

Sports

The Battalion

McCOWN, COLE ENERGIZE AGGIE 'O'

Junior Randy McCown shoulders offensive load

BY JEFF WEBB
The Battalion

Good quarterbacking was a family affair for the McCowns this weekend.

Robin and Pat McCown travelled to Hallsville, Texas, to see their youngest son, Luke, lead Jacksonville (Tx.) High School to victory by throwing two touchdown passes Friday night.

The family then hopped into the mini-van and headed for Dallas, where Southern Methodist University took on the University of Mississippi.

Their middle son, freshman signal-caller Josh McCown, started for the Mustangs. His three touchdown tosses helped SMU take the Rebels into overtime, where they eventually lost, 48-41.

As soon as Josh left the locker room, the whole family was en route to College Station, hoping to see the oldest of the McCown boys, A&M junior Randy, take his turn in his team's helm.

They weren't disappointed. "I got to listen to some of Josh's game on the radio at the hotel," Randy McCown said. "It makes me so proud of them because those guys work so hard. With me going on ahead of them, they have a lot of pressure to perform."

McCown entered the game with 2:44 left in the first half and immediately jump-started an 108th-ranked Aggie offense that struggled mightily in its three earlier games this season.

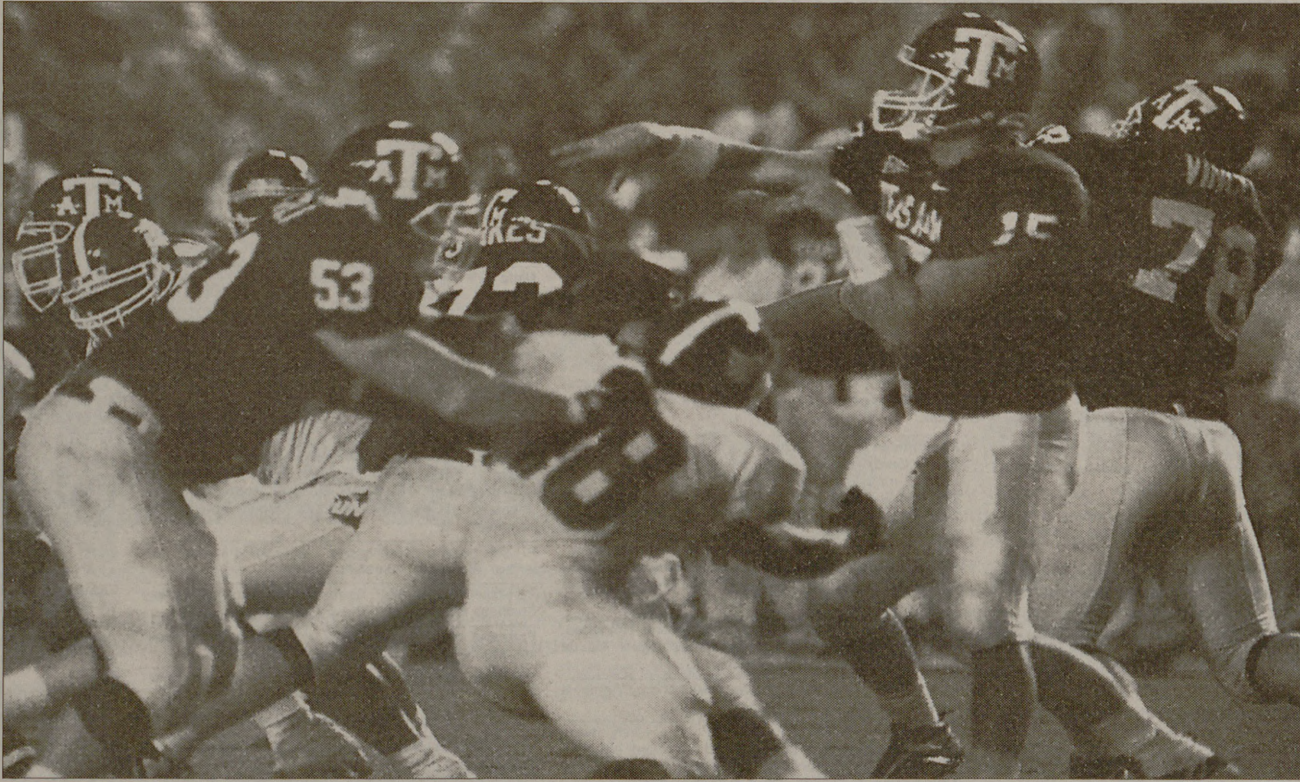
"I tried to get in there and get the offense going," he said. "I think that's what we're missing right now is a little enthusiasm."

