

Aggies romp Cyclones, improve to 5-

BY CHRIS FERRELL
Sports editor

Jimmy Johnson often stresses the importance of "play makers". They are guys capable of making a big play at anytime which can turn the tide of a game. They cause opposing coaches to hold their breath every time they touch the ball and leave everybody in the stadium shaking their heads in disbelief.

The Texas A&M Football Team proved they had some playmakers in their 56-17 victory over the Iowa State Cyclones, Saturday at Kyle Field.

"It seemed like last year, we didn't have any big plays and that was definitely frustrating," junior tight end Daniel Campbell said. "I think at the same time, you've got a team this year that makes their big plays too and we didn't have that last year. That's why this is a whole different ball club."

First and foremost, there was tail back Surr Parker. The junior from Las Angeles touched the ball only nine times on the afternoon, but made the most of each one, finishing the day with 195 total yard and two touchdowns.

Parker began his day with an 80 yard touchdown run the first time he touched the ball.

"As I cut back, I got a great block from (junior tight end) Derrick Spiller," Parker said. "That gave me the opportunity to get outside. I got a great block of (sophomore wide receiver) Leroy Hodge. I think he was blocking 40, 50 yards down the field. It allowed

me to get to the end zone. It was a great offensive play."

However, he still had a few more fireworks in his pocket in the third quarter when he returned Iowa State kicker Jamie Kohl's low knuckle ball kickoff 78 yards for a touch down. It was the second of his career, the first came last season when he returned one 100 yards against the University of Texas.

"He's an excellent runner whose getting better and better every week," offensive coordinator Steve Marshall said. "We've got to work to get him the ball. He's a guy that can take it the distance on every shot."

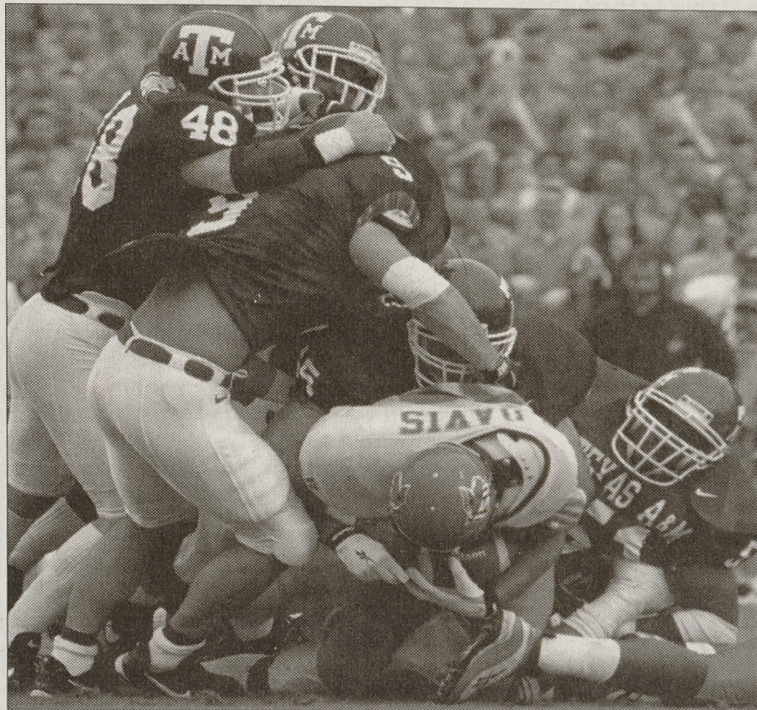
Spiller also made big plays for the Aggies.

When he wasn't spring Aggie running backs with big blocks, he was collecting one of team high four catches and two touchdowns.

He and Campbell combined to catch six balls for 70 yards on the afternoon.

"We had an idea that we probably going to be throwing the ball a lot," Campbell said. "It makes it a lot better to know that they're going to have to worry about the tight ends and not just the receivers and the backs."

