

Sports

BEST OFFENSE IS A GOOD DEFENSE

shines brightly
USM game

BY JEFF WEBB
The Battalion

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — Last week, Texas A&M's offense shined brightly in a 24-6 victory over Southern Mississippi in a sloppy game.

It was a precursor to the fact that the Aggie Football Team is experiencing an offensive surge.

The offense's poor showing in the first quarter of the game against Southern Mississippi in a sloppy game.

The offense suffered most from the lack of a senior running back D'Andre "Tiki" Tracie Miller, suspended by Coach R.C. Slocum on a trip to Hattiesburg.

"I have anything to say," Slocum said. "It's an indefinite suspension. 'It's an indefinite suspension. I don't know how long it will be."

"This is his forte, on a wet field like that. I think he proved it last week. He would have gotten a lot of carries in that situation."

Without Hardeman, A&M gained positive yardage on only five of their 13 offensive plays in the first quarter.

Bad footing on the soggy field and, more importantly, the Southern Mississippi defense limited the Aggie attack.

Running back Sirr Parker tallied 11 carries for the day; and Burnest Rhodes gained 18 yards on five carries.

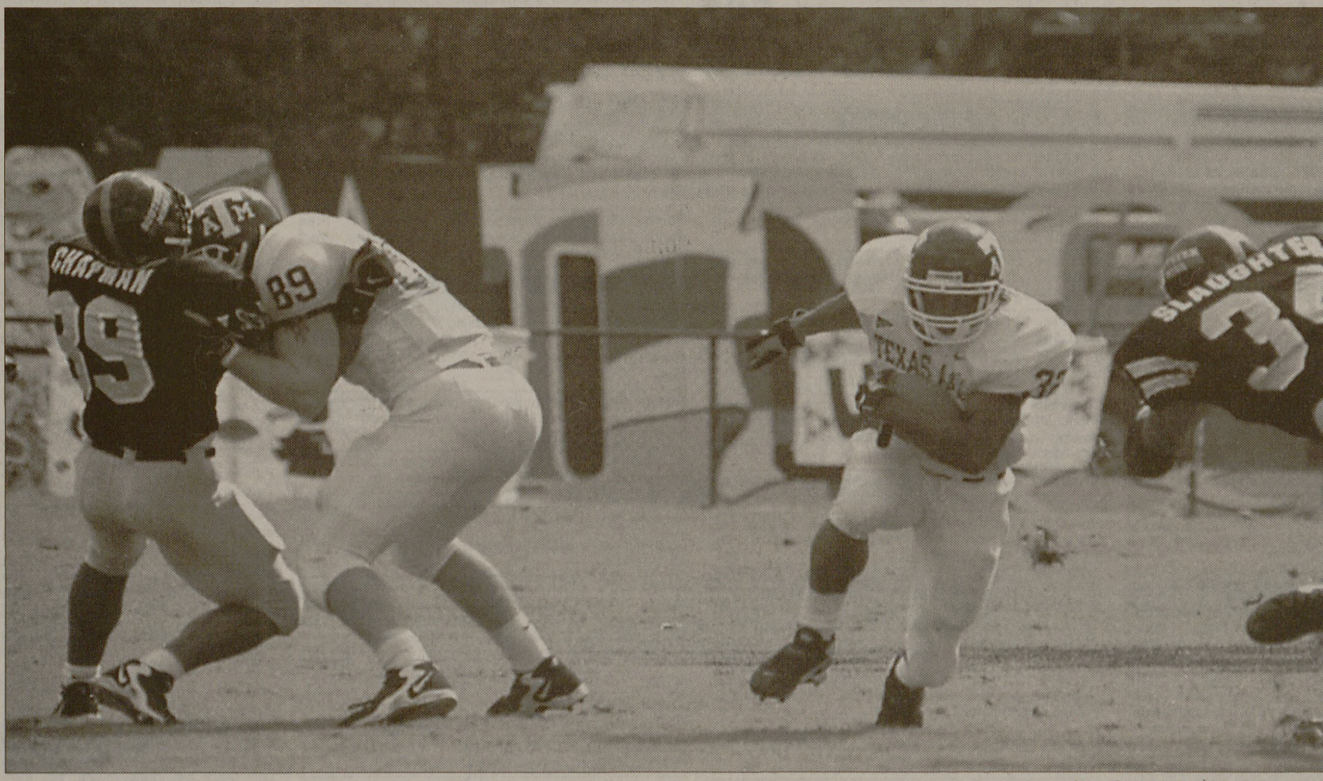
An effective running game is one of the reasons the Aggies were ranked 102nd in the nation last week with a 241.1 yards-per-game average in the game with Southern Mississippi.

