

## In The Zone

the Battalion



"It's not like we're picking on a bunch of patsies."

— R.C. Slocum on his team's schedule after Southern Mississippi's and Louisiana Tech's performances Saturday

"It was a whole lot more than I expected. I was shocked when I first walked out."

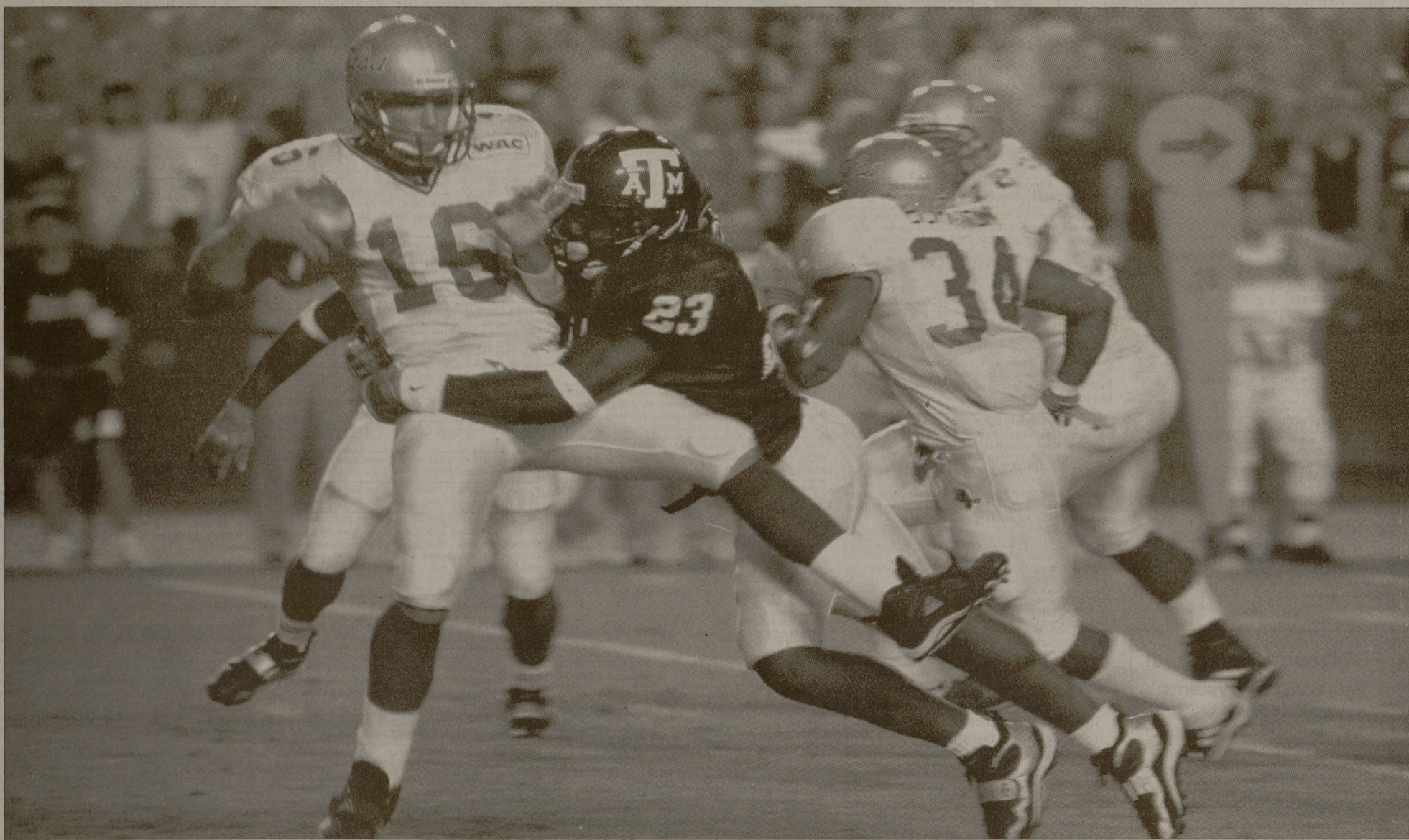
— Joe Weber on his first college game at Kyle Field

There's no telling what it can do. We still have a long way to go to see where we are at."

— Chris Taylor on the team's offensive performance Saturday

I thought our fans were great. The 'Maroon Out' was very obvious with all the maroon jerseys."

— R.C. Slocum



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Junior linebacker Jason Glenn sacks Tulsa University quarterback Jo Blankenship during Saturday night's game. Glenn finished the game with team highs in tackles with seven and sacks with three.

### Wrecking Crew sets up offense in 62-13 blowout of Tulsa

BY DOUG SHILLING  
The Battalion

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

With the debut of The Zone and an improved passing offense, it was an old standby that set the tone for the Texas A&M Football Team Saturday night.

