

Sports

Monday, September 24, 2001

THE BATTALION

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Ags hold OSU, 21-7

By JEREMY BROWN
THE BATTALION

Kyle Field was filled with red, white and blue as the Texas A&M football team downed the Oklahoma State Cowboys 21-7 Saturday. However, head football coach R. C. Slocum already was seeing red days before the game.

Slocum was upset that his defense was not living up to the "Wrecking Crew" title, and he let his team know about it in practice.

With Slocum challenging them, members of the Crew were out to prove themselves against Oklahoma State, and there was little that the Cowboy offense could do to stop them.

"I think that we played with more intensity, and when you play hard, you should make plays," Slocum said. "The defense just turned up its level of intensity and played with great effort."

The Aggie defense only gave up a total of 199 yards on the day and managed to sack Cowboy quarterback Aso Pogi five times.

"We had to go out there and say 'Hey, we're the Wrecking Crew. We have the name, and we have to live by it.' And I think we did that today," said linebacker Christian Rodriguez.

On the Cowboys' second possession, OSU coach Les Miles decided to catch A&M off guard by faking a punt on fourth-and-14 from his team's own 25-yard line. Punter Scott Elder was able to find a hole to run through, but Jay Brooks was able to make an open-field tackle and stop Elder for only a 6-yard gain.

"We knew we were going to fake a punt," Miles said. "I felt like it was wide open on each of those plays, but they were able to chase us down."

The Aggies were able to take advantage of the short field, driving the ball 31 yards in six plays to get on the scoreboard first.

Running back Keith Joseph capped the drive with a two-yard touchdown run with 4:36 left in the first quarter.

Joseph left the game in the second quarter because of pain in a shoulder he had injured earlier this week. Joseph ended the game with only seven yards on eight carries.

After Joseph left the game, sophomore Oschler Flemming took over the bulk of A&M's rushing attempts, carrying the ball 16 times for 71 yards.

The Cowboys were able to get their first break in the game with seven minutes left before halftime on a Terrance Robinson interception. Robinson ran under the ball after it was tipped up by junior tightend Michael de la Torre and returned the ball 16 yards to the A&M 10-yard line.

It only took the Cowboys one play to tie the ball game, as running back Tatum Bell took the toss from Pogi and ran to the corner of the end zone for a 10-yard touchdown.

Bell was OSU's leading rusher for the game with 94 yards on 22 carries.

In the third quarter, A&M's defense came through again by

stopping OSU on fourth-and-one at A&M's 26. Miles put defensive back Chris Massey in at quarterback for the play to run the option but Massey was unable to turn the corner and Terrence Kiel tackled him for a 6-yard loss.

Following that stop, junior quarterback Mark Farris had his best drive of the day, taking the Aggies 68 yards in six plays for a touchdown. Farris completed four of four passes for 45 yards on the drive. He finished with 92 yards on the day.

The touchdown came on a 19-yard pass to sophomore wide receiver Jamaar Taylor.

"I ran that same play earlier on in the game and it was clogged (up in the middle)," Taylor said. "I saw that one of my blockers kind of held up a guy, so I busted it outside, and it pretty much was a walk-in."

Taylor led the Aggies with 36 yards on four receptions and a touchdown.

The Aggies sealed the game up less than five minutes later when senior safety Wes Bautovich blocked a Cowboy punt in the end zone and freshman Eric Crutchfield recovered it for the touchdown.

The Wrecking Crew shut down the Cowboys from there, and the offense started pounding the ball between the tackles with freshman Derek Farmer to run the clock.

The Aggies will continue the three-game homestand on Saturday when the Notre Dame Fighting Irish visit Kyle Field.



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Sophomore wide receiver Jamaar Taylor runs through an attempted tackle against Oklahoma State Saturday. The Aggie won 21-7.

Slocum solidifies Aggie defense

By TRUE BROWN
THE BATTALION

If you want the perfect cross-section of Texas A&M's 21-7 win over Oklahoma State, look at one play.

Late in the fourth quarter, with Oklahoma State trying to mount a drive, sophomore running back Tatum Bell took a hand-off at the A&M 20-yard line. Bell made it to the 19 before running into a brick wall.

On this play, the brick wall's name was Ty Warren, A&M's six-foot four-inch, 295-pound nose guard.

The strength of the hit was so hard that Warren's helmet popped off on impact. You would not have known it, though, as Warren drove Bell into the ground with about as much force as, well, 490 pounds of human body colliding at high speed.

That was exactly what football head coach R.C. Slocum had in mind when he called out his defense on Sept. 13 after the Aggies gave up 20 points and 273 yards of offense to the University of Wyoming, a team A&M slaughtered 51-3 in 2000.

Saturday, fans saw the Wrecking Crew of old: aggressively going after the ball, unrelenting pressure, vicious hits and downright domination.