Rhodes rushed Parker exclusively in the first quarter and used only Bernard in the first half of the second quarter.

Rhodes turned to injured junior back Sirr Parker for an answer to their inability to move the ball on the ground.

In the third offensive series of the second quarter, Hall, who missed a few days of practice in the week because of a strained right knee, entered the game with 5:19 left in the second quarter and gained seven yards on his first carry.

SEE HALL ON PAGE 10.



JAKE SCHRIKLING/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior tight end Daniel Campbell throws a great block to spring sophomore running back Burnest Rhodes through the Southern Mississippi defensive line in A&M's 24-6 win over the Eagles Saturday.

Total team effort by 'Wrecking Crew' cooks up recipe for 5 Eagle turnovers

BY DOUG SHILLING
The Battalion

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — On Saturday afternoon, Texas A&M's "Wrecking Crew" defense was led by a Butkus Award (given to the country's best linebacker) candidate who had seven tackles, two for losses, a batted down pass and a sack.

Instead of preseason Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year Dat Nguyen, it was Warrick Holdman who paced the Aggies' defense as they defeated Southern Mississippi 24-6.

On a day where the offense struggled to perform consistently, the defense provided enough spark to lead the team to a win.

"I feel that you can always have consistency on defense," A&M Football coach R.C. Slocum said. "If you have a good defense you should be able to line up and perform week in and week out. If I look up and see that we are going to be able to play defense against them, I always feel good."

The Aggies limited Southern Miss to 176 total yards on the day, 73 of which came on a touchdown drive in the final minutes of the game.

"We went out there trying to pitch a shutout," senior safety Rich Coady said. "To hold that team to six points the way we did with all the turnovers, I'm really excited about that."

Every player on defense contributed to the win, holding the high-

powered Southern Miss passing game to 142 yards.

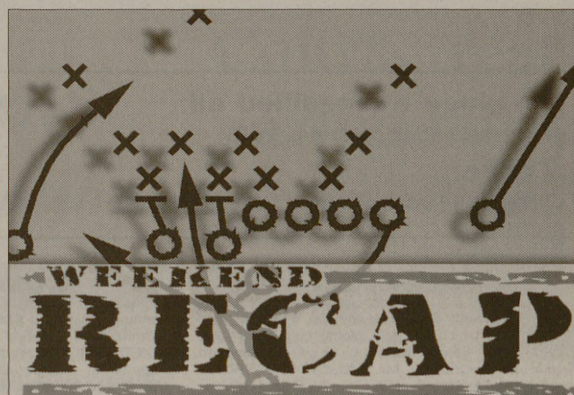
Cornerbacks Jason Webster, Brandon Jennings and Sedrick Curry each came up with an interception while Ronald Flemons and Cornelius Anthony each recorded fumbles.

Slocum said he was pleased with the defense's performance.

"I thought the whole defense played well today," he said. "The team was motivated and the defense was revved up. They got off to a very good start. Once they show they can get back to a guy, everyone tries to get back to him."

The Wrecking Crew provided ample opportunities for the sputtering offense to get going.

SEE DEFENSE ON PAGE 10.



Texas A&M 24
Southern Miss. 6

Texas A&M	3	11	7	3	—	24
Southern Miss.	0	0	0	6	—	6

First Quarter
TAM—FG Bynum 31, 7:54

Second Quarter
TAM—FG Bynum, 41, 9:46
TAM—Hall 44 run (Parker run), 4:14

Third Quarter
TAM—Hall 16 run (Bynum kick), 4:29

Fourth Quarter
TAM—FG Bynum 27, 9:13
USM—Gideon 7 pass from Roberts (pass failed), :53
A—33,233.

SOUND BITES

"Lots of teams, teams like this put their whole season into a game like this and beating a team like A&M."

— A&M senior safety Rich Coady

"If they don't score, they're not going to win the game."

— A&M senior linebacker Dat Nguyen

"After you bust a big run like that, you forget all about it [the pain]."

— A&M junior running back Dante Hall

"We knew they were scheming and that they would get us sometimes, but we knew that we would get them on some plays too."

— A&M junior running back Dante Hall

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Part III
Tue Sept 22
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- 60 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University by your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement described in the following paragraph. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 undergraduate resident credits, this requirement will be waived after you graduate and your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.
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- You must have a 2.0 cumulative GPR at Texas A&M University.
- You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

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Procedure To Order A Ring:

- If you meet all of the above requirements and you wish to receive your ring on November 19, 1998, you must visit the Ring Office no later than Wednesday, September 23, 1998 between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. to complete the application for eligibility verification.
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