

Aggies get mauled in Manhattan

By CHRIS FERRELL
Sports editor

MANHATTAN, Kan.— The key to winning a normal game of chess is to take out the other team's queen. However, when Kansas State is involved, opponents must beware of the Bishop.

KSU quarterback Michael Bishop and Wildcats jumped out to a quick 16-0 lead over the Texas A&M Football Team and took advantage of an outstanding performance by their defense to defeat the Texas A&M Football Team 36-17, Saturday in Manhattan, Kan.

Bishop ran for 53 yards and a touchdown and threw for 173 yards on 10 of 21 passing the winning effort.

"He's the best quarterback, best athlete I've seen this year," junior linebacker Dat Nguyen said. "He's just one of those guys you can't stop, you just try to contain him." Bishop and the Wildcat offense controlled the game, dominating time of possession 41:38 to A&M's 18:22. The Aggies ran only 37 offensive plays on the afternoon.

A week after turning in its top performance of the season, the Aggie offense displayed its worse.

The primary reason for A&M's sluggish offense was its inability to establish the run. Only two weeks after shredding Colorado for 260 yards on the ground, the Aggies were held to minus 35 yards on 17 carries. It was the lowest total ever recorded by Kansas State opponent.

Senior right guard Steve McKinney said he did not believe what happened.

"They had so many guys in the box that they were going to stop the run," McKinney said. "They played a hell of a game today and they deserved to win but I think our offense did not play up to our level by any means."



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

While **Brandon Stewart** and the Texas A&M offense could find little room to run (left), K-State's **Michael Bishop** and the Wildcats were able to take advantage of a tired A&M defense in Kansas State's 36-17 victory on Saturday.



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

"Nothing against them, they are good, but I think we're a lot better than we showed today. We had a few guys out, but that's no excuse. We were just not able to run the ball. To say the least, I'm pretty stunned."

The Aggies came into the game missing starting right tackle Cameron Spikes who had his torn retina which he suffered against Iowa State surgically repaired earlier in the week. On the first play of the game, sophomore tail back Dante Hall injured his knee and did not return. Later in the first drive, senior Chris Ruhman, the team's starting right tackle sprained his right knee.

Neither Hall or Ruhman returned. Hall will undergo an MRI on Monday to determine the extent of the damage he suffered.

"It's (losing Spikes and Ruhman) going to affect the team when you have two guys that have started as long as those two guys have and then two guys who have never started a game in their entire lives out there playing the entire game," McKinney said. "And those guys are good players, don't get me wrong. It's just that experience makes a big difference in a game like this when it's hard to hear the snap count and they're giving you a lot of different things."

The offense was not responsible for either of the teams two touchdowns.

A&M's first touchdown of the afternoon came when freshman Ronald Patton blocked a punt by KSU's James Garcia and junior Michael Williams returned it for a touchdown. The other was set up after sophomore safety Brandon Jennings intercepted a pass from Bishop and returned it to the KSU one yard line. Junior D'Andre Hardeman scored from a yard out on the next play.

Williams punt block cut the lead to 16-

10 early in the third quarter and changed the momentum of the game.

It was also the break coach R.C. Slocum said he was hoping for.

The Aggies chose to take the strong Kansas wind at their backs and kick off to open the second half rather than receive and drive into the wind. Slocum said he thought that it would be his team's best chance to get back into the game.

"I told our coaches at halftime we could have taken the ball or the wind," Slocum said. "It looked like it was going to work for us. I felt like if we could score two touchdowns and take the lead then we'd have a quarter left to try and win the football game. We blocked the punt and got the touchdown, said 'well, its working out just like we'd planned.' Then we turned around and we couldn't do anything."

KSU answered by scoring a touchdown on the next possession and A&M was really never able to get back into the game.

Now the biggest question for the Aggies is how much their performance will affect them as they get ready to travel to Texas Tech this weekend.

"Some of the older guys have to pick some of the young guys up," junior safety Rich Coady said. "We have to take this as one loss. We have a long season. We're still playing for all the goals we had at the beginning of the season. One loss does not kill our season."

Nguyen said that he and his teammates can find a silver lining in the loss.

"None of the guys who came here like losing," Nguyen said. "Everybody came here to win. I think the attitudes going to change a lot more. It's going to help us a lot. We know how it felt when we walked off the field and I don't think we want to go

Wildcat defense holds running game to minus 35 yards

By JEFF WEBB
Staff writer

Once an Aggie, always an Aggie. It is a phrase commonly heard around the thriving metropolis of College Station. In Manhattan, Kansas, you can find an area a few blocks from the Kansas State University campus called Aggieville. Aggieville is a place where students can eat at one of the numerous pizza parlors or have a drink at the Last Chance. Before 1915 when they changed their name, Kansas Staters were known as Aggies. After the school was no longer known as an A&M school, they became Wildcats. However, the Aggies seemed to be wearing purple on Saturday after-

noon when shades of the feared Wrecking Crew defense appeared on the opposite side of the field.

