

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Texas Stampede

Third quarter results in Aggies' Austin nightmare

By BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

AUSTIN — The latest edition of the Texas A&M/Texas rivalry was a classic — for the first half.

At the end of the half, the Aggies (7-4, 5-3) were within three points of the Longhorns (9-2, 7-1). A&M trailed its archrivals due only to a first-play interception returned for a touchdown to put the 'Horns ahead, 7-0, after just two minutes and 14 seconds of play.

A&M coach R.C. Slocum said after the game that the early score was an auspicious beginning for UT.

"No question, an easy touchdown is

not the way you want to start the ballgame," Slocum said.

After that touchdown, the Aggies and Longhorns settled into a defensive battle that showed no signs of a blowout.

On its fourth possession of the day, the Aggie offense woke up to the tune of a 49-yard, 12-play, 5-minute and 47-second drive, resulting in a nifty 15-yard Richard Whitaker counter draw play to tie the score.

The 'Horns took the ball right back down the field, driving 40 yards in seven plays for a 34-yard Kris Stockton field goal to regain the lead, 10-7.

A&M then marched 73 yards, on its

way to another touchdown and its first lead of the game.

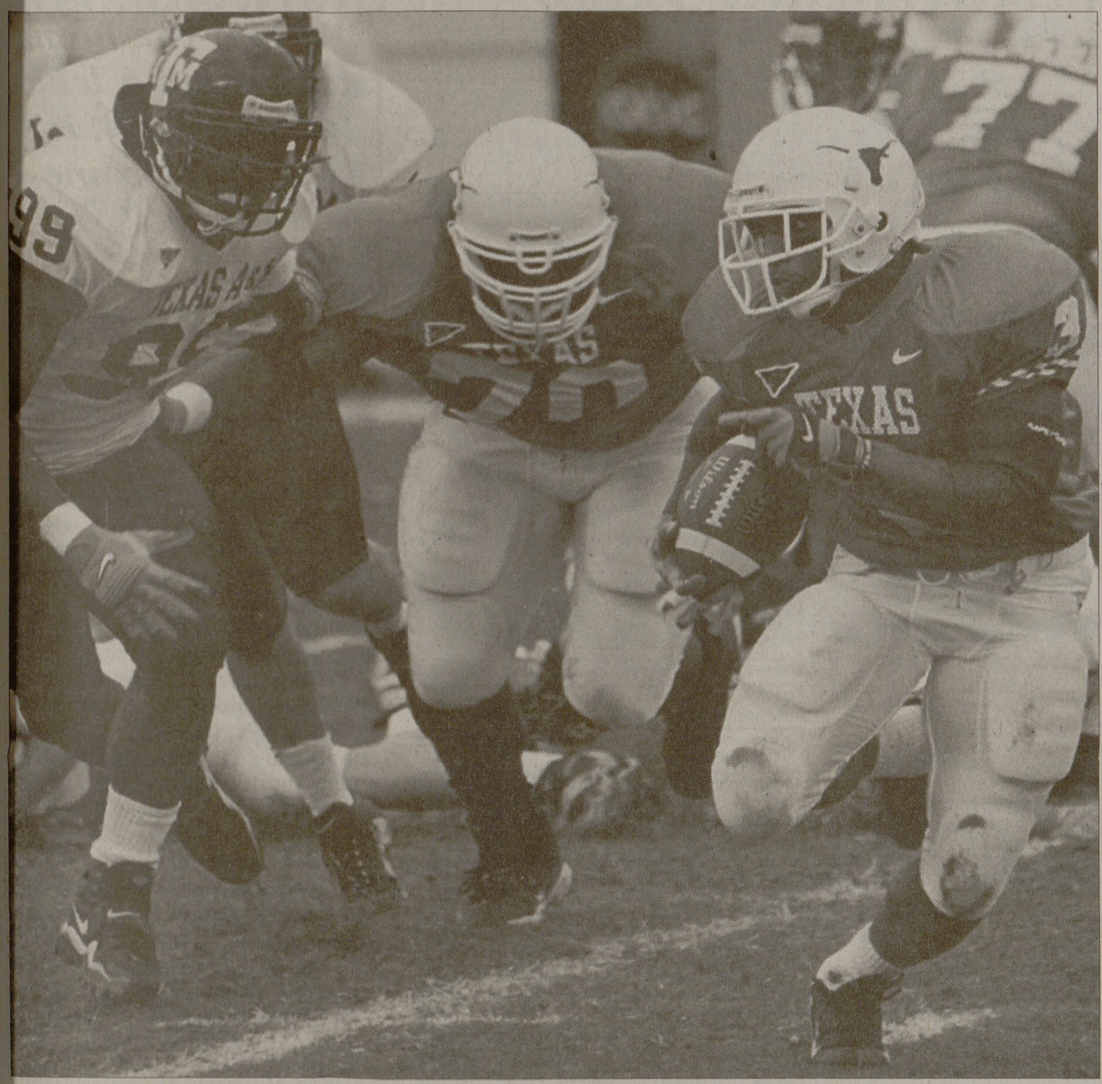
But normally mistake-free A&M quarterback Mark Farris made his second faux pas of the day by fumbling on a naked left option, giving UT possession of the ball for the rest of the half.

