

# Sports

## A&M 'dime' package silences Tech offense

Not pretty, but the Texas A&M Football team defeated high-powered Louisiana Tech Saturday.

al, the Aggies did not tear it up on offense effectively, but not explosively, offense did limit Tech quarterback Tim a career low in passing. Make a notch in the column for Tropical Storm Frances.

side. The single defensive lineman is at the nose guard position. Six defensive backs blanket the secondary to stop the pass.

This formation held Rattay to 239 yards passing. (He was averaging over 500 yards per game coming in.) It was also the first game in his career in which he did not throw a touchdown.

A&M had the dime defense, but A&M football coach R. C. Slocum said the Aggies only used it against "Run 'n Shoot" teams (like Houston in the old Southwest Conference).

### Move over Bucky?

With three touchdowns against Tech Saturday, D'Andre "Tiki" Hardeman pulled even with local legend and former A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson for No. 7 on A&M's all-time touchdown chart.

The Tech game was the third three-touchdown game of Hardeman's career. He scored all four A&M offensive touchdowns this season.

### The Thierry of Relativity

Last season, junior linebacker Chris Thierry tied for the team lead in sacks with six. This season, Thierry is not even on the two-deep depth chart. However, Slocum said the depth chart is not always reliable, and Thierry will play in the team's nickel package. Slocum also said redshirt freshman linebacker Christian Rodriguez has moved ahead of Thierry as the primary backup to Roylin Bradley at outside linebacker.

### Rushing to judgment

If nothing else, A&M should be able to run the ball against the University of Southern Mississippi, their next opponent. Penn State ran roughshod against USM, outgaining them 255 yards to 9 yards.

USM was able to throw for nearly 300 yards against the Nittany Lions in the Eagles' 34-6 loss.

### The Last Time

A&M defeated Southern Mississippi 41-17 in 1994 on the strength of Leeland McElroy's 100-yard opening kickoff return and Kyle Bryant's 61-yard field goal (a freshman school record).

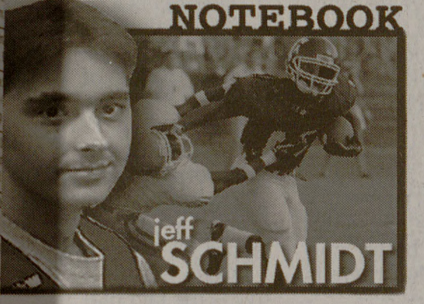
### Injury update

Sophomore center Toby McCarthy is questionable for Saturday's game with a calf strain. Senior running back Sirr Parker has been hampered because of a hamstring injury.

### MVPs vs. La Tech

Defensive backs Rich Coady and Michael Jameson were the big winners in last Saturday's game against Louisiana Tech. Coady, a senior, had six tackles and two interceptions. Jameson, a sophomore, had eight tackles (tied for the team lead) and three pass breakups.

Jeff Schmidt is a senior journalism major.



### NOTEBOOK

**Dime operation**  
defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz wist at the Tech offense. Hankwitz used e" defense for a significant percentage me. The dime features one defensive four linebackers and six defensive wo linebackers are in a down position, playing rush ends.

her two linebackers line up on the in-

### OKLAND

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career high for kills is 11, set Georgia Tech. She had 25 attempts against Michigan, her old career high of 24. so recorded seven total and seven block assists Michigan.

okland's job as a right out- ter is to block the oppo- let outside hitter. Corbelli ickland is a good blocker. 's very, very athletic," Cor- id. "She's a great blocker. I she's a deceptively great

People don't think, given e [5 feet 11 inches], that is good as she is. She sur- ank of hitters. They come at nking that she's smaller or Must be; strong as others. She is r- uer outside hitter Stacey a said Strickland's greatest o the team is her blocking. e's smart and strong," a said. "She gets up with her al and she just hangs there

le being recruited out of school, Strickland had her between A&M or Texas One reason Strickland said ose A&M was because she d to major in Veterinary ine. Another reason is she ppressed with A&M.