And of course no big play filled game would be complete without a stellar performance by sophomore Dante Hall who ran for a 42 yard touchdown on Barry Sandersesque scamper. Hall took the ball down the left sideline and then cut back to the middle of the field just before stepping out of bounds and left



ROBERT MCKAY/THE BATTALION

Members of the Wrecking Crew gang tackle Iowa State's Darren Davis in Saturday's game at Kyle Field.

the ISU defense in disarray as he dove head first in the end zone.

Their play helped A&M's offense turn its most balanced attack of the season.

The Aggies ran for 268 yards and threw for 226.

Sophomore Randy McCown was 11 of 14 for 141 yards and a touchdown and junior quarterback Brannon Stewart completed eight of his 12 passes for 85 yards and two scores.

"Every week we have a certain plan going in," Marshall said. "I think our backs, receivers, line, quarterbacks executed the passing game better. We had a lot of that same stuff all along and some days its for nothing, some days it isn't."

"When we're executing, it easier to call the plays. It wasn't designed that we were going to go in and throw the ball all the time because that's not us. We're going to run the football. We've got to run the ball to win."

Defensively, junior linebacker Dat Nguyen showed once again

why he is the Wrecking Crew's perennial play maker, stepping in front of a pass from Cyclone quarterback Todd Bandhauer's and returned it 32 yards for the A&M touchdown.

The Aggie defense sacked Bandhauer eight times, but gave up 307 yards of total offense.

"We knew going into the game that they had a dangerous offense and the didn't have a lot of defense," senior defensive end Brad Crowley said. "During the week we had a lot of rain and it was hard to keep our motivation up because it was such an emotional win last week. We still came out and had a good game so we're pleased with our effort."

With the victory the Aggies improve to 5-0 for the first time since 1994 when they finished the season 10-0-1.

"It feels real good," senior guard Steve McKinney said. "My freshman year we were 10-0-1, it's been a long time since then."

A&M scores quick, gives defense little time to re

BY JAMIE BURCH
Staff writer

Time of possession can win football games. Most coaches will tell you, including A&M coach R.C. Slocum, the best defense is a good offense, an offense that eats up so much clock that the opponent has little time to score. A good offense helps wear down the opponents defense, while keeping your defense fresh.

But against Iowa State, the Aggies prescribed to a different method — the quick strike. The A&M offense was like a time bomb waiting to explode. The big play was looming all afternoon, just waiting to happen. Every time the Aggies touched the ball, the threat of scoring was a reality.

In the Aggies 56-17 victory over the Cyclones, A&M had possession of the ball 13 fewer minutes than Iowa State. Near the end of the third quarter, the time of possession margin read Iowa State 28:54, A&M 14:24. The lopsided time of possession is the result of A&M's big plays on both sides of the ball.

Tick, tick, tick, BOOM! On the Aggies second possession of the game, leading 7-3, junior tailback Surr Parker broke free and scampered 80 yards for the touchdown. The drive to the end zone lasted 16 seconds. Aggies lead 14-3.

Like the fans in the stands and the media in the press box, senior left guard Steve McKinney said he was in awe of Parker's run.

"Surr played great," a jovial McKinney said. "The 80-yard run was nice. It kept the offensive line rested. You don't get winded, except for running down the field to celebrate."

Tick, tick, tick, BOOM! After a missed 46-yard field goal by senior kicker Kyle Bryant, the Cyclones took over on their own 29 yard line. Cyclone quarterback Todd Bandhauer stepped back in the pocket and threw for tight end Damian Gibson. Aggie linebacker Dat Nguyen cut in between Bandhauer and Gibson and picked off the pass. Nguyen returned the interception 32 yards for the score. Time of possession, zero seconds. Aggies lead 21-3.

A humble Nguyen said he was in the right place at the right time.

"The tight end made a little five yard out," Nguyen. "I read the quarterback the

whole way. I was fortunate just where I was at."