The Wrecking Crew turned six Tulsa University turnovers into a short field for the offense as the Aggs shrugged off a slow start to cruise to a 62-13 victory over the Golden Hurricane.

Despite 606 yards of total offense, including a school-record 389 yards passing, the offense was helped out by the field position the defense provided them all night.

Of their 10 scoring drives, the A&M offense had to go more than 50 yards on just two drives.

"I thought the defense did well all night," A&M football coach R.C. Slocum said. "I was pleased we were able to force turnovers and the offense capitalized on those opportunities."

The defense capitalized from the beginning of the game for the Aggies.

After a three-and-out on their first possession, the Aggies got the ball right back when senior cornerback Brandon Jennings inter-

cepted Tulsa quarterback Michael Wall and returned it to the Tulsa 20-yard line.

After the ensuing Aggie drive stalled at the 7-yard line, a 23-yard field goal by junior place kicker Terrence Kitchens gave the Aggies the lead, 3-0.

Tulsa returned the favor later in the first as they took possession after a Randy McCown interception and drove 25 yards to the north end zone for a 7-3 lead at the end of the first quarter.

After the Tulsa drive into The Zone, the Aggie offense turned it on in the second quarter. With an average starting field position on the Tulsa 48-yard line, the Aggies ran off four straight touchdowns to take the lead 31-7 going into halftime. All four of the touchdowns the Aggies scored in the quarter were into The Zone.

Junior linebacker Jason Glenn, who finished the game with seven tackles and three sacks, said the Aggies felt the team needed to make up for letting Tulsa score in The Zone.

"We felt really bad that we let them score down there," Glenn said. "But then the offense went and scored four straight times there, so we made up for it."

Coming out of halftime, the Aggies had their only defensive lapse. On its first drive of the half, Tulsa

backup quarterback Jo Blankenship hit wide receiver Corey Brown for a 73-yard pass to set up running back Ken Bohanon for a 7-yard touchdown run to make it a 31-13 game.

After senior cornerback Jason Webster intercepted another Tulsa pass at the end of the third quarter, McCown started off the fourth with a bang.

McCown hooked up with junior wide receiver Chris Taylor on a 96-yard touchdown pass, the longest in school history, to make the score 45-13.

The previous long was a 92-yarder from Gary Kubiak to Don Jones in 1981 versus Louisiana Tech University.

The pass gave both Taylor and McCown career games. One game after setting a career best against Louisiana Tech, McCown reestablished his career high with 320 yards on 13-of-30 passing. Taylor finished with six catches for 177 yards, the fourth-best game total in Aggie history.

With the game in hand after Taylor's long touchdown, Slocum had the chance to get some of the team's younger players some playing time.

Freshman quarterbacks Vance Smith and Mark Farris and running back Joe Weber all saw their first



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Freshman running back Joe Weber tries to break a tackle during Saturday night's game against Tulsa University.

playing time in college. Weber finished with a team-high 54 yards on 13 rushes, while Farris and Smith quarterbacked the last three scoring drives for the Aggies.

Farris led the Aggies to a field goal while Smith threw for a touchdown to sophomore wide receiver Mickey Jones and handed off to freshman walk-on fullback Stacy Jones for the Aggies' final score.

After putting out its highest point total in two years, Slocum said he was pleased with the team's effort.

"I was pleased with our overall performance," Slocum said. "I thought we started off rough, but then got into a good tempo. I was pleased we were able to force turnovers and the offense capitalized on those opportunities."

#### The Battalion Top 25 Poll

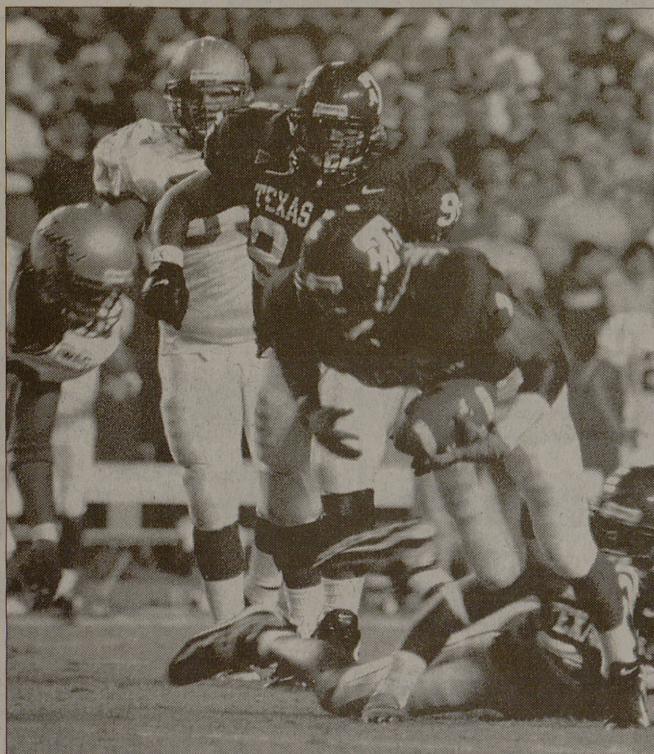
Team	Record
Florida State	(3-0)
Penn State	(4-0)
Florida	(3-0)
Texas A&M	(2-0)
Nebraska	(3-0)
Tennessee	(1-1)
Michigan	(3-0)
Georgia Tech	(2-1)
Georgia	(2-0)
Miami	(2-1)
Ohio State	(2-1)
Arkansas	(2-0)
Virginia Tech	(2-0)
Purdue	(3-0)
Kansas State	(2-0)
Marshall	(3-0)
Wisconsin	(2-1)
UCLA	(2-1)
Michigan State	(3-0)
BYU	(2-0)
Texas	(3-1)
Air Force	(2-0)
Mississippi State	(3-0)
N.C. State	(3-1)
Alabama	(2-1)

