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NEW HOURS

NEW HOURS

# Sports

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THE BATTALION

Monday, October 1, 2001

## IRISH

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22 yards for a touchdown, giving the Aggies a solid 14-point lead.

"I think every team has that play in their play-book," Farris said. "When I saw [Flemming] threw a good ball, I was just hoping to catch it."

The Aggie offense scored on their third straight possession with more than 10 minutes left in the half, when the Aggies went 32 yards on 11 plays and allowed sophomore Cody Scates to connect on a 29 yard field goal. The Aggies were successful on a third and nine play, as well as converting on a fourth and one to help the Aggies claim a 17-0 lead.

The Irish put points on the board just before the half, when they took over after an A&M punt, its first of the game, with 2:16 left in the half.

Taking over at midfield, Notre Dame moved in to cut into the A&M lead, converting on a fourth and seven play to keep the drive alive. The Aggie defense stiffened and forced the Irish to settle for a 47-yard Nicholas Setta field goal.

Despite cutting the lead to 17-3, the Irish lost Holiday, who was hit just as he threw the ball. Holiday, a San Antonio native, suffered a sprained neck and did not return.

After the Aggie defense forced another three-and-out series, A&M mounted an impressive drive, but got nothing out of it. Taking the ball at their own 27-yard line, the Aggies slowly moved down the field, covering 60 yards on 18 plays and running 7:37 off the clock, time the Irish desperately needed.

The Aggies converted on another fourth-down play, but had to attempt a field goal on the next set of downs. Scates' 30-yard attempt was wide left,

and the Irish took over at their own 20.

The Aggies held the lead in the fourth quarter when they finished off the Irish just two minutes into the final quarter.

The Irish faced fourth down and six, and senior punter Joey Hildbold had been booming ball the entire afternoon. Senior free safety Brooks, known as "Big Play Jay" because of his special teams play, found an opening up the middle and got a hand on the Hildbold punt. The ball then bounced directly into the hands of freshman linebacker Randall Webb, who returned the ball 13 yards into the endzone to give the Aggies a 24-3 lead.

"The blocked punt is when I think the car rock bottom," said Notre Dame head coach Davie. "I am not sure where we are at right now. We have a lot of games left and we are not going to quit."

The Aggie defense had shut down the Irish the entire afternoon and stepped up with a notch forcing Notre Dame to punt on its next possessions.

"That is what the Wrecking Crew is all about," said junior linebacker Brian Gamble. "We had to send a message, and I was really pleased with the way we played."

The Aggie offense ended the day with 273 yards of total offense, including a 100-yard rushing performance by Farmer, making his first start at runningback.

The Aggies will wrap up a three-game home stand against Baylor on Saturday.

"I don't think we even scratched the surface of what we are capable of," Farris said. "It's special to be able to come up with your best when you have to have it."

## SHINE

Continued from Page 3

allowing only 78 yards in the final 30 minutes.

"I have high expectations for this football team, particularly with the defense," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "I take great pride in the defensive tradition, and they did a great job today."

Notre Dame managed to get past midfield once in the half, driving to the A&M 40-yard line before A&M senior cornerback Sammy Davis intercepted Notre Dame quarterback Matt LoVecchio's pass at the A&M 28 yard line with 3:57 remaining in the third quarter.

It was not just the secondary that stymied Notre Dame.

A&M's defense also recorded six sacks for the second straight game, impressive considering the Aggies lost sophomore nose guard Ty Warren to a strained Achilles tendon in the first quarter. Warren, a staple of the Aggie defense, had recorded 18 tackles through the first three games of the season.

After Davis' interception in the third quarter, Notre Dame

managed one first down as the Aggies forced four straight three-and-out series. The total yards for Notre Dame on those three drives was six yards.

It was a game that Carlyle Holiday, who was making his first career start, will not forget — assuming that he can remember it.

Holiday spent as much time on his back after getting hit as he did on his feet, as A&M's vicious pass rush continuously cut through the Notre Dame's offensive line. Not surprisingly, Holiday left the game in the second quarter with a sprained neck.

"I can't recall being hit that many times in one game," Holiday said.

Matt LoVecchio, Holiday's replacement, did not fare much better. LoVecchio finished 6-for-12 with one interception and just 48 yards of offense, and was the second quarterback casualty for the Irish after taking a hard hit in the fourth quarter.

"We came out with a lot of fire and emotion," said junior linebacker Brian Gamble. "Our mindset was that we were going to go out and stop them. We were more physical than they were today."

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Astros blow lead lose 7-6 to Cubs

CHICAGO (AP) — Rico Gutierrez hit a bases-loaded sacrifice fly in the eighth inning Sunday as the Chicago Cubs rallied to beat Houston 7-6.

Ron Villone (6-9) walked Delino DeShields with one out in the eighth and was replaced by Mike Williams, who walked pinch-hitter Bill Mueller and Eric Young to load the bases before Gutierrez lifted his fly ball to the wall in left.

Scott Chiasson (1-1) got his first major league win with one out in an inning. Jeff Bagwell hit a sacrifice fly in the sixth and pinch-hitter Moises Alou, who had missed the previous five games with a calf injury, delivered a two-run single in the seventh as the Astros took a 6-3 lead.

But the Cubs got three in the seventh. Reliever Octavio Dotson walked pinch-hitter DeShields and gave up an RBI double to pinch-hitter Matt Stairs.



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