



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

As A&M wide receiver **Chris Taylor** tries to elude Texas Tech's **Jonathan Hawkins** during Saturday night's game in Lubbock.

Ags look to solve problems

NOTEBOOK



The Texas A&M Football Team (3-1, 0-1 Big 12) will return to action Saturday at Kyle Field against Baylor University (1-4, 0-2 Big 12). The game is set for 1 p.m. and will not be televised. Since a 20-20 tie with BU at Kyle Field in 1990, A&M has won eight straight games against the Bears. The Aggies have not lost to them since 1985, when Baylor won, 20-15, in Waco.

Gulf Coast Offense Loses Steam

The Aggie offense's woes continued

Saturday against Texas Tech. For the second straight game it scored no touchdowns, instead relying on four field goals and a defensive touchdown against the Red Raiders.

"It's a little disappointing, to be honest," A&M offensive coordinator and wide receivers coach Steve Kragthorpe said. "One of the big reasons is we haven't had all 11 guys executing."

Despite its poor performance in the last two games, A&M's offense is averaging 425.25 yards a game, good for No. 24 in the nation. The Aggies' running game, though, is an uncharacteristically low No. 48, averaging just 163.3 yards per game.

When asked to explain A&M's running difficulty, running back Dante Hall did not waste any time coming up with a reply.

"If I knew," he said, "I would tell everyone, and we wouldn't have a problem."

Lechler had a huge game Saturday in the Aggies' 21-19 loss to Tech. Lechler punted five times for a 57.2 yard average, breaking his previous school record of 54.7 against Iowa State in 1997.

Lechler's eighth 50-yard plus game of his career moved his season average up to 47.5, good for second in the nation.

McCown McInconsistency

Although he has appeared shaky at times, quarterback Randy McCown continues to put up solid numbers this season. He may be overthrowing or underthrowing receivers — or not throwing to them when they are wide open — but the fact remains he is averaging 244.8 yards passing per game, almost two-and-a-half times his 1998 average.

"In practice, he's a guy that hits receivers on the mark every time," offensive lineman Chris Valletta said. "He's going to be fine."

Lechler Heats Up

Preseason All-America punter Shane

SEE AGGIES ON PAGE 8.

Big 12 set to kick off full slate of conference games this weekend

NOTEBOOK

Sooner Passing Fancy

Most of the memories conjured up when thinking of the University of Oklahoma are of the wishbone offense and a punishing running attack.

This year is the complete opposite, however, as the arrival of quarterback Josh Heupel has created a new Sooner philosophy: Pass early and often.

It is a strategy that has worked wonders for the Sooners this year. Through four games, Heupel has already broken the OU season record for touchdowns with 16, two more than the old record set by Cale Gundy in 1993.

In fact, Heupel is close to rewriting the entire Sooner record book as far as passing goes.

Heupel needs only 738 more yards, 30 more completions and 108 more attempts the rest of the season to set Oklahoma records in those categories, and if

Heupel keeps up his current completion percentage, 67.6, he will set the mark by three percentage points.

Special Teams Conference

The Big 12 conference is a haven for special teams standouts, and last Saturday showed why.

Kansas State punt returner David Allen returned a punt 74 yards against the University of Texas for a touchdown.

It was the seventh punt return for a touchdown of Allen's career, tying him for the most in NCAA history with former University of Nebraska standout and Heisman trophy winner Johnny Rodgers and Oklahoma's Jack Mitchell. The Sooners' Brandon Daniels, a quar-

terback-turned-wide receiver/kick returner, almost single-handedly defeated the Notre Dame Fighting Irish on kick returns.

Daniels had 229 kickoff-return yards on five kickoffs, an OU record and the second highest total in NCAA history.

Aggie place kicker Terence Kitchens helped keep A&M in the game for the second week in a row.

Kitchens accounted for all of the Aggies' points on offense, going 4-for-5 on field goals, including a 52-yarder, his fourth 50-yard plus field goal of the year.

Kitchens leads the nation in field goals, averaging three per game, and is fourth in scoring, averaging 12.75 points per game.

Odds and Ends

Missouri has gone undefeated in non-conference play for the first time since 1981, and the Tigers have now beaten

14 straight unranked opponents. The crowd of 83,082 to watch Kansas State Saturday was the largest to ever see the Wildcats play. The previous record was 76,268 at Nebraska in 1982.

Despite attracting its 230th straight sellout at Memorial Stadium last Saturday Nebraska players have said the crowd has been losing intensity lately.

"You could really hear the crowd early, and that was great to hear," defensive end Aaron Wills said. "We had been so concerned about the crowd that we [the team's Unit Council] had a meeting about it. They just haven't been in the games. We really need them. We need them to be like at Texas A&M, where the crowd is there three hours before the game practicing yells."

Doug Shilling is a junior agricultural journalism major



The Big 12 kicks off its first full weekend of conference play Saturday as all 12 teams play conference games. Three games are being televised this week — with the Missouri-Colorado game at 12:30 p.m. and the Texas-Oklahoma game at 2:30 p.m., regionally televised while the Iowa State-Nebraska game at 6:30 p.m. will be carried nationally.

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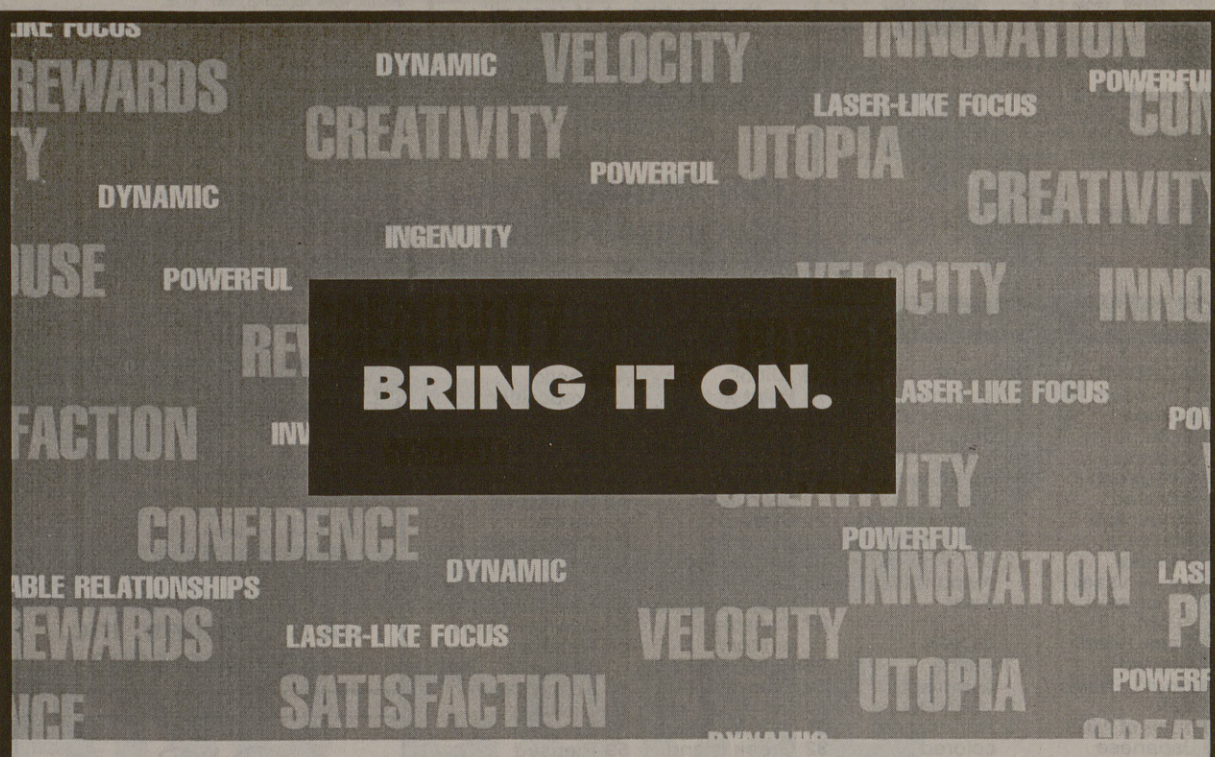
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