Texas A&M University suffered their first loss of the year at the hands of opponents who arrested the Aggie "Rushing Crew" to minus 35 yards rushing, the worst showing of the R.C. Slocum era. For a team with the highest scoring offense in the country and one that averages 278 yards on the ground, this was a showing of grand embarrassment.

"We lost our starting tail back early in the game and we had two starting tackles out," said Coach Slocum. "All of that had a significant effect on the outcome of the game."

"If you let them play the whole game with two safeties sitting

there the same depth as the linebackers, you're going to have a hard time running the football. We knew that going in."

The purple-clad version of the Wrecking Crew also held the Aggies to 90 yards of total offense, well below the 440.8 yards per game average the Aggies had coming in. However ridiculous, there are reasons for the Manhattan madness that occurred. Running back Dante Hall went down on the first offensive play

for A&M with a bruised knee. Left tackle Chris Ruhman went down in the next series with a sprained right knee. Neither would return to the game. The loss of Ruhman was especially costly because right tackle Cameron Spikes did not start this week due to an eye injury. With sophomore Andy Vincent starting for Spikes and junior Rex Tucker filling in for Ruhman, the Aggie offensive line was simply overwhelmed at the line of scrimmage on every play.

Wildcats Coach Bill Snyder made stopping the Texas A&M running game the focus of the game and forced the Aggies to make big plays via the passing game.

"If you can't stop the run, you can't beat anybody. That was the

focus," said Coach Snyder. "When we do things right, we play well defensively."

"They put most of their guys up there [the line of scrimmage] and we had to step up and throw the ball," said quarterback Randy McCown. "They made some good plays on defense and on some crucial third downs and stopped us."

KSU dominated time of possession, holding the ball 41:17 to A&M's 18:07. Texas A&M's defense allowed 247 rushing yards on 59 attempts. KSU also scored on all seven of their trips to the red zone. The Wildcats used the traditional Aggie game plan against them. Keep your defense rested and on the sideline by playing smart ball-control offense. Mike

Lawrence became the first back to rush for over 100 yards against the Aggies this season with his season high of 105 yards. A&M also could not find a solution for the elusive Michael Bishop.

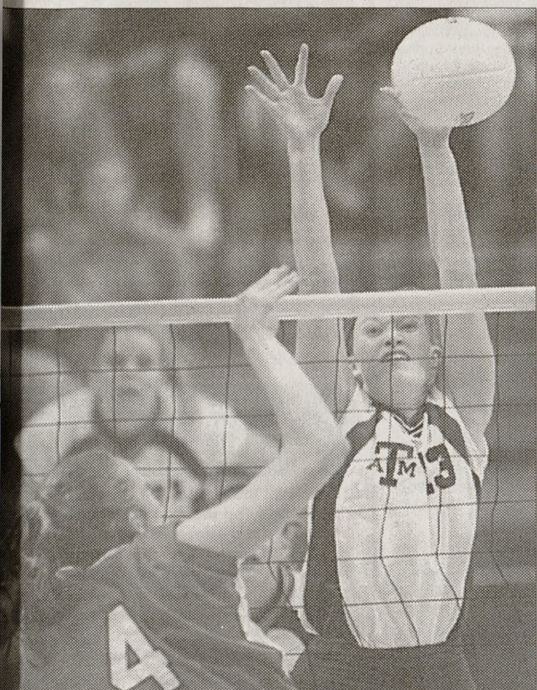
"We didn't play well enough to win, but we played as hard as we could," said safety Rich Coady. "It seemed like every time we had the receivers covered, he [Bishop] would scramble and get positive yards."

Now the Aggies will have to come back next week and not let the Texas Tech Red Raiders surprise them as they did in 1995 after the disheartening Colorado loss.

"It's just a game. It's just one game," said linebacker Dat Nguyen. "We still have six games left."



Ruhman



RONY ANGKRIWAN/THE BATTALION

Aggie's **Kristie Smedsrud** blocks a spike against UN.

Volleyball gets shucked by Huskers in four games

Team splits weekend with loss to No. 9 Nebraska and a victory over 19th-ranked Colorado on Friday

By JAMIE BURCH
Staff writer

The ninth-ranked University of Nebraska Volleyball Team came into G. Rolie Saturday night having lost three straight conference matches for the first time in school history. No. 12 A&M was hoping to make it four.

But after sweeping No. 19 University of Colorado in three straight games the night before, the Aggies could not overcome Nebraska's two All-Americans, setter Fiona Nepo and outside hitter Lisa Reitsma, losing in four games 8-15, 9-15, 15-8, 9-15.

After dropping the first two games, senior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud led the Aggie's spirited comeback in the third game. Smedsrud accounted for eight of A&M's 15 points, posting eight kills and two blocks in the game. Her explosive play helped the Aggies jump to a 5-0 start.