#### Associated Press Top 25 Poll

Team	Record
Florida State	(3-0)
Penn State	(4-0)
Florida	(3-0)
Michigan	(3-0)
Texas A&M	(2-0)
Nebraska	(3-0)
Tennessee	(1-1)
Virginia Tech	(2-0)
Miami	(2-1)
Georgia Tech	(2-1)
Georgia	(2-0)
Ohio State	(2-1)
Purdue	(3-0)
Arkansas	(2-0)
Kansas State	(2-0)
USC	(2-0)
BYU	(2-0)
UCLA	(2-1)
Michigan State	(3-0)
Wisconsin	(2-1)
Marshall	(3-0)
Texas	(3-1)
Miss State	(3-0)
Air Force	(2-0)
N.C. State	(3-1)

#### Big 12 Standings

North				
	W	L	PF	PA
Colorado	2	1	128	93
Owya St.	3	0	74	17
Nebraska	3	0	107	20
Kansas St.	2	0	80	7
Missouri	2	0	79	62
Kansas	1	2	101	113
South				
	W	L	PF	PA
Oklahoma	2	0	90	10
Texas A&M	2	0	99	30
Texas	3	1	145	74
Oklia. St.	2	1	81	45
Texas Tech	1	2	65	69
Taylor	0	3	63	98



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Junior safety Michael Jameson returns a third quarter interception 24 yards to Tulsa University's 18-yard line.

### Tech, USM performances help Aggies

It's September, and we all know what that means. As surely as the leaves will fall from the trees (at least in places that get cold), the Texas A&M Football Team will parade through a group of hapless non-conference foes.

What's the latest damage, 62-13 over Tulsa? And how about two weeks ago, 37-17 over Louisiana Tech? Pretty impressive stuff.

It's time for the Aggies to schedule a formidable non-conference opponent, someone who will actually put up a fight. And the boys in maroon and white need look no further than Lubbock to find a team that follows this scheduling philosophy.

Determined to challenge themselves before conference play begins, the Texas Tech Red Raiders decided to bring in a team that inspires fear in Division III teams across the country, a team so fearsome, so brutal, the nickname "Eagles" isn't enough. That's right, this rugged squad of warriors from the University of North Texas likes

to be referred to as the "Mean Green Eagles."

UNT traveled to Lubbock this weekend and for the second time in three years, left with a victory, 21-14. Not only did Tech decide to schedule this non-conference cupcake, but it didn't even win the game.

So before you start complaining about A&M's non-conference schedule, keep a couple of things in mind. First, the Aggies' non-conference schedule this season is actually pretty respectable, especially when compared to the schedules of other Big 12 teams.

And second, as we know from Tech's implosion in Lubbock, nothing is guaranteed. There's something to be said for winning big when you're supposed to, like the Aggies did on Saturday.

Don't think I'm here trying to convince you that Tulsa was a strong team, because as the Golden Hurricane demonstrated this weekend, it wasn't. But A&M's other non-conference opponents, Louisiana Tech and Southern Mississippi, have proven themselves to be capable teams this season.

All Louisiana Tech did on Saturday was win on the road against No. 18 Al-

abama, 29-28. In their season-opener, the Bulldogs were five yards away from leading No. 1 Florida State at the half before eventually succumbing to the Seminoles.

After opening its season with a blowout win over Tulane, which went undefeated last season, Southern Miss went into Lincoln, Neb., on Saturday and almost stole one from the fourth-ranked Cornhuskers.

USM lost 20-13, but not before turning heads around the nation, especially those in College Station.

"Southern Miss is always good and I think our team will have respect for them," A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "We played over there last week in a game that was a hard-fought contest."

"Southern Miss played Nebraska within seven points at Nebraska, so it's not like we're picking on a bunch of patsies."

There are probably a lot of Texas Tech fans who wanted to play someone tougher and more well-known than UNT. Now they would just be happy with a victory.

Al Lazarus is a senior journalism major.