

Irish in search of luck at Kyle

Holiday earns first career start at QB for Irish, Ags aiming for 4-0

By BRIAN RUFF
THE BATTALION

Two schools with cultures of traditions will do battle at Kyle Field Saturday, both looking for answers and a decisive victory in a conquest for national respect.

Texas A&M will host the Notre Dame Fighting Irish at 2:30 p.m., marking the first time the Irish have visited Kyle Field in the team's 114 years of football.

"It will be a real challenge for us," said A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum. "We will have to play much better in all the areas than we have played this year to win this ball game."

If the Aggies come away with the victory, another first will occur on Saturday. With the Irish losing their first two contests to open the season, another loss will mark the first time in Notre Dame history that the team has gone 0-3.

"Things haven't gone their way these first couple of ball games," Slocum said. "I see enough ability there that they are not going to be a bad team."

Notre Dame travels to College Station after a 27-10 loss to Nebraska and a 17-10 loss to Michigan State Saturday. After the loss to the Spartans, the Irish dropped out of the Associated Press top 25.

"We are still going to have to go out and play well," said junior quarterback Mark Farris. "They are still going to be by far the best team we have played this year. It is going to take our best effort to win the game."

The Aggies come into the game with a 3-0 record, with victories over McNeese

State, Wyoming and Oklahoma State. A&M opened the 2000 season at Notre Dame, but came up short, losing 24-10 to the Irish.

"We played Notre Dame last year and we know what they are capable of," said junior linebacker Brian Gamble. "We have a bad taste in our mouth from last year."

Junior quarterback Mark Farris will look to get back on track against the Irish this week, after passing for an uncharacteristic 92 yards against Oklahoma State. Farris posted a career-high 341 passing yards against Wyoming, and tallied 254 against McNeese State.

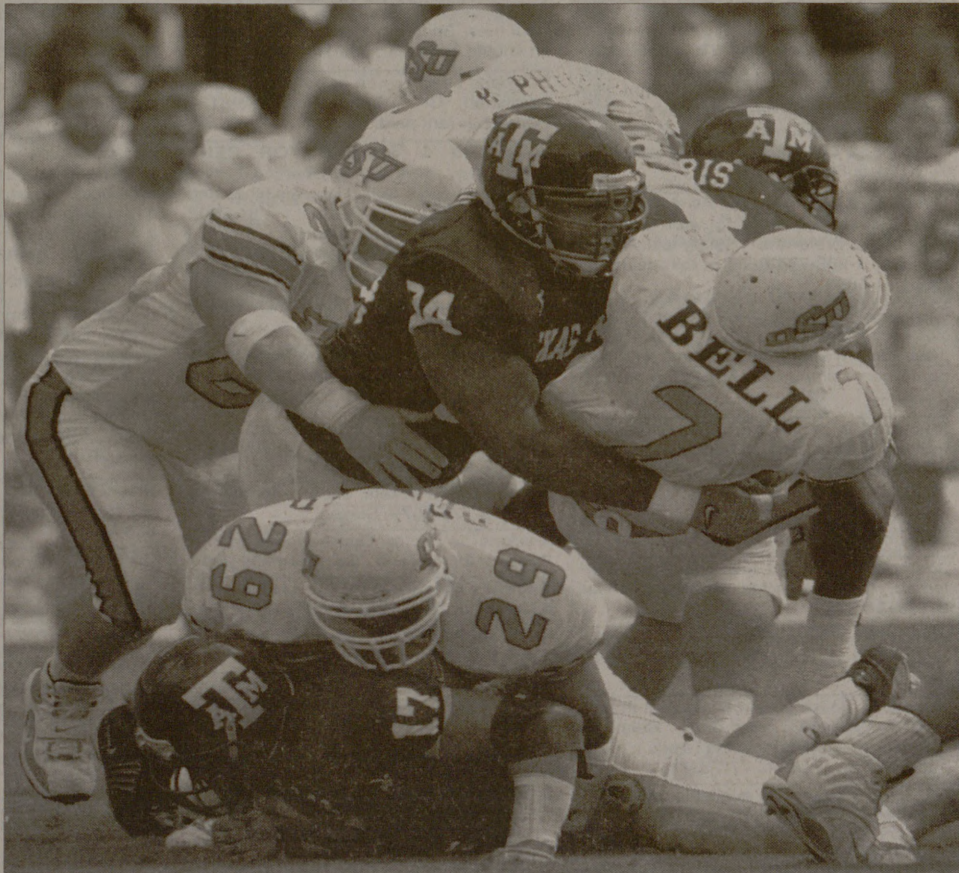
Against Wyoming, the Aggie defense struggled, but rebounded with a solid performance against Oklahoma State to make up for a slow day by the Aggie offense.