"I felt comfortable on the attack," Smedsrud said, "Even in games one and two. In Game two they started serving me deep. I think that rattled me for a little bit. That's when Laurie took me out, giving me a chance to regroup. Bottom line is I kind of got pissed off. I just didn't want it to end like that."

Nebraska coach Terry Pettit said he was not concerned with the Cornhuskers inability to shut the door in Game 3.

"I don't think there's a team in the conference who can go out and play two-and-a-half hours of great volleyball," Pettit said. "We played Penn State, No. 1 in the country, and they couldn't do it for more than about 40 minutes. I'd be real surprised if anybody goes into one of the top teams in the conference and beats somebody 3-0."

The Cornhuskers seemed to fund its killer instinct in Game 4. On the strength of outside hitters Mandy Monson's serve,

Nebraska led by a score of 7-1 early. Aggie junior outside hitter Stacy Sykora kept A&M in the game and match with eight kills, six digs and a block.

But after pulling within three points at 12-9, the Aggies fell apart. With the Cornhuskers serving, the Aggies could not get the ball over the net in the allowable three hits, to put Nebraska up 13-9. Freshman Angie Oxley put down a kill following an A&M overpass and then an Aggie kill error into the net gave Nebraska the match.

Sykora said the loss was disappointing because the Aggies could have prevented it.

It's frustrating of course. In the fourth game I thought we could win and we just had a couple of things not go our way. We were all looking toward each other. It was a good team effort.

"When I was serving and would ace, they would wipe the floor for 15 minutes," a teary eyed Sykora said. "They did that

every time to stop our momentum. They came out fired up from the locker room and I don't think we came out that fired up today. We had a chance and just didn't take advantage of it."

Fiona "Apple" Nepo is in need of a good defense. Because of her play in Game 1, she has to be feeling like a criminal. Nepo stole the first game from the Aggies to set the tone of the match. With A&M trailing 7-8, Nepo rattled off six straight service points, including three consecutive aces, to put the Cornhuskers out in front 14-8.

"Fiona has a great jump serve," Smedsrud said. "That took us out of our offense. It shouldn't because we have faced a lot of jump serves before. We have a tendency to lose four or five points in a row. That's what hurt us."

Smedsrud and Sykora tied the match-high for kills with 19 each. Senior outside hitter Jennifer Wells added a career and match-high 18 digs.

Cross Country makes strong showing at home meet

By JASON WHITCOMB
Staff writer

With chants of "Scooter" in the background, Texas A&M senior cross country runner Scott Lenefeld pranced to a third place finish in the Texas A&M Invitational on Saturday morning. Lenefeld helped lead the Aggie men to a second place finish in the team standings, behind Western Kentucky.

"Last week we didn't have a good performance and this week we bounced back in a strong way," Lenefeld said. "It is good to get back in the saddle. This is the time of the year when you are still tired from all of the training. We're just starting to get our legs back and we are going to be there when it counts. We've got conference coming up and we are going to be right in the middle of that. I think we are doing really well right now."

Along with Lenefeld's performance, seniors James Menze and John Montgomery managed to finish 12th and 14th, respectively, and junior Stephen Erath came in a strong 20th. This impressive team performance gives the Aggies some needed momentum with Big 12 competition around the corner.

"We don't have quite the foreign influence that other schools in the conference have with the Australians and the Kenyans," said Lenefeld. "We have a couple of foreigners from Louisiana, but that's about it. We should do pretty good, though, for a bunch of Texans."

The Aggie women also ran well and came up with a sixth place finish in the overall team standings. They were led by senior Kari Wyatt, who finished 23rd, and freshman Brooke Edwards, who came in 27th.

"The women kept impressing me every week," said coach Greg Hinze.

"They just keep getting and keep doing things that I don't think they can do. If they keep it up I think we can be a top five

"Being here really gets me fired up. I am a big Aggie and I love everything about this place."

SCOTT LENEFELD
CROSS COUNTRY RUNNER

team in region and that is something I didn't think we could do at the beginning of the season."

The Aggies were no doubt inspired by the opportunity to run in front of the home crowd. The event brought several A&M students who came to support the team, a welcome site to the Ag-

gie runners considering that every other meet is on the road.

"Being here really gets me fired up," said Lenefeld. "I am a big Aggie and I love everything about this place. I came here for the traditions because I grew up around Baylor, and they have no kind of tradition. If you can't get fired up here, then you can't be an Aggie."

Along with the NCAA competition, the meet also included competition between several high schools across the state of Texas. This gave the Aggie cross country program the opportunity to impress and evaluate possible recruits.

"It's a huge recruiting weekend for us," Hinze said. "We've got several people who are running in the meet and are staying here for the weekend. We've had a lot of people in the past who had never been here before and decided to come after visiting. I think it is a big positive for Texas A&M."



ROB MCKAY/THE BATTALION

A&M runners lead the way to the men's third place finish at the Aggie Invitational on Saturday.