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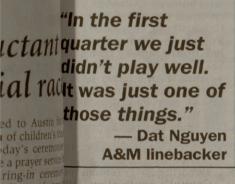
n his last ame in **Texas** &M uniorm, seior tight



nd Derrick piller pulled in 5 passes or 43 yards in the Jokia Sugar Bowl.

Say *what?*

"We never thought about being out of it. We've come back so often, nce into the form (door. To get to be always ing the two bulk; think we can do it again." **Branndon Stewart A&M** quarterback



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Big season ends in 'Big Easy'

BY JEFF SCHMIDT The Battalion

NEW ORLEANS — The Big Easy was not too easy on the Aggies.

But more importantly, it was not exactly easy on the Ohio State University Buckeyes The Buckeyes defeated Texas A&M 24-14,

but the Aggies proved to themselves they can play with any team.

'We're not going to be intimidated by anybody," senior tight end Dan Campbell said. 'We're on Ohio State's and Florida State's level. We can hang with people like that.

"That's what we learned this year, and we passed it along to the younger guys."

FC



LEFT: Aggie senior quarterback Branndon Stewart completed 22 of 39 passes in the

ABOVE: A&M senior linebacker Dat Nguyen recorded 14 sacks against Ohio State Univer-

sity in the Sugar Bowl, his 30th career double-digit sack game and sixth in a row.

OSU was playing with a large chip on its shoulwas we never quit. We never quit all year. We der, looking for a blowout victory over A&M and don't have any quitters on this team. You can a sluggish Florida State win in the Fiesta Bowl to only hang your head to a certain extent." vault itself into the national title hunt.

The Wrecking Crew shut down the highpowered Buckeye offense in the second half and the A&M offense put together an 11-play, 68yard drive — helped by three Buckeye penalties ending in a touchdown by junior wide receiver Leroy Hodge that closed out the scoring. Despite the loss, junior running back Dante

MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Hall predicts big things for the Aggies.

"We should be right there in the mix [next year]," he said. "We'll come back next year gunning for the national title. If we come back with a higher goal in mind, I think we can accomplish it.

Sports Illustrated All-Bowl Team Ja'Mar TOOMBS HEIGHT: 6'1" WEIGHT: 235 lbs. YEAR: Freshman

POSITION: FB HOMETOWN: Kilgore, TX

Page 9 • Tuesday, January 19, 1999

Rushed for 62 yards on 10 carries; Caught two passes for 19 additional yards.



Rockport, TX

Recorded 14 sacks, including 10 solos; Made 51st straight start of career.

line

The Sugar Bowl marked the 30th time linebacker Dat Nguyen recorded 10 or more sacks in a game.

In 15 career games against Top 25 teams, Nguyen averaged 12.8 sacks per contest.

■ The first-quarter punt block by OSU's Derrick Ross was the first block of an A&M punt since 1993.

Aggie QB Branndon Stewart completed 22 of 39 passes, both A&M bowl records.

The second-half shutout of OSU was their first of the year.

Pick up

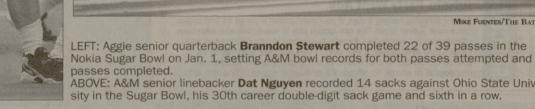
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the Aggies dearly.



Ohio State did not get the victory it wanted,

but for awhile it looked like they might. A nine-

minute span in the first quarter during which

the Buckeyes scored 21 unanswered points cost

the Buckeyes to a single field goal.

but it took us too long to get going.

But after that stretch, A&M relaxed and held

"I felt coming out in the second half our team

Campbell said, "The best thing about tonight

settled down on both sides of the ball and

played much better," coach R. C. Slocum said,

SPRING 1999 Day was an KICKOFF CONCERT be marked hink all Texan Dr. King a Bush said o contem ot lumping , but givin and soul a e idea of or in need WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20TH vernme Perry sal the first ie oath of AT governor get involve. HURRICANE HARRY'S acred Choral reat Festivals d FEATURING tival Sin Dysfunkshun Junkshun n up at our ta MSC Open Hot **OPENING FOR** nday, Januar I Tim @ 847 THE SCABS

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