"We have to get together and have that perfect game," Gamble said. "With the way that things have been going the past few weeks, we are on our way to do that."

"They are a great team," said senior linebacker Christian Rodriguez. "It does kind of upset me that they are 0-2, but they are Notre Dame and they are the best 0-2 team. I am excited to see what they will bring to the table."

The Irish could use all the luck they can muster this weekend, with a sophomore quarterback making his first start and a record-breaking crowd at Kyle Field looking to rattle the young signal caller and give Notre Dame their first experience at Kyle Field.

Carlyle Holiday will make the start for the Irish at quarterback, replacing



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Junior noseguard Ty Warren tackles Oklahoma State running back Tatum Bell. Warren and the rest of the Aggies will look to improve to 4-0 against Notre Dame Saturday.

sophomore Matt LoVecchio, who has been in charge of the struggling Notre Dame offense. Holiday was heavily recruited by the Aggies coming out of San Antonio Roosevelt High School.

"Carlyle is a very talented athlete," Slocum said. "I thought that coming out of high school, he was the best quarterback in Texas."

The Irish have mounted just two

scoring drives this season, one amassing four yards and another racking up six — unimpressive scoring drives to say the least.

"I don't want that message conveyed that that is just a simple solution of changing quarterbacks," said Notre Dame football head coach Bob Davie. "The reality is that we are not scoring enough points."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggies continue Big 12 play at Iowa State

The 16th-ranked Texas A&M volleyball team continues Big 12 action this weekend as it travels to Ames, Iowa to face the Iowa State Cyclones on Sunday at 2 p.m.

The Aggies (9-1, 2-0 in Big 12) are coming off a sweep of Baylor on Wednesday at G. Rollie White Coliseum, 30-19, 30-25, 30-23.

The Aggies were led by senior outside hitter Michelle Cole and freshman middle blocker Melissa Munsch who had 11 kills apiece. Munsch hit .438 on the night with five blocks, while Cole hit .429 with eight digs.

Iowa State (3-5, 0-3) is coming off a sweep at the hands of No. 1 Nebraska in Lincoln, Neb., 30-21, 30-14, 30-19.

The Aggies return home on Wednesday to face the Colorado Buffaloes at G. Rollie White.

Sosa rounds bases with American flag

CHICAGO (AP) — Sammy Sosa hit his 59th homer Thursday night and then rounded the bases waving a small American flag as the Chicago Cubs played their first home game since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Sosa hit a high fly-ball homer to right field off Houston's Shane Reynolds in the first inning. Sosa stopped as he crossed the first-base bag and took the flag from coach Billy Williams.

Thompson

extends a special thanks to the

Student Engineering Council
and the
Dwight Look College of Engineering

for hosting
another successful Career Fair
and to the many students
for submitting resumes for employment.

Congratulations to
2002 Civil Engineering Major
David Templeton
Thompson's Winner of a
Big Bertha
Steelhead Driver

February 18th, 2002
On-Campus Presentation

February 19th, 2002
On-Campus Interviews

6110 CLARKSON LANE
HOUSTON, TX 77055

713.956.4100
713.956.4121 fax

info@thompson-grp.com
www.thompson-grp.com



THOMPSON
PROFESSIONAL
GROUP, INC.

CODY'S

Texas Avenue @ Southwest Pkwy. (Next to 4.0 & Go) 694-0018

X 103.9 "LIVE" PARTY **FRIDAY** X 103.9 "LIVE" PARTY

75¢ BAR DRINKS &
LONGNECKS
till 11 p.m.

Over 21 NEVER a Cover with College I.D.

Under 21, NO COVER till 11 P.M. \$3 after 11 with College I.D.

We're having
a PARTY!
SATURDAY

75¢ BAR DRINKS &
LONGNECKS
till 11 p.m.

Over 21 NEVER A COVER with College I.D.

Under 21, NO COVER till 11 P.M. \$3 after 11 with College I.D.

CALL NOW....TO BOOK YOUR PRIVATE PARTY