Sports TH

# big impact for Ags



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#### A game of firsts

Last week's comeback vicbry against McNeese State as the largest (16 points) uring the R.C. Slocum era, eating out the old records of 5 set against Oklahoma State 1997 and Kansas State in the 998 Big 12 championship ame. It was the largest comeack at Kyle Field since the ggies overcame a 17-point eficit to beat the Baylor Bears n 1986.

The win over the Cowboys as also ended a three-game osing streak. The last A&M victory came on Oct. 28, 2000 when the Aggies knocked off 8 Kansas State at Kyle field

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Eleven Aggies made their receivers Terrence Murphy and ferrence Thomas made the piggest impact, pulling down a combined five catches for 85 yards and a touchdown.

Murphy brought down a thirdquarter touchdown pass from junior quarterback Mark Farris that tied the game at 24 and opened the door for the Aggies to put away the Cowboys.

Sophomore transfer Jamaar Taylor also saw his first action as an Aggie, grabbing three catches for 51 yards, including a 37-yarder in the third quarter.

Redshirt freshman Keith Joseph also came through against the Cowboys, compiling 60 yards on only 10 carries. Joseph also caught two passes for 10 yards.

#### **Double duty**

Sophomore punter Cody Scates, who is now the Aggies' place kicker as well, set his career high for punts and yards, posting eight punts and tallying 337 yards. Scates also kicked a 44-yard field goal, his first during his A&M career.

A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum was impressed with Scates' kicking debut.

I felt Cody did an excellent job handling both kickoffs and placekicks, as well as punts. Cyle Field debut against He had a good solid night McNeese. True freshmen wide tonight," Slocum said after Saturday's game against McNeese State University.

> Brian Ruff is a junior sports management major

## Freshmen make Team looking for redemption

Aggies set to take on Wyoming Cowboys

#### By TRUE BROWN THE BATTALION

Just five days removed from a 38-24 comeback win against McNeese State, the Texas A&M football team will take on the University of Wyoming Cowboys tonight at War Memorial Stadium in Laramie, Wyo.

After last Saturday's near fiasco, A&M's main goal will be to right the ship that almost sank after a horrendous first-half performance against a surprisingly good McNeese State team.

The Aggies (1-0) fell behind quickly in the first half, giving up two defensive touchdowns in the first 20 minutes of play

But after a furious second-half comeback, A&M will bring some positives into tonight's matchup, the most impressive being at the receiver position where a trio of newcomers proved their worth. Sophomore Jamaar Taylor and freshmen Terrence Murphy and Terrence Thomas combined for 136 receiving yards, over half of the Aggies' passing yards.

"I was pleased with the young freshman receivers," said A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum. "I thought that was one of the highlights of the game. The two Terrences (Murphy and Thomas) both showed us that they will be able to help us some this year.

Murphy, a true freshman from Tyler, was the star, averaging just under 20 yards per catch including the game-tying touchdown in the third quarter.

A&M can also look forward to more play from redshirt freshman running on 10 carries.

The Aggies ran the ball only 35 times Saturday, something they would like to improve on. There were only two games last season where A&M ran less than that. When A&M played Wyoming last season they gained 191 yards on the ground.

We know we can throw the ball well, but you've got to be able to run the ball too,' said junior quarterback Mark Farris. 'McNeese made that really hard for us, but it is up to us to be able to run. We did it plenty last year, so it's just a matter of being able to do it all the time

Wyoming (1-0) is coming off a 20-14 win against Furman on Saturday, a victory that broke an eight-game losing streak

Wyoming's sophomore quarterback Casey Bramlet led the Cowboys with 30-of-48 passing and 331 yards.

The dark spot during Wyoming's season opener was it's inability to score in the red zone. Out of six trips inside the 20-yard line, the Cowboys scored only one touchdown.

The other five trips resulted in four field goals and one missed field goal.

Last season, A&M defeated Wyoming 51-3 at Kyle Field.

But unlike last season, the Aggies have only had four days to prepare for tonight's game.

See AGGIES on page 3B.

**GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION** 



back Keith Joseph, who tallied 60 yards Seniors Ty Warren and Amon Simon bring down McNeese State's Jacob Prim Saturday. The Aggies will take on Wyoming in Laramie, Wyo., at 9 p.m. The game will be televised nationally on ESPN2.



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