he difference between cam- was night and day," she said. re that everyone says it, but true. At A&M, I had a lot of love the girls. It's just a real friendly place. Everybody out of their way to make sure comfortable."

me of her best games at A&M, and helped the Aggies defeat anked Colorado last year. She d in the second game to re- Jennifer Wells, who was hav- difficult time. She posted three , which helped put the Aggies 14-13. Her solo block gave gies the win. Strickland said hing in the game just clicked and was one of her most ex- times.

went in for Wells, just be- they were kind of having a me blocking Colorado's out- itter," she said. "It was just ch fun. I went out there and st thing I did was block her. for some reason, it just d and every time she tried to me, I blocked it. It was just ch fun. It was just great, be- she couldn't hit it past me." ora said Strickland has im- d greatly in the past two especially in her passing.

think she is more consistent her play," Sykora said. "She always jump and do every- Her aspect of the game has ved. She is one of the prima- sers and her passing has im- d a lot."

most memorable moment M was when the Aggies beat at G. Rollie White Coliseum freshman year. The fans and ct that she ws playing against s biggest rival made that so memorable.

was amazing how the whole was pumped up and every- d high that year. We were to- nderdogs and we came out and just killed them. It was most spectacular thing that I ver seen."

## Oklahoma special teams contribute

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — A year ago, not many Oklahoma players or fans would have liked the chances of the special teams coming through in order to win a game.

"No way, no way in the world," tight end Jason Freeman said.

Thanks in large part to Jeff Ferguson, gloom and doom have been replaced by bubbling optimism. Ferguson, a redshirt freshman, handles the punting and placekicking and came through in a big way last week against Texas Christian.

After dropping a punt snap and missing a 39-yard field goal in the first half, Ferguson punted beautifully in the second half, produced a great onside kick and then won the game with a 40-yard field goal in the closing seconds.

The heroics were a big lift for a unit that has been almost comically bad during the past three years.

"I think it does a lot for our football team," coach John Blake said. "Special teams have come forth now and made plays for us."

That didn't surprise Ferguson,

who kicked 21 field goals and averaged 41 yards per punt during his time at Holland Hall High School in Tulsa.

"I wasn't really that nervous," he said of his game-winning kick. "I knew as long as I kept stretched and kept my head down and just made a smooth kick, that it would go through."



Ferguson was looking for a way to redeem himself after his two first-half mistakes against TCU. His dropped punt snap led to a TCU field goal and the missed field goal cost the Sooners three points in a close game.

Until the final three minutes, it appeared Oklahoma would lose in a

shutout. But Ferguson boomed a 56-yard punt that TCU fair caught at its 9-yard line, then the defense stuffed the Horned Frogs and forced them to punt from their end zone.

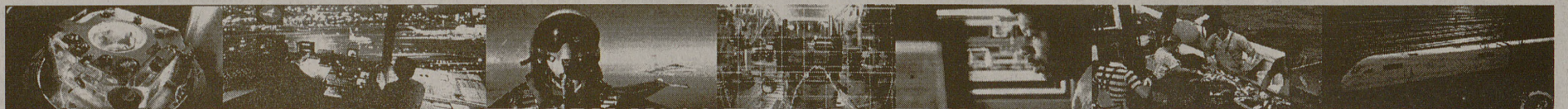
Oklahoma took over with great field position and scored a touchdown with 2:20 remaining to make the score 9-7.

The onside kick was designed for Ferguson to dribble the ball and hope it took a big bounce. That's exactly what happened — the ball bounced over the first line of TCU players and was recovered by the Sooners.

