

SPORTS

Page 7 • Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Aggies set for league play

The Texas A&M Football Team (3-0) will open its conference schedule Saturday in Lubbock against Texas Tech. The Aggies have won six of their last 10 against the Red Raiders but have not won in Lubbock since 1993. Saturday's game is set for 6 p.m. and will be televised nationally by Fox Sports Net.

NOTEBOOK



Kitchens Impresses

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Terry Lazarus has been impressive, booting three field goals against Southern Miss.

His 62-yarder against USM was the longest in A&M history and second longest in NCAA history without the use of a tee. The NCAA disallowed the use of tees on field-goal attempts in 1988.

Kitchens, who was put on scholarship Thursday, is one of five kickers currently being tracked by ESPN.com as candidates for the Lou Groza Award, given annually to the nation's top place-kicker.

Missed Opportunities

A&M finished with 299 total yards against the Golden Eagles, a respectable number considering Nebraska could manage only 185 in its game against USM. But like the Cornhuskers, the Aggies scored no offensive touchdowns against Southern Miss. Credit this partly to USM's defense, which appeared to be as good as billed, but also to several missed opportunities by A&M.

In the second quarter of Saturday's game, Randy McCown found junior tight

end RoDerrick Broughton wide open in the back of the end zone, but Broughton dropped the pass.

On the next play, McCown rolled left and inexplicably missed seeing a wide-open Chris Taylor for what looked to be a sure touchdown. Instead, the ball slipped from McCown's grasp and went out-of-bounds, forcing the Aggies to settle for a field goal.

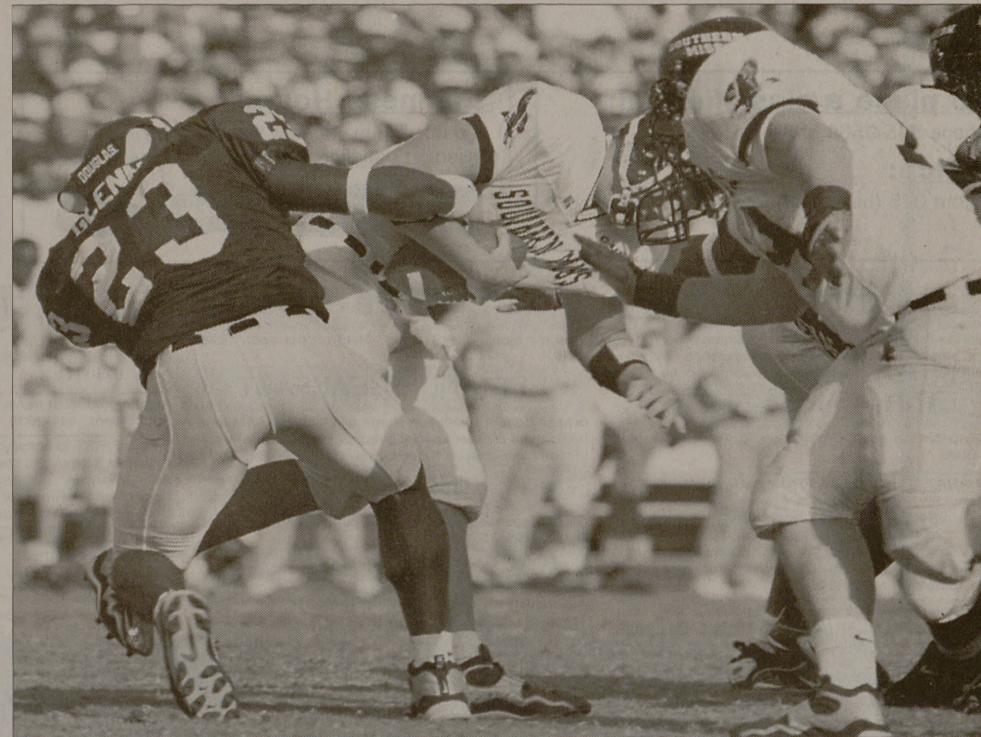
Webster Honored

Senior cornerback Jason Webster's interception and 10 tackles against USM earned him Big 12 Defensive Player of the Week honors. Webster leads the Aggies in tackles (25) and interceptions (3).

Webster pointed to the Aggies' stellar receiving corps when asked to explain his early-season success and that of the secondary as a whole.

"We credit a lot of our early success to our receivers," he said, "because we go up against them everyday in practice."

SEE AGS ON PAGE 8.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Junior linebacker Jason Glenn sacks University of Southern Mississippi quarterback Cable Davis during Saturday's game at Kyle Field.

Unbeaten teams highlight top level of Big 12 Conference

As the Big 12 heads into the weekend before conference play kicks off league wide, once again, five of the seven games involving Big 12 schools this week will be televised either regionally or nationally.

NOTEBOOK



Conference of the Unbeatens

Coming into this weekend's

games, the Big 12 boasts four schools — Nebraska (4-0), Texas A&M (3-0), Kansas State (3-0) and the Oklahoma (4-0) — that are still unbeaten, second only to the Big 10 Conference, which has five.

Two other schools, Missouri and Iowa State, fell from the ranks of the unbeaten last week at the hands of Nebraska and Kansas State, respectively.

