

## Ags look to rebound



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The Texas A&M Football Team (5-2, 2-2 Big 12) will take on Oklahoma State (3-3, 1-2 Big 12) Saturday at Kyle Field. The game is set to kick-off at 2:30 p.m. and will not be televised.



### NOTEBOOK

#### The Road to San Antonio

After Saturday's 51-6 loss to Oklahoma, the Aggies will need a lot of help to get to San Antonio and their third straight Big 12 Championship game. If A&M were to win the four remaining games on its schedule, it would need Oklahoma and Texas Tech to each lose two more times.

The toughest games remaining for the Sooners figure to be road contests against Colorado and Tech, while Tech still has to play on the road against Texas. The Aggies, of course, have a road contest against Nebraska looming on Nov. 6.

#### Defensive Woes

Among their many problems on display in being

manhandled by Oklahoma was the Aggies' repeated defensive breakdowns. A&M looked unprepared for the Sooners' double-triangle spread formation, and the Aggies had trouble tackling throughout the game.

"It's embarrassing," A&M defensive coordinator Mike Hankwitz said. "But it happened, and it's how you deal with it and what you do about it."

Hankwitz attributed the Aggies' breakdown to a variety of things, but said a lack of effort was not the problem.

"We took bad angles at times and other times we were out of control," he said. "But I didn't see anybody throwing in the towel and not giving the effort."

#### A&M/OSU Facts

OSU is coming off a disappointing loss to Kansas State last Saturday in Stillwater, Okla. The Cowboys jumped out to a 21-0 lead, only to see the Wildcats reel off 44 unanswered points to win, 44-21.

The Aggies lead their all-time series with OSU, 10-4. They have not lost to the Cowboys in the teams' three meetings as Big 12 Conference members. At Kyle Field in 1997, the Aggies came back from a 15-point fourth-quarter deficit to beat the Cowboys, 28-25.

SEE AGGIES ON PAGE 10.

## Big 12 Championship race shaping up for interesting finish

### NOTEBOOK



#### Who's heading to San Antone?

After a "Shakedown" Saturday, the race to see who will meet from the North and South divisions for the Big 12 Champions is still very much up in the air.

Eight teams still have somewhat realistic dreams of ending up in San Antonio on Dec. 4.

In the North division, Kansas State sits in the driver's seat after its 44-21 win over Oklahoma State Saturday. With a 4-0 conference record, the Wildcats only need to win their remaining games to head to the championship game for the second year in a row.

With records of 3-1 in the con-

ference, both Nebraska and Colorado still have a shot to take the North title. Once again, if either team wins out, it will go to San Antonio. With all three teams playing one another in the next month, things should get very interesting in the North.

The South division is much more up for grabs. Texas, Texas Tech and Oklahoma all have one conference loss, with Oklahoma State and Texas A&M both having two.

Texas and Tech each control their own destiny. If either one wins out, it will go to San Antonio. They meet on Nov. 13 in a game that could determine the South title.

Oklahoma will be champion if it wins out and gets help in the form of a loss by Texas.

With their loss to the Sooners, the Aggies' prospects of defending their Big 12 title are slim.

The intriguing team is Oklahoma State. Although their record is 1-2, the Cowboys losses came against teams in the North division. If it wins its remaining games, Oklahoma State will represent the South division.

#### Bowl Championship Fever

The first Bowl Championship Series rankings came out Monday and, as expected, Florida State

and Penn State occupy the top spots. Three Big 12 teams made their way into the Top 10.

Kansas State leads the way, coming in at No. 5. The Big 12's only undefeated team is ranked sixth in both polls and is as high as No. 2 and as low as No. 7 in the computer rankings.

Despite its loss to Texas, Nebraska comes in two spots behind at No. 7. The Cornhuskers are tied for eighth in the AP poll and are ninth in the coaches poll. They are as high as No. 5 and as low as No. 9 in the computers.

The Longhorns round out the top 10 after their third straight win over Nebraska.

The top two teams in the BCS rankings at the end of the season will play for the National Championship Jan. 4 in the Sugar Bowl.

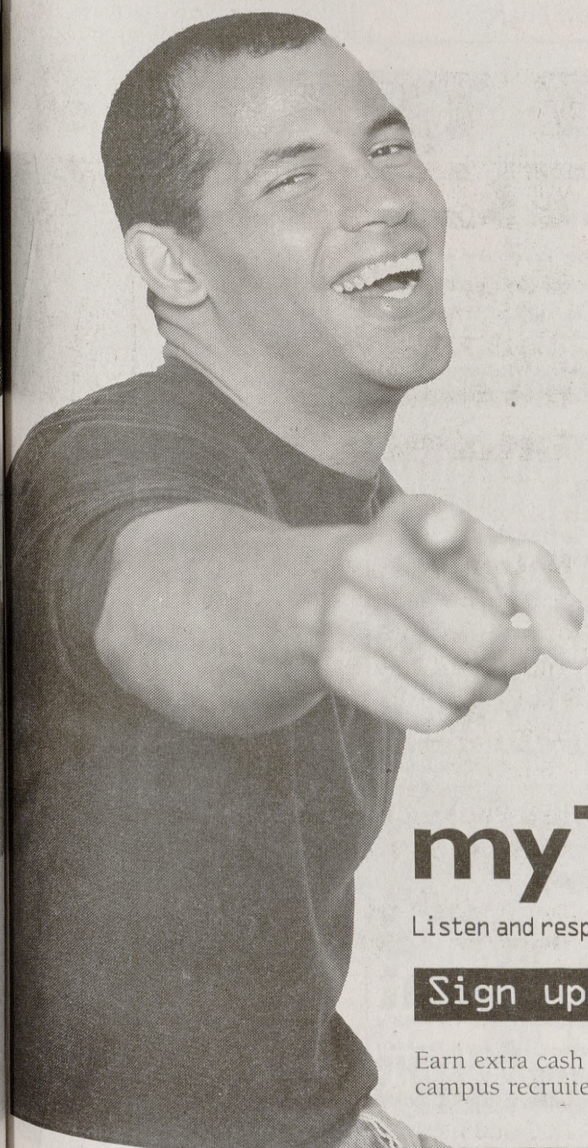
#### Odds and Ends

Colorado started a different offensive lineup for the 20th straight game in Saturday's win over Iowa State...The Iowa State defense held an opponent scoreless for an entire half for the fifth time this season...Before shutting out Missouri Saturday, the last time Kansas shut out an opponent was the first game of the

SEE BIG 12 ON PAGE 10.

Stupid things to say at a cool party #21

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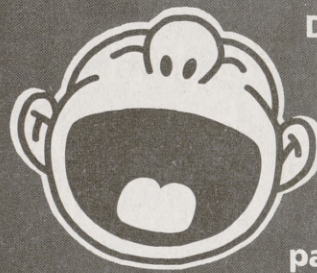
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