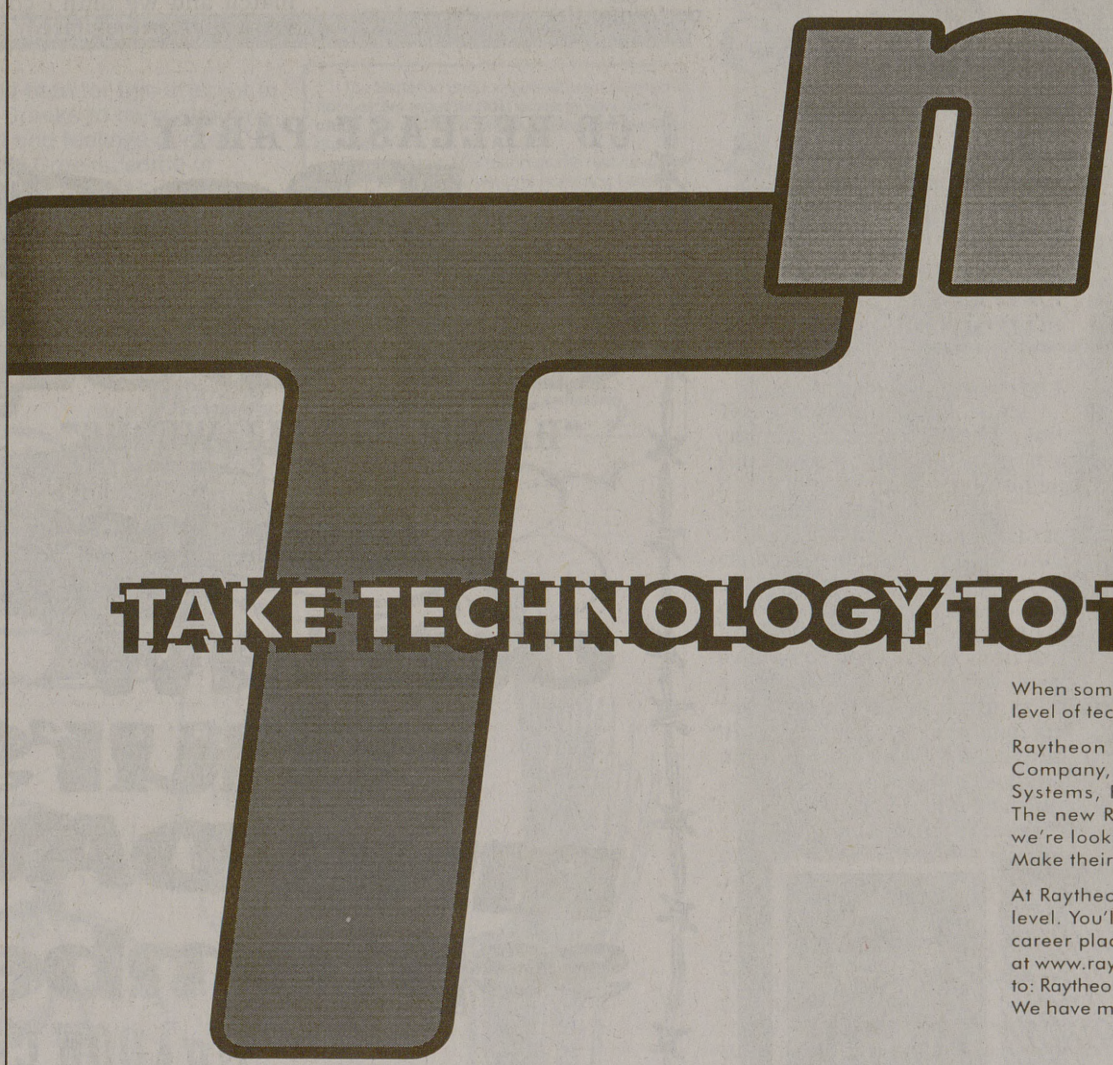
Even Ferguson was stunned by his good fortune.

"I really didn't have any pressure because it's hard to get that perfect bounce on an onside kick," he said. "When I saw that thing go up in the air, I was just amazed myself. It was like, 'Oh my gosh, that's the best bounce I've ever had in my life.'"

Ferguson's chance to win the game appeared to evaporate when TCU intercepted a pass. But Freeman was able to strip the ball from the defender and then recover it.



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