

Shortcoming

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it a one-possession game, elected to go for the two-point conversion and were successful on a Heupel pass to tight end Matt Anderson in the front of the end zone.

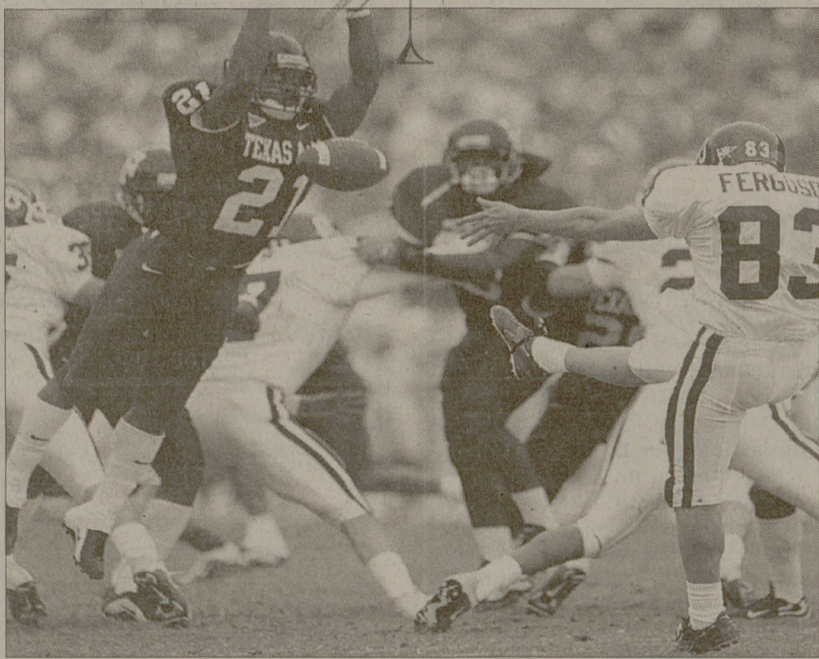
The Aggies looked to put away the game on their next possession, when Ferguson again came up big with a 40-yard catch down the A&M sideline that set up the 4th-and-one Toombs run that gave the Aggies a 31-21 cushion with just 13 minutes left in the game. Toombs seemed to be hit by all 11 of the OU defenders, before dragging four would-be tacklers into the end zone for the touchdown.

"Basically, we were just trying to get a first down," said Toombs. "The hole opened so wide, so I just hit it."

Oklahoma would mount a 15-play, 77-yard scoring drive that ate up five minutes of clock time and was capped off by a two yard Griffin run for Oklahoma. With less than eight minutes remaining, the Sooners had cut the A&M lead to 31-28.

After the OU kickoff, A&M's first mistake of the second half would prove deadly as quarterback Mark Farris' pass was picked off over the middle by linebacker Torrance Marshall who returned the ball 41 yards for an OU touchdown and gave the Sooners a 35-31 lead.

"Mark has done a great job this year for us," Slocum said. "Most guys that have played this game have had plays like that who have played quarterback. It just came at a bad time for us."



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Jay Brooks continued his career year on special teams with this blocked punt in the first quarter Saturday. The A&M offense scored the next drive.

A&M offense did not give up on the game, and the Aggies moved the ball well, riding on the back of the arm of Farris as well as tight end Greg Porter who caught an 18-yard pass that brought the Aggies to mid-field. Ferguson, bothered by an ankle injury, came up huge for the Aggies once again, going up to get a Farris pass over the OU defender to give the Aggies a 1st-and-goal at the OU 10-yard line. After two running plays, and an incomplete pass, the Aggies were faced with a 4th-and-goal from the four-yard line. Farris' pass fell incomplete, turning the ball over to OU

with 2:56 left in the game.

"Our team made some plays and their team made some plays, we just came up a play or two short," Slocum said.

The Aggies held the Sooner offense and forced a punt, but the Aggies were unable to move the ball from the OU 44-yard line and were stopped on a 4th-and-20 pass that ended the Aggies' chances of an upset.

Oklahoma, which moves to 9-0 overall and 6-0 in the Big 12, scored 22 points in the fourth quarter, crippling the Aggies' (7-3, 5-2) chances of a miracle upset.

Wrecking Crew

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for a touchdown, the Wrecking Crew made sure to get the ball back into the offense's hands. Then when A&M fell short at the 4 yard line, they held Oklahoma without a first down to force a punt, giving the Aggies

one final chance to win the game.

"The thing that gets me is that I feel bad that we lost the game when we had the ball in our hands," said A&M fullback Ja'Mar Toombs. "That's the part that disappoints me the most, because last week the defense came through for us. This week it would have been a great tribute to have offense come through for them."

Soccer

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The Aggie defense held the Golden Eagles to only one shot, and took a 2-0 lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Aggies would add two more insurance goals in the second period. Strutz added another assist when she sent a cross from the right side to the left side of the goalkeeper's box that was one-timed by junior Amber Childers. The shot sailed over the keeper's left shoulder and settled in the net. Forward Heather Williams added another goal with less than three minutes remaining. Williams took a shot from the middle of the penalty box that beat the Marquette goaltender and rolled into the bottom left corner of the goal to increase the Aggies' lead to 4-0.

The win improved Texas A&M's record to 18-6 on the season. Marquette, the Conference USA champions, record dropped to 20-3-1 overall. The Aggies move into the Sweet 16 in the NCAA tournament.

"I think we were more prepared for the type game that was going to have to be played today," Starns said. "We got on the board early,



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

A&M midfielder Heather Wiebe had five shots on goal, converting two of them to help the Aggies advance to the next round of the NCAA tournament.

and just stuck it to them after that."

"The pressure now is over," Guerrieri said. "The pressure to win at home is always there. The pressure to get to this point was immense. Everything we do now is

something better than we've done before."

The Aggies will travel to Los Angeles to take on the No. 10 UCLA Bruins who defeated Southern California 3-0 on Sunday.

Cross Country

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next A&M finisher, crossing the line in 15th place. She was followed by redshirt freshman Sarah Steadman in 21st and junior Kayci Waters in 22nd. All five scorers earned All-South Central Region honors for placing in the Top 25.

"One thing I told the girls going in was that if they pull through and qualify for nationals they will go down in Texas A&M cross country history," said Hartman. "They will always be remembered as the first team who ever qualified for nationals, and that says a lot. Especially going from being last in the Big 12 a few years ago to winning the NCAA Regional."

The Aggie men finished fourth with 159 points in the team standings behind Chris Lee's all-region performance.

Defending national champion and No. 3 Arkansas won team title with 45, followed by Texas (91) and Baylor (100).

Lee finished 17th, earning all-region accolades for the first time in his career. Redshirt freshman Kyle Smith was the next Aggie to cross the finish line, placing 26th.

Redshirt freshman Andrew Cook finished 44th, followed by juniors Bryan Oubre in 47th and Brandon Beal in 48th.

"The men ran a really good race," said Hartman. "They wanted to try to challenge Texas and try to qualify for nationals but they pulled away in the second half. They were the better team today. I was very proud of the way the guys ran."

The Aggie women will travel to Ames, Iowa, to compete in the NCAA Championships at the Iowa State University Country Course on Nov. 20.

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