"At the half, I felt we were very much still in it," Slocum said. "But they came out in the second half and made big plays."

Those big plays came early and often in the second half, starting with the Longhorns' first drive.

After starting on their own 29, the 'Horns were facing first-and-10 on their

See AGGIES on Page 6.



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Texas running back Hodges Mitchell rushed for 95 yards in the Longhorns' 43-17 victory Friday

in Austin. A&M defensive tackle Ronald Flemons pursues the Texas tailback on this play.

Simms and Co. too much for Ags



BLAINE DIONNE

AUSTIN — Pick an excuse, any excuse. There are plenty to go around, and they all explain a small part of the dismantling UT handed A&M Friday in Austin.

The game started out a great matchup. The banged-up Ags

were holding up nicely with UT ahead, courtesy of a fluke interception off the usually reliable Mark Farris on A&M's first play from scrimmage.

Instead of being a fluke, the interception was a sign of things to come on a day that saw everything go wrong for the Aggies.

The next sign of trouble came when A&M was facing second-and-goal on the Texas 9-yard line. Farris fumbled on an

option right, surrendering the ball and, essentially, the momentum to Texas for the rest of the day.

Embattled Texas quarterback Chris Simms waited until the third quarter to have his career day by distributing the ball to his talented trio of receivers to score at will.

UT's phenomenal receiver, Roy Williams, finished the day with four catches for 85 yards and two touchdowns, the first on a reverse that broke open the game for the 'Horns.

Simms had the most successful day of his young career against the Aggies, tallying 383 yards on 16 of 24 passing with three touchdowns through the air.

Simms, who has been battling with Major Applewhite all season for the starting job, seemed to finally put himself

See INJURIES on Page 6.



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

Texas quarterback Chris Simms passed a perfect eight-for-eight for 234 yards and a trio of touchdowns in the third quarter alone.

Volleyball two-step finishes Big 12 campaign, clinches NCAA berth

NCAA awards squad with second straight regional

By JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

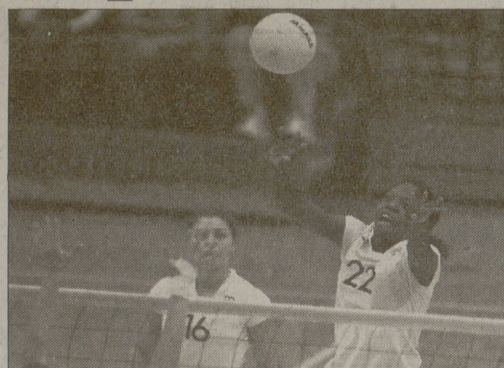
For the eighth straight time, Texas A&M volleyball is headed for the postseason.

The NCAA tournament selection committee awarded the 25th-ranked Aggies a place at-large in the 64-team field Sunday evening.

"We just can take a deep breath that this is the end of our regular season and now we can start a new thing," said A&M coach Laurie Corbelli.

A&M will not enjoy the home-court advantage

See POSTSEASON on Page 6.



JASON LINCOLN/THE BATTALION

The Aggies' second straight sweep of Texas earned them second place in the Big 12.

A&M sweeps Longhorns, Wildcats to take second place in Big 12

By JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Texas A&M volleyball could not ask for a better finale to the season: Two of the biggest matches of the season at home against two of the biggest opponents — Kansas State and Texas.

The Aggies opened their final home stand Wednesday night against Kansas State, in a must-win situation if they hoped to tie for second place in the Big 12.

The Aggies made quick work of the Wildcats, sweeping them, 16-14, 15-7, 15-9.

On Saturday, in the final match of the regular-season, the Aggies swept the Longhorns, 15-7, 15-7, 15-8.

The win marked the first time A&M has won both regular-season meetings against the 'Horns since 1979.

"It's a great way to finish up," said A&M coach Laurie Corbelli. "I knew it was going to be real important that we

were sharp and that we peak and doing things the way we needed to do them."

Corbelli honored the seniors in the traditional pregame ceremony before the final match.

The seniors then returned the favor by leading A&M to the win over Texas in a dramatic exit to their final match at G. Rollie Coliseum.

Senior middle blocker Heather Marshall, who started every match and played in

every game this season, posted 10 kills and 10 digs.

Senior defensive specialist Christy Clark led the Aggies with 13 digs.

Back-up setter senior Claire Harvey played all three games, posting 41 assists and seven kills.

With the pair of wins and the help of Nebraska's defeat of the Wildcats in a five-game match on Saturday, the Aggies finished tied for second with K-State and Missouri.

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