Overall, Big 12 schools have finished unbeaten over an entire season 22 times since 1908.

Comeback Kids

That Kansas State is still an unbeaten team is truly a miracle. The Wildcats were down 28-7 at halftime against Iowa State. The defense had given up 332 yards and,

the offense was struggling behind quarterback Jonathan Beasley.

But keyed by a quarterback change and a 94-yard punt return for a touchdown by running back David Allen, the Wildcats erased the deficit and came back to win, 35-28. It was the biggest comeback in head coach Bill Snyder's tenure at Kansas State.

Trying to Return to Glory Days

When the Oklahoma Sooners head to South Bend, Ind., this weekend to take on the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, it will be a matchup of the two teams that have won the most national championships.

Since the Associated Press began choosing a national champion in 1936, OU and Notre Dame have

combined to win 14, eight by the Irish and six by the Sooners.

It has been a while for the two schools in the championship department, however, as neither one has been crowned champion since 1988, when the Irish under then-coach Lou Holtz captured the top spot. The Sooners' last title came in 1985, when Barry Switzer led the Sooners to the championship.

Offensive Defenses

For Texas A&M and Colorado last weekend, the best offense was a good defense. Colorado used a pair of touchdowns from defensive back Ben Kelly to stay close in its 31-24 loss to the University of Washington Huskies. Kelly took a fumble and went 38

yards for the score and later added a 98-yard kickoff return for a touchdown.

The Aggies used four interceptions to help control the Southern Mississippian in a 23-6 win. Cornerback Jay Brooks picked off a pass and ran it back 41 yards in the third quarter to make the lead 16-0.

After Southern Miss cut the lead to 16-6, A&M safety Michael Jameson sealed the deal as he returned an interception 26 yards for a touchdown to put the Golden Eagles away.

Odds and Ends

Texas handed Baylor its third-worst loss in school history. The Longhorns' 62 points were the most scored by a Baylor opponent

since 1994, when Texas defeated Baylor 63-35.

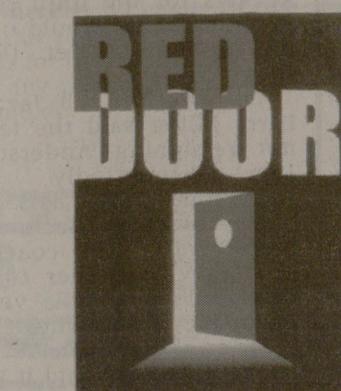
For the fifth straight game, Iowa State outrushed its opponent. The Cyclones have outrushed their opponents 1,317-486 this season.

K-State has won 47 games in a row against unranked teams in the regular season.

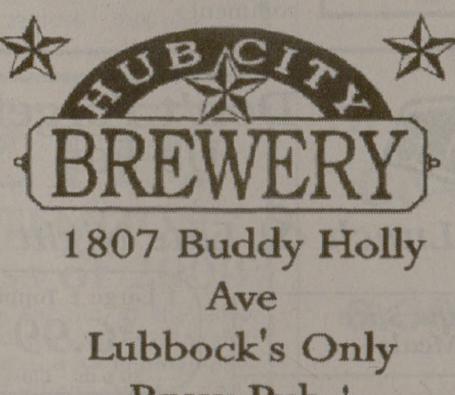
Kansas has forced two or more turnovers in 17 of 26 games since head coach Terry Allen took over...

David Allen's 94-yard punt return against Iowa State was the sixth of his career. He needs one more to tie Nebraska's Jonny Rodgers and Oklahoma's Jack Mitchell for the NCAA record of seven.

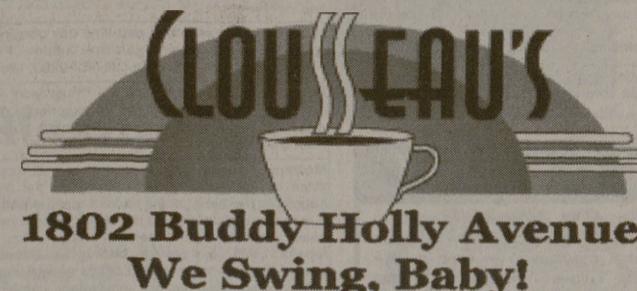
Doug Shilling is a junior agricultural journalism major.



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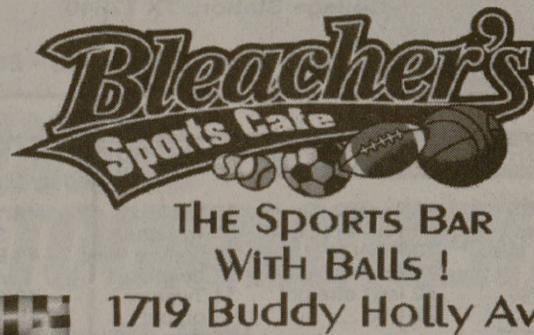
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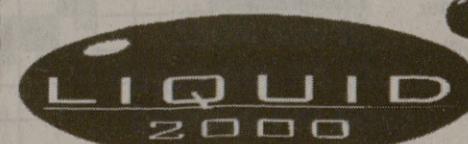
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