McCown was 4 of 5 for 70 yards on the drive, completing a 35-yard strike to receiver Chris Cole in the end zone after being sacked on the previous two plays.

"He did bring a spark and motivate us," junior wide receiver Chris Cole said. "His scrambling set it off for us offensively."

"He tucked it and ran well tonight. When he got that off to me, I had to say 'Thank you, Randy.'"

SEE **McCOWN** ON PAGE 8.



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Junior quarterback **Randy McCown** throws a touchdown pass to junior **Chris Cole** at the end of the first half Saturday.

Cole dazzles North Texas Eagles with big plays

BY JEFF SCHMIDT
The Battalion

Several weeks ago, Texas A&M Football coach R. C. Slocum talked about the need for a "go-to" playmaker on offense.

The search is over. Junior wide receiver Chris Cole caught six passes for 174 yards and three touchdowns Saturday, all career highs, as the No. 17 Aggies defeated the University of North Texas 28-9.

Junior quarterback Randy McCown

threw two of Cole's touchdowns.

"Chris Cole was outstanding tonight," McCown said. "It's the first time we've seen a receiver play like that since A.C. (Albert Connell). You can be off a little bit, but he just goes up and gets it. He's made big plays when we've needed to."

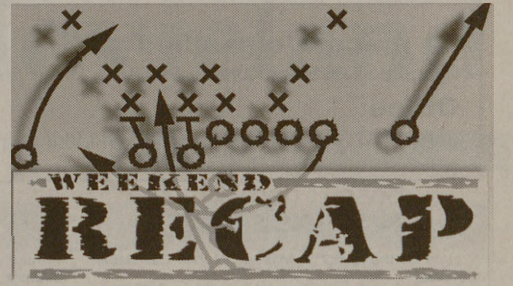
Cole's 174 yards ranks No. 4 in school single-game history and is the most by an Aggie receiver since Connell had 18 catches for 208 yards. Cole's three touchdowns tie the school record held by Don Ellis (vs. Arkansas, 1952) and Don Jones (vs.

Rice, 1982).

On A&M's first offensive play, starting quarterback Brannon Stewart hit Cole on a 60-yard touchdown pass. However, Stewart was benched after completing only three more passes and throwing his first interception of the season.

McCown went into the game with 2:44 left in the first half and promptly completed four of five passes, including a 35-yard touchdown pass to Cole at the 37-second mark.

SEE **COLE** ON PAGE 8.



• Senior quarterback **Brannon Stewart**'s first-quarter interception was his first of the season, and the first in his last 72 pass attempts.

• Senior linebacker **Dat Nguyen** recorded seven tackles against UNT, bringing his career tally to 403. Nguyen is the fourth A&M player in the 400-tackle club and needs only 52 more tackles to own the school record.

• **Chris Cole**'s touchdown catch from **Stewart** on A&M's first play from scrimmage was the first time the Aggies scored on their first play since **Rodney Thomas** caught a 60-yard touchdown pass from **Corey Pullig** against Rice University in 1994.

SOUND BITES

"Pathetic."

— Junior running back **Dante Hall** on the Aggie offensive performance

"If we would have practiced harder, we would have dropped dead. It's like studying all week for a test and making an 'F.'"

— Junior running back **Dante Hall**

"That's the first time we've had a receiver have a night like that since Albert Connell was here."

— Junior quarterback **Randy McCown** on receiver **Chris Cole**



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