"Coach Slocum was pretty rough on us this week," said A&M defensive lineman Rocky Bernard. "All the way up to the pre-game meal, he was telling us he wanted to see us go out from the first series and dominate."

And dominate they did.

The Aggies held the Cowboy's to three-and-outs on their first three possessions. It took the

Cowboy's until their first drive of the second quarter to cross midfield, and even then, OSU's back-up quarterback Josh Fields was pressured into making a bad toss on an

option play. Junior linebacker Jesse Hunnicutt was there to pounce on the fumble, giving A&M the ball.

"[The OSU quarterbacks] couldn't throw the ball, they couldn't get more than ten yards running so you've got to give it to the D-line and the linebackers," said A&M defensive back Jay Brooks. "They had a great game today."

That is an understatement when you look at some of the stats.

Saturday, the Aggies recorded six sacks, costing the Cowboys 36 yards of field position. That is twice the number of sacks A&M recorded in its first two games combined.

Also, eight players were credited with tackles made

See DEFENSE on page 9.

AG AUDIO

"I was so proud, as I always am, of our students. I thought it was a beautiful thing."

— A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum on Red, White and Blue Out.

"We went out this week and were really focused and played dominating Wrecking Crew football."

— Senior defensive tackle Rocky Bernard

"Any time you're in someone else's house, and you are playing well and something like that happens, that is just a total morale dropper."

— Junior linebacker Brian Gamble on Wes Bautovich's blocked punt

Associated Press Top 25 College Football Poll

The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll, with number of first-place votes and record in parentheses (Records through September 23, 2001)

The Associated Press Top 25

Team Record

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Miami Fla | (39) (2-0) |
| 2. Florida | (15) (3-0) |
| 3. Oklahoma | (11) (3-0) |
| 4. Nebraska | (2) (4-0) |
| 5. Texas | (4) (3-0) |
| 6. Oregon | (3-0) |
| 7. Tennessee | (2-0) |
| 8. Virginia Tech | (3-0) |
| 9. Georgia Tech | (3-0) |
| 10. Fresno St | (1) (4-0) |
| 11. Kansas St | (2-0) |
| 12. UCLA | (3-0) |
| 13. Washington | (2-0) |
| 14. LSU | (2-0) |
| 15. South Carolina | (3-0) |
| 16. Northwestern | (2-0) |
| 17. Michigan | (2-1) |
| 18. Florida St | (2-1) |
| 19. Oregon St | (1-1) |
| 20. BYU | (3-0) |
| 21. Mississippi St | (1-1) |
| 22. Illinois | (3-0) |
| 23. Michigan St | (2-0) |
| 24. Purdue | (2-0) |
| 25. Toledo | (3-0) |

CHAD MALLAM • THE BATTALION

Ags open Big 12 play with win

The Texas A&M volleyball team recorded a come-from-behind victory over the Missouri Tigers Saturday.

The Aggies (8-1, 1-0 in Big 12) handed the Tigers their first loss of the season, 30-28, 27-30, 23-30, 30-23, 15-13.

Freshman middle blocker Melissa Munsch, one of five Aggies to hit the double-digit mark in kills, posted a match-high 20 kills.

"To be on the road and win against one of the top teams in the Big 12 is huge for our program," said A&M head volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli.

"Both teams played great defense, and our block took a big step tonight."

The Tigers led the decisive fifth game 12-10, but A&M ran off four straight points and won the game and the match.

No. 16 A&M will continue Big 12 play Wednesday when it hosts Baylor.

Soccer finishes 1-1 at Husky Invitational

A goal in the 87th minute by freshman forward Linsey Johnson gave the No. 10 Texas A&M soccer team a 1-0 win over No. 16 Washington Saturday night at the Husky/Nike Invitational.

The Aggies (3-2) dropped a 2-1

SPORTS IN BRIEF

decision to No. 5 Portland Friday.

Johnson scored both of A&M's goals at the tournament, and has scored a goal in each of A&M's games this season.

Saturday's 1-0 win gave sophomore goalkeeper Esther Thompson her first shutout of the season.

"I cannot stress enough how huge this win is for us," said head soccer coach G. Guerrieri. "This is a good confidence booster heading into the start of the conference season."

A&M outshot the Huskies 9-2 in the second half and did not allow a shot in the last 30 minutes of the match.

Junior midfielder Jessica Martin, Johnson and Thompson

earned spots on the All-Tournament team.

Aggies finish 14th in season opener

The Texas A&M men's golf team finished 14th at the 47th William H. Tucker Intercollegiate Tournament over the weekend. The tournament was the Ags' season opener.

Junior Dwayne Morley led the Aggies with rounds of 74-74-75=223, good enough to tie for 37th. Sophomore Stephen Reed finished one shot behind Morley, carding a 73-76-75=224.

No. 19 New Mexico won the tournament with rounds of 278-294-287=859. A&M finished with 293-309-302=904.

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