14 by Smedsrud.

#### Women Golfers claim sixth at McGuire Invnt.

The 12th-ranked Texas A&M Women's Golf Team placed sixth Saturday at the Dick McGuire Invitational played at the university of New Mexico's Championship Golf Course.

Leading the Aggies was senior Jamie Hullett and sophomore Anna Becker, both with a three round total of 225, to place them in a five way tie for twelfth place. Senior Isabelle Rosberg, Amanda Rayford, Aurora Kirchner, and Mimi Epps finished 23rd, 64th, and 73rd and 87 respectively.

A&M shot a three day total of 676, which was 40 over par and sixteen shots behind first-place Texas Christian University.

#### Water Polo Team takes third at Colorado State

The Texas A&M Water Polo Team finished third in their tournament in Fort Collins, Colorado on the campus of Colorado State University this weekend. The team capped off the weekend by beating the University of Texas 22-19 in the consolation game. They also beat the University of Wisconsin in the tournament and lost to the University of Arizona. Arizona is the No. 1 ranked water polo team in the country.

Six teams competed in the tournament. Along with the Aggies, Texas, Wisconsin, Arizona, Host Colorado State, and The University of Colorado were also in the tournament.

## THE RUNNING MAN

### Lengefeld brings Kenyan spirit to cross country team

By KRISTINA BUFFIN  
Staff writer

Ever since the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta, Ga., long distance running has been epitomized by the Kenyans. Men who grew up in poverty and ran just to pass the day.

But Texas A&M cross country runner Scott Lengefeld did not grow up in poverty but his teammates have bestowed a certain honor on him.

"The guys have given him the honorary Kenyan status, with the upside down exclamation point after his name," coach Greg Hinze said. "I think that shows the kind of respect his has from the guys."

Respect is something that Lengefeld has earned and deserves. The junior earned NCAA All-District VI

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SCOTT LENGEFELD  
CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER

honors after an 11th place finish last season and was the Aggies' top finisher in all seven meets.

This season Lengefeld hasn't let up and is on a tear. He took first at the Rice Invitational last weekend in the 4.1 mile race and is the Aggies No. 1 guy. His performance earned him Big 12 Runner of the Week honors.

"I am really pleased, I couldn't script this season better," Lengefeld said. "We have won all of our meets and individually I have done what I wanted to do."

Success was not automatic for Lengefeld. Like any other athlete, Lengefeld had to put a lot of time into

his sport and most of all, pound the pavement.

This summer, Lengefeld was a human treadmill. He would work from 6 a.m. to 4:30 in the afternoon and then begin training.

"I got up to about 100 miles a week and it was a lot of work, but I enjoyed it," he said. "In Texas it is so hot that you have to go run before 8 a.m. or after 8 p.m."

One hundred miles may seem like torture to some but it is something that Lengefeld had to work up to. He did not just jump out of bed and decide, "Hey, I think I'll run 100 miles this week."

"We increased his mileage incrementally each summer because his biggest flaw when he first came here, was that he wanted to do too much too soon," Hinze said. "He learned that he had to do it slowly."

But Lengefeld was anything but slow. He finished third at the Iowa State Invitational and is on pace to earn a berth at the NCAAs.

"We're kind of in the stretch right now and we have three real tough meets coming up," Lengefeld said. "We need to go out and impress our enemies."

By enemies, Lengefeld speaks of his training partners from this summer and conference opponents.

"I trained with a guy from SFA [Stephen F. Austin] and Lamar [University] this summer and it is fun to beat them this season," Lengefeld said.

In addition, to being an honorary Kenyan, Lengefeld has been blessed with another nickname.

"My roommates and I had this recruit and he was having a little too much fun," Lengefeld said with a laugh. "So then at yell practice, he's making all of this noise and just started yelling 'Scooter,' over and over."

Well, Scooter has his goals set for this season, both individual and team-oriented.

"I want to win NCAAs both as a team



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

Junior Scott Lengefeld has established himself as a top cross country runner for the Aggies.

and an individual," he said. "I'm sick and tired of being average and I want to have my name mentioned. But I know I have to work hard for it."

Individually, Lengefeld aims to be in the top seven of the district and for the team, he wants only the best.

"He is very dedicated and has goals for himself and the team," Hinze said. And dedication is what will get him the recognition, he has worked so hard for.

"I'm now in the best physical and mental shape, which is just as important as physical," Lengefeld said. "If I get my work done and taper before the big races, I can do it."

## Soccer falls to No. 1 Carolina

STAFF AND WIRE

The third-ranked Texas A&M Soccer Team lost to the to-ranked North Carolina Tarheels 2-1 in Houston Sunday.

"I was real proud of our effort," A&M coach G. Guerrieri said in a press release. "We had a 'never say die' attitude and when you get behind the No. 1 ranked team on a controversial goal, a lot of teams would have pulled up the tent and gone home."

The controversial goal

occurred 14 minutes into the game when a North Carolina and a Texas A&M player got tangled up. The Tarheel fell to the ground and was awarded a penalty kick.

"It was a 50-50 call," Guerrieri said. (Carolina's Cindy Parlow was smart enough to fall, and the ref gave her a gift. I didn't think it was a foul.)

Nel Fettig converted the kick and Carolina took a 1-0 lead.

Senior Bryn Blalack tied the game when she

kicked a ball out of UNC goal keeper Siri Mullinix's hands into the goal.

Carolina took the lead for good when UNC's Raven McDonald scored from 13 yards out.

"There are two schools of thought when you play North Carolina," Guerrieri said. "One, you can lay back and absorb the pressure and take a respectable loss; the other side is to play their game, put on the pressure, take chances and open up opportunities."

## South shines over weekend

DALLAS (AP) — Big 12 South historians, put a big red circle around Sept. 27, 1997. On that miraculous Saturday, four teams from the beleaguered division took the field and all walked away winners.

But beware too much celebration. Further research shows that the four losers are a combined 6-13 and none have winning records.

The victory parade was led by No. 21 Texas A&M, which pasted North Texas 36-10, restoring a bit of the conference pride tarnished when the Eagles knocked off Texas Tech last weekend.

Both Oklahoma schools won easily as the Sooners drubbed Louisville 35-14 and OSU took down Northeastern Louisiana 38-7.

The only nail-biter was Texas' 38-31 victory over Rice. The game wasn't settled until the Longhorns stopped the Owls at the UT 12 as time ran out.

Texas Tech and Baylor were idle. They meet in Waco on Saturday.

The Aggies (3-0) once again showed off their deep backfield, getting 156 yards from Dante Hall and 124 yards and a touchdown from Sirt Parker.

A&M finished its non-conference schedule, mockingly referred to as their exhibition season, having outscoring foes 161-16. A better test of the Aggies' talent will come Saturday against No. 16 Colorado in Boulder.

"This is the type of game we were expecting and it was the type of game we needed," Hall said. "It was good to play a tough game like this before we play Colorado."

North Texas (2-3) proved to be tougher than previous foe Southwestern Louisiana, a 66-0 loser, and Sam Houston State, which fell 59-6. The Eagles fought back from a 10-0 deficit to tie the game at halftime before the Aggies struck for 26 second-half points.

"Our offense didn't make things happen and turnovers killed us," UNT coach Matt Simon. "We kind of let them off the hook after playing a good first half."

Oklahoma State improved to 4-0 for the first time since 1988, when they went finished 10-2 and Barry Sanders won the Heisman Trophy, by scoring four first-half touchdowns against Northeastern Louisiana (1-4). The lead grew to 38-0 before the Indians threw a long touchdown pass with 2:56 to play.

"You've got to be happy any time you win and that's what I am," OSU coach Bob Simmons said. "I didn't think we came back out in the second half and were as sharp as we need to be. But we'll take this victory and look forward to the future."

The Cowboys, who ran for 274 yards, must be looking forward to Saturday when they host Texas (2-1), which allowed Rice (2-2) to rush for 452 yards in UT's first game since its colossal 66-3 loss to UCLA.

The Longhorns were able to overcome the Owls' running attack because Ricky Williams had 249 and a school-record five touchdowns.

"I knew I had to pick up my game if we were going to win. I was determined, really determined," he said.

Oklahoma continued the running theme as De'Mond Parker ran for 191 yards and Jermaine Fazzande had a career-high 151, marking just the third time in school history two backs broke 150 yards.

The Sooners (2-2) took full advantage of a weak defense for the Cardinals (1-4), gaining 411 of their 551 yards on the ground despite five turnovers.

"Oklahoma completely dominated the game," Louisville coach Ron Cooper said. "We tried everything to stop them. It's that type of offensive football team that we're not able to stop."

OU, which plays Kansas next week, may be starting to make the type of turnaround coach John Blake has been promising.

"We could be awfully good," quarterback Justin Fuente said. "I think we're close. If we can just continue to eliminate some mistakes, then we'll be an awfully good ball team on both sides of the ball."