Tick, tick, tick, BOOM! Three into the second quarter, A&M's drive at its own 19 yard line and to the Iowa State 42 yard line. On third-and-two, sophomore tailback Dante Hall ran around the end and down the sideline, 42 yards to the touchdown. Time of the drive, Aggies lead 28-3.

Sophomore quarterback Randy McCown said the quick strike is always come.

"We love to score," McCown said. "Time we can have a big drive and defend off the field, that's good. I can't complain when you get a big You'll take 'em anytime."

But anytime you have a quick drive, the defense is sent back out on the field. The longer the defense is on the field, the greater the chance a tired unit will surrender unanswered points.

In the third quarter, the Wrecking Crew spent nearly 12 minutes on the field, resulting from long sustained drives by the Cyclones. After going and-out to start the second half, the Cyclones mounted a 17 play, 80 yard drive that consumed 8 minutes. Iowa kept the drive going with two conversions on third-and-long and two conversions on fourth down.

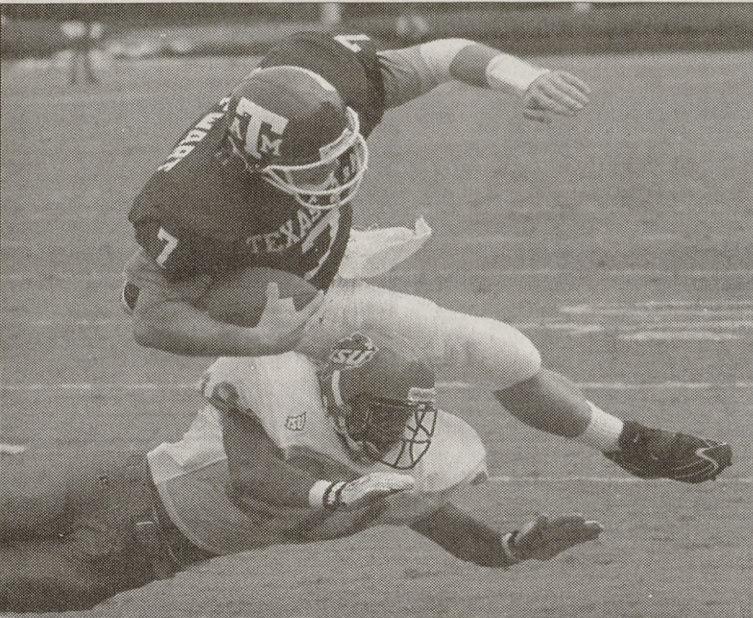
Slocum said he was not pleased with defensive efforts in the third quarter.

"There were times I felt like we were the field too long ourselves," Slocum said. "The defense let them make some good. I was not pleased with that."

Tick, tick, tick, BOOM! Following an eight minute drive, Iowa State kicked to Parker. Parker received the kick at A&M 22 yard line and ran 78 yards for the Aggies lone touchdown of the quarter. Time of possession, zero seconds. Aggies lead 49-17.

Parker ended the day with 99 yards, seven carries and two touchdowns.

"The game is never over until the minutes is up," Parker said. "Our main is to run right at 'em and to throw 'em. We score and we break their will



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

Junior quarterback Brannon Stewart dives to set up A&M's first touchdown in the Aggies' 56-17 victory. He found junior tight end Derrick Spiller two plays later for the touchdown.

TEXAS A&M VS. IOWA STATE GAME NOTES

Injury Report

Sophomore linebacker Chris Thierry was taken off the field in an ambulance late in the fourth quarter of Saturday's game.

The injury was diagnosed as a stinger and x-rays showed no damage.

Due to the fact that Thierry felt some numbness, extreme

medical care was given.

Thierry is listed as probable for next week's game at Kansas State.

Junior tackle Cameron Spikes left the game in the first half after being poked in the eye and sophomore running back Dante Hall left the game in the third quarter with a deep thigh bruise. Both players will be

ready for next weeks game.

Going the wrong way

Of ISU's 78 offensive plays, 15 went for losses.

Freshman defensive end Rocky Bernard, sophomore cornerback Sedrick Curry and senior linebacker Phillip Meyers all recorded two tackles for a loss. The Wreck-

ing Crew also recorded eight on the day.

Kansas State next

A&M will be on the road next week to battle the No. 20 Kansas State in Manhattan, Kansas.

Last season Kansas State defeated the Aggies 23-20 at Kyle Field.

1939 NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

Gathering reunites '39 national championship team

BY JEFF SCHMIDT
Staff writer

Texas A&M's only national championship team had its 58 year reunion this weekend. The 1939 Aggies went 11-0 that year with a 14-13 victory over Tulane in the Sugar Bowl. Most of the players on that team were recruited in 1937. The depression had just ended and Texas A&M needed money. They knew a winning football team would bring that money. With the help of athletic booster Bert Pfaff, the scholarships were raised and the Aggies signed 37 players. This nucleus helped the Aggies win consecutive Southwest Conference championships in 1939 and 1940. The team was coached by the legendary Homer Norton. Norton has the school record for career wins with 82 and is in the College Football Hall of Fame. The 1939 team featured three first team All-Americans: guard Marshall Robnett, running back John Kimbrough and tackle Joe Boyd.

When the Aggies played UCLA

in 1940, Robnett manhandled a young player named Jackie Robinson. Legend has it that Robinson would decide to concentrate on baseball after the beating he suffered.

Kimbrough is one of the most well-known players in A&M history. He finished fifth in Heisman voting in 1939 and second to Michigan's Tom Harmon in 1940. In the 1940 Sugar Bowl, Kimbrough single-handedly led the Aggies to victory after being down

13-7 in the fourth quarter. Kimbrough finished the day with 159 yards rushing and scored A&M's only two touchdowns. Boyd was a co-captain on the national championship team and was drafted by the Washington Redskins. Other notables on the team were quarterback Marion Pugh, receiver Herb Smith and running back Kim Thomason. Despite the plethora of stars on this team, A&M's student manager Jimmie Parker

believes it was the team's cohesiveness that made it a champion.

"We lived like a team should live, as brothers. Everybody was good to each other and we played as a team, which is why we did so well," Parker said.

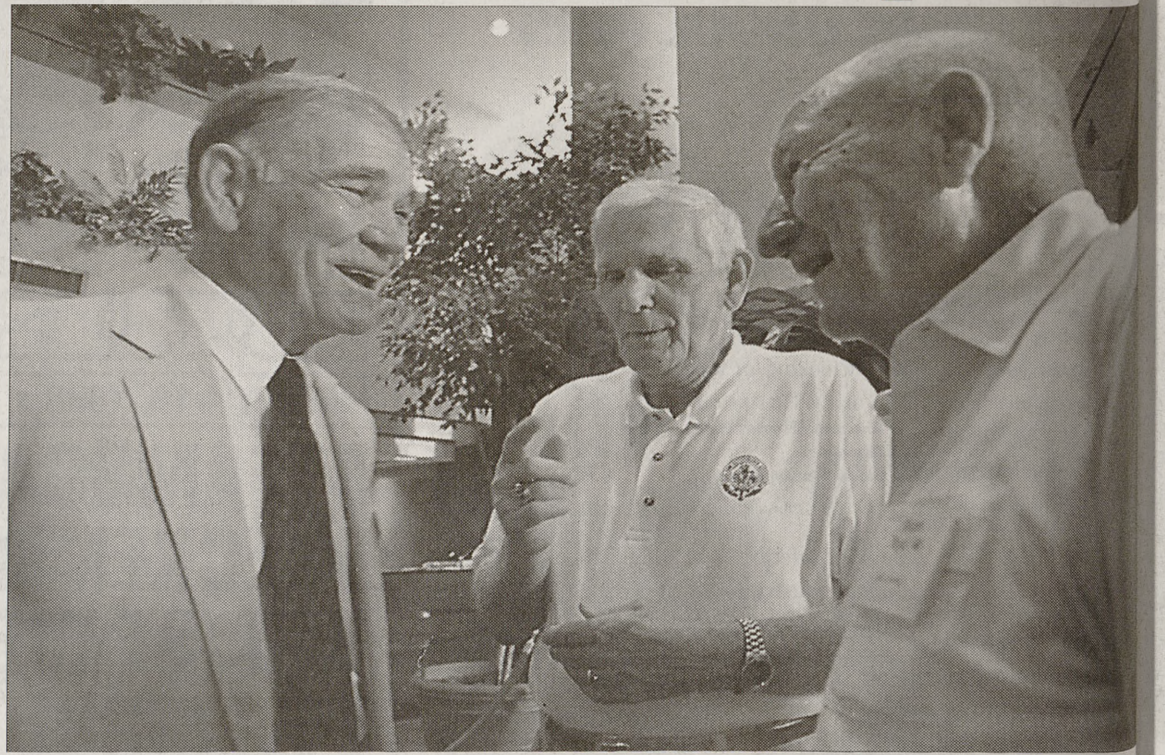
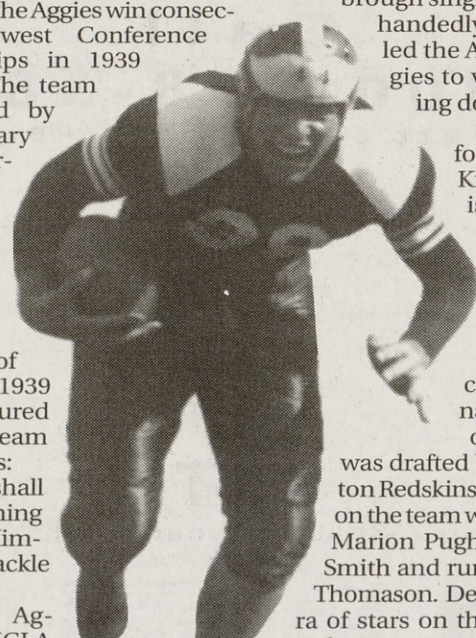
Bubba Reeves agrees with Parker's assessment.

"We didn't have a team, we had a family," Reeves said.

Part of the reason to the success of the team was to a group of men called the Blue Boys. This group was composed of third stringers, hold outs and ineligible. It was the Blue Boys job to prepare the first team for their next foe. After the Aggies beat Villanova in 1939, newspapers reported on the beating that Villanova took from the Aggies. After reading this, Bubba Reeves, the captain of the Blue Boys, sent a telegram to the Wildcat coach asking, "What are you beefing about? We play those buzzards five days a week. You only did it once."

In these days, college football didn't command the money that it does today. Jimmie Parker says the player's played for something more.

"We played cause we were loyal to A&M. Now, players go to whoever will pay them the most money. But back then, there wasn't any money," Parker said.



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Members of the 1939 team, A.W. Buchanan (Class of '42), Cowley Harold (Class of '42), and Hugh Boyd (Class of '40) talk at the team's reunion Friday at the Hilton.

The Aggie defense, as it is today, was one of the most dominant units in the country. The Aggies led the county in total defense, scoring defense and rush defense. The scoring and rush defense yardage allowed are still NCAA records. They compiled a whopping six shutouts, including a 20-0 drubbing of the Texas Longhorns.

Harold Cowley is proud of their accomplishments but hope that future teams can bring home a championship.

"It's horrible to be the only national championship team. I thought we were going to have another two years ago but we hyped everyone out of it," Cowley said. Jimmie Parker, who became the

first business manager of the Dallas Cowboys and proudly displaying his 1972 Super Bowl Championship ring, remains upbeat.

"It's a great feeling coming to Aggieland and seeing the National Championship sign in Kyle Field. It's like going back home and seeing something you haven't seen in a long time," Parker said.