

Aggies face rough road ahead

A record of 5-0 is impressive, but the No. 25 Texas A&M football team may have had an easy road to perfection. The rest of the season will not



BRIAN RUFF

be as forgiving. The Aggies will be on the road for two weeks, first against Colorado and then Kansas State, needing the two victories to keep pace in the South division with Oklahoma.

After dominating performances over the Oklahoma State Cowboys and the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, the Aggies squeaked out a six-point victory over the upset-minded Baylor Bears. Baylor came just short of upsetting the Aggies, something they have not done since 1985.

Once again, the A&M squad played down to their competition, just as it did against McNeese State and Wyoming, to open the season.

This week, the Aggies will make a trip to Boulder to take on the Colorado Buffaloes. Prior to the season, A&M fans might see Colorado

as a likely win, but now, the Buffaloes are looking more challenging by the day.

Opening the season against Fresno State, Colorado was surprised, and Buffalo fans were preparing for a dismal season. The loss to the Bulldogs does not look as bad now, with Fresno sitting at No. 8 in the Associated Press poll.

The Buffaloes followed up the loss to the Bulldogs with a thrashing of cross-state rival Colorado State and victories over San Jose State and Kansas.

Last week, the Buffaloes went to Manhattan and upset Kansas State 16-6 and will be full of momentum when the Aggies come to Boulder.

The Aggies have the memory of last season working for them. Winless Buffaloes came into Kyle Field in 2000 and knocked off the Aggies at home 26-19, ending A&M's 22-game home winning streