

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Aggies shut down Colorado, 16-10

By JAMIE BURCH
Staff writer

BOULDER — University of Colorado quarterback John Hessler could not master the same magic of years past on Saturday. In 1995, Hessler, who came off the bench for injured starter Koy Detmer, led the Buffs past Texas A&M 29-21 in a game from behind win.

As the starter in the 1997 contest, Hessler had control of the Buffalo reins from the first snap. And with the Buffs trailing 16-10 with 2:15 remaining, Hessler led the final charge. On third and five from the A&M 23 yard line, Hessler overthrew wideout Darren Chiaverini. A&M strong safety Rich Coady picked off the errant pass to seal the victory. The loss was Colorado's first in a conference opener since 1988 when Barry Sanders led Oklahoma State to victory.

Coady said he simply made an adjustment on the play and found himself in the right place at the right time.

"We were in man-to-man (coverage), so there was going to be a lot of pressure on the quarterback," Coady said. "I had a tight end, so when he blocked I was set up. I tried to read the quarterback's eyes. And his eyes took me right to where the ball was going to be thrown."

Coady's game saving interception was light because of a missed field goal by Kyle Bryant on the previous drive.

A&M failed to convert on third and nine from the Colorado 25 yard line, with the Colorado band blaring in the south end of the field. Coach R.C. Slocum protested the play, questioning why the Golden Buffs were allowed to continue playing with their quarterback, Randy McCown, approaching the line of scrimmage.

"We had three straight plays where the band was playing while we were trying to snap the football," Slocum said. "A team on the road is supposed to be able to hear the snap count, so the band should be hushed. We have 400 members in our band. We can make a lot of noise during downs if we want to."

Unfortunately, the Texas Aggie Band did not make the trip to Boulder for financial reasons.

Bryant's kick sailed wide left, keeping the Buffaloes within striking distance, 16-10. The Aggies got the offense rolling in the second quarter, but had two drives stall on the Colorado 13 yard line. Bryant hit field goals of 30 and 31 yards for a 6-3 halftime lead.

Colorado had its share of opportunities to score. Victimized by a sputtering offense, the Buffs posted a season-high 91 yards of total offense in the first quarter, but managed just 19 yards for the rest of the first half.

CU's best opportunities to score came during the Buffaloes' explosive first quarter. A&M committed the first of three turnovers on its first possession of the game. Quarterback Brandon Stewart's pass ricocheted off tailback Dante Hall's hands and into Buffalo middle linebacker Mike Phillip's lap. Phillip returned the ball six yards to the A&M 7-yard line.

On third and goal from the 5, Hessler hit wide receiver Phil Savoy between the 8 and the 0 in the back of the end zone. Savoy, isolated from the Aggie secondary, dropped the pass, forcing coach Rick Neuheisel to settle for three points. Savoy, Colorado's No. 1 receiver, failed to pull down his first reception until five minutes into the third quarter. He finished the day with three catches for 29 yards.

Coady said the team just accepted the numerous turnovers as part of the game.



BRIAN CLIFTON/SPECIAL TO THE BATTALION

Sophomore running back Dante Hall lunges for extra yardage in the first quarter of A&M's game against Colorado Saturday in Boulder. The Aggie's 16-10 victory over the Buffaloes was the first in school history against CU.

"That's something we have no control over," Coady said. "Our job is to go out there and play hard. It doesn't matter to us if we start on their 20 (yard line) or our 20. We go out there and try to play Wrecking Crew football."

The Buffs' other big scoring chance came in the closing minutes of the first quarter. Having received the ball on their own 43 yard line after yet another A&M fumble, Hessler led the Buffs to a first and goal at the 9. Following a quarterback keeper, a short run by tailback Herchell Troutman and an incomplete pass, Colorado was

left with a fourth and goal from the 1.

Neuheisel opted to go for six, rather than end up with two field goals after two trips to the red zone. But Neuheisel did not plan on linebacker Dat Nguyen. Nguyen met Troutman, coming up the middle, at the line of scrimmage and tackled the Colorado tailback for a three yard loss.

"We pretty much knew what was coming," Nguyen said. "The coaches told us their tendencies when they are that close to the end zone."

A&M's other scores came in the third quarter. On CU's first possession of the

second half, defensive lineman Zerrick Rollins popped Troutman at the Buffalo 8 yard line, forcing a fumble. Linebacker Phillip Meyers recovered. Running back Sirr Parker then scampered in for A&M's sole touchdown.

On A&M's next possession, Bryant nailed a 47-yard field goal for a 16-3 lead.

Stewart, who played just 4-of-12 possessions, said the win should silence critics who have belittled all three of the Aggies' previous opponents.

"Well," Stewart said, "we played somebody today."

Triple threat runs all over Buffs with 278 total yards

By TRAVIS V. DABNEY
Staff writer

BOULDER — The now 15th-ranked Texas A&M Football Team entered Saturday's game against the University of Colorado knowing it was going to have to run the ball and that is just what they did.

The triple threat of D'Andre "Tiki" Hardeman, Sirr Parker and Dante Hall combined for a total of 260 rushing yards for a 4.6 yard per carry average.

"We knew they couldn't stop our running game," the sophomore Hall said. "We are just happy to be 4-0."

Parker had similar sentiments. "We just ran the ball right at them and they just could not stop us," he said.

The Aggies succeeded Saturday where they had failed in previous matchups with Colorado. In 1995, the Aggie running attack, led by

play of the offensive line.

"This game was a huge momentum boost for us," senior right guard Steve McKinney said. "We knew that we could run all over them, we just had to come out here and do it."

"We played with a lot of heart and intensity today, the defense played really well and we proved this team has a lot of character."

Sophomore quarterback Randy McCown was also complimentary of the offensive line play.

"The offensive line did an outstanding job today," he said. "I can't say enough about their play today."

The Aggie running game did experience a few problems in the first half. The team racked up six fumbles of which they lost two.

"The ball felt really light and for

some reason we could never really get a good feel for the ball," Hall explained.

A&M coach R.C. Slocum was unhappy with the Aggies turnovers, but said he was glad just to get the win.

"I am never surprised at what happens in football," he said. "I am disappointed in the fumbles, but we overcame them and maintained the lead. That is what's important."

This victory will likely put the Aggies in the leaders spot for the right to represent the South in the Big 12 Championship game, but you would never know that from talking to Steve McKinney.

"We don't care whether or not we are the favorite in the South," he said. "We just want to play football."

"We knew they couldn't stop our running game. We're just happy to be 4-0"

DANTE HALL
RUNNING BACK

Leeland McElroy, was stuffed by the Buffaloes and in 1996, the Aggies fell behind early and were forced to throw 62 passes.

As always, the Aggie running backs were helped by the stellar

AGGIE GROUND ATTACK



Hall	Parker	Hardeman
22 Carries	17 Carries	11 Carries
123 yards	89 yards, TD	59 yards
5.6 yard/carry	5.2 yard/carry	5.4 yard/carry

A&M Rushing vs CU: 57 carries, 260 yards
CU Defense: Allowed 355 rushing yards in first three games

Sports Briefs

Soccer escapes SMU in double overtime

Freshman Gillian Gandy scored the Texas A&M Soccer Team's only goal of the night in double overtime as the third-ranked Aggies defeated No. 18 Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Gandy scored the game winner in the 117th minute of play off of a pass from senior Bryn Blalack.

The 1-0 victory improves A&M's record to 11-1 overall.

The team will next travel to Lubbock to play the Texas Tech Red Raiders on Saturday.

the Aggies to a season-high 17 in the match.

The Aggies suited up in Lubbock Saturday night and downed the Texas Tech Red Raiders in four games, 15-5, 15-10, 11-15 and 15-2. The match improved A&M's mark to 10-3 and 3-1 in the Big 12, while dropping Tech to 15-3, 2-2.

Smedsrud again led the Aggies with 24 kills with Sykora and Lothspeich adding 12 each.

Women Golfers set for Big 12 preview

The 12th-ranked Texas A&M Women's Golf Team will have an early look at Big 12 competition Monday and Tuesday at the Big 12 Fall Preview at the Country Club of Missouri in Columbia, Mo.

All of the Big 12 teams will participate and the tournament will consist of 36 holes on Monday and 18 holes Tuesday. A&M is the conference's highest ranked team with Texas ranked No. 20.

"I wouldn't say we are the favorites," A&M coach Jeanne Sutherland said. "It won't be easy for any team to win this year. Oklahoma State beat us in Albuquerque (Sept. 25-27), Missouri has won twice this year and Nebraska just won a tournament. They all have a lot of confidence coming in."

A&M seniors Isabelle Rosberg and Jamie Hullett along with sophomore Anna Becker are among the top contenders for the individual title. Rosberg is ranked No. 9 nationally in the latest MasterCard Collegiate Rankings, the highest ranking of any Big 12 golfer.

Rosberg leads the Aggies with a 74.67 scoring average while Hullett and Becker are averaging 75.83.

Volleyball gets two wins over weekend

The 15th-ranked Texas A&M Volleyball Team returned to College Station this weekend after two victories on their two-day, Texas tour to Waco and Lubbock.

On Friday, the Aggies defeated the Baylor Bears in four games, 15-9, 10-15, 15-8 and 15-7, to send BU to 12-5, 2-1.

A&M was led by Kristie Smedsrud with 20 kills, followed by Amber Woolsey and Cindy Lothspeich with 14 and Stacy Sykora with 11. Lothspeich also collected 11 total blocks to lead

Texas A&M, OSU take control

Cowboys prove they are for real with 42-16 drubbing of Longhorns

(AP) — The Texas Aggies are rising and the Texas Longhorns are falling in the Big 12.

The defending champion Longhorns carried the Big 12 banner into the regular season only to be embarrassed at every turn, most recently in Saturday's 42-16 loss to Oklahoma State (5-0, 2-0 in Big 12 games), a team they beat 71-14 last year.

The Aggies (4-0, 1-0), meanwhile, started the season in uncertainty with dual quarterbacks and coming off a 6-6 season.

Yet, here they are, back on top once again, as their trademark Wrecking Crew defense did a number on Colorado Saturday in a 16-10 victory that kept the Aggies unbeaten in the Big 12 South.

Texas Tech (2-2, 1-0) didn't run very well but the Red Raiders had a good pass-catch combination between Zebbie Lethridge and Donnie Hart for a 35-14 victory over the Baylor Bears.

Kansas beat Oklahoma 20-17 in the 95th meeting of the two schools. It is the longest continuously played rivalry in Division I-A.

Linebacker Dat Nguyen raved about the defense, which helped the Aggies jump from No. 21 to No. 16 in the AP Poll.

"We're just trying to bring back the tradition," Nguyen said. "It's big, huge. To beat the dominant team of the early 1990s and beat them at home is just phenomenal. We proved the Wrecking Crew is back."

The Aggies lost two of seven fumbles but managed to overcome their own bobbles and spoiled a late Colorado comeback attempt.

"I felt confident that we would play well," A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "We prepared well and I felt good about the character of this team. There are still some ragged things

we have to work on. But it's much easier to do it after a win than a loss."

Sedrick Curry blitzed Buffalo quarterback John Hessler, who tried a desperation pass. It was intercepted by Aggie safety Rich Coady with 2:15 left in the game.

Coady said he was ready for his big play. "I watched the quarterback's eyes and he took me right to the ball," Coady said. "There was a sense that someone on our team would make a big play. I didn't know it would be me."

The Longhorns (2-2, 0-1) got over their 66-3 loss to UCLA in their second game of the season to squeeze past Rice 38-31 last week. But they were back in the loser's column against the vengeful Cowboys.

It was only the second time since 1922 that the Longhorns had crossed the Red River to play in Oklahoma — and it was not a good time to return.

"We're kind of down right now," Texas linebacker Dusty Renfro said. "You're down after a loss. There's not a man on this earth who wouldn't be down after something like this."

Renfro had an interception and nine tackles but his effort was lost on the stampeding Cowboys' offense which gained 424 total yards.

"We went out there with last year's game in mind," Oklahoma State defensive back Trent Alexander said. "We said, 'That won't ever happen again.' And we didn't let it."

The Cowboys are off to their best start ever and they're 2-0 in conference play for the first time since 1972. That should make them contenders, coach Bob Simmons said.

"Until somebody knocks us off, I like our chances," Simmons said.

The Red Raiders couldn't mount a running game against Baylor but Lethridge and Hart made certain that didn't matter. Hart caught 11 passes for 181 yards and two touchdowns and Lethridge completed 17 of 28 passes for 243 yards.

"Donnie had a great game plan as usual," Lethridge said. "He did a great job of getting open and once he caught the ball, he made some big plays. He helped us get off on the right foot in the conference race. It has been a long time since we came here and had a big game."

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