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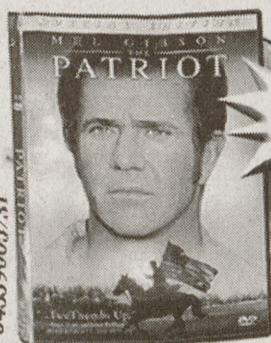
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Yankees clinch World Series

NEW YORK (AP) — Down to their last out in the ninth inning of a tied game, facing a pitcher who seemed to be growing stronger the longer he stayed in, the New York Yankees weaved their World Series winning magic out of the slimmest of threads.

First came the biggest little walk of the night by Jorge Posada, who fouled off three pitches on a 2-2 count against Al Leiter and virtually willed his way to first base.

Then, up to the plate came Scott Brosius, who had done nothing against Leiter but who has one of the highest batting averages in World Series history. This time, Brosius slapped a single to left field to keep the Yankees' flame burning and pump up the voices of their screaming fans in the enemy's den at Shea Stadium.

Leiter, the most animated of pitchers, his face twitching between every pitch, suddenly looked weary and be-

wildered as if he sensed his up. He had struck out the men in the inning, nine in all, thrown 141 pitches, and he threw one more.

Luis Sojo drilled pitch up the middle, and Posada third and charged toward the Center fielder Jay Payton choice by to try to throw and nail Sojo. The throw was but it hit Posada as he stepped home.

Wrecking Crew feared in Manhattan

They do not call it the Wrecking Crew for nothing. Texas A&M and defense have a correlation like nothing else in college football, especially during R.C. Slocum's 12-year reign as head coach in College Station.

Even Bill Snyder knows it. "When I was in the younger stages of my coaching career, I can always remember Texas A&M teams — they always talk about the Wrecking Crew and how they're known for playing very, very fine defense," said the Kansas State coach. "And I don't think in R.C.'s tenure that that has changed at all. I think that's always been the case, and again they are a very, very fine defensive football team."

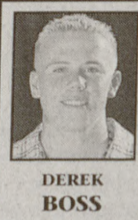
That they are — here is a quick statistical breakdown. Through seven games, the Aggies rank first in the Big 12 and sixth in the country in scoring defense (13.1 points allowed per game), second in the conference in turnover margin (+10) and rush defense (95.7 yards per game), and third in the league and 13th nationally in total defense (287.3 yards per game).

Not too shabby, considering K-State's much-heralded defense is below A&M in some of those categories. On top of all that, throw in talented A&M quarterback Mark Farris, and things really start to get interesting.

Do the Wildcats have something to be concerned about when the Aggies and Wildcats converge this weekend? I'll use one of tailback Josh Scobey's favorite press conference sayings to sum this one up — "Most definitely."

With K-State's inconsistent offensive outputs the past two weeks against Oklahoma and Texas Tech, traveling to College Station looks to be a daunting task.

Plus, the Aggies are coming off an impressive 30-7 victory over Iowa State, in which the Wrecking



DEREK BOSS

Crew held the nation's 12th best offense to a low 239 total yards.

A&M could also very well ride the emotional high from its upset of K-State in the '98 Big 12 Championship, which still lingers to a certain extent in the minds of Wildcat faithful.

Will Jonathan Beasley and the 'Cat offense be ready to stifle the Aggie "D," led by linebacker Brian Gamble and Jason Glenn? That will be the question Saturday, but do not expect Kyle Farnsworth to welcome K-State by any means.

This 80,650 capacity stadium is simply a high place to play in terms of home winning percentage in the 1990s (.925), behind Florida State, Nebraska and Florida.

Pit that with an unruly crowd known as the Twelfth Man filled with a bunch of swaying and course, mugging, and you can certainly expect distractions. In fact, expect the K-State-A&M game to sell out and enter the Aggies' Top-10 all-time crowds list this weekend.

Besides the festivities in the stands, there's usually much celebration on the field as well. A&M boasts a sparkling 63-6-1 record at Kyle Field during Slocum's tenure as head coach, posting eight undefeated seasons at home.

Yet, the fact that its 22-game winning streak at College Station was snapped this season simply baffles me. To Colorado, of all teams?

Gary Barnett and the Buffaloes' (1-6) only this year came over the Aggies, and it was at A&M. Do not expect me to explain that mystery to anybody.

Maybe Snyder can.

But I will not ask him. I would rather let the weekend tell the story.

Derek Boss is a sophomore electronic journalism major at Kansas State.

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My Journey To Aggieland Started A World Away.

In March 1993, my family and I fled Vietnam and came to Texas. I had no job skills and worse. I did not speak a single word of English. We were poor we were reduced to eating out-of-date food tossed out by local grocery stores.

It's hard to believe now, but only five short years later, I graduated from Texas A&M with a Mechanical Engineering degree. Can you imagine how proud my family and I were? It gets better. Recently I was promoted to Project Manager. This would have been impossible without the education I received by graduating from Texas A&M University.

Every time I look at my Aggie Ring I swell with pride, thinking about how far I have come in such a short time. My Ring is a constant reminder that you can accomplish anything if you believe in yourself. Texas A&M has not only made a significant difference in my life, it has also made it possible for me to make a significant difference in other people's lives as well. I am The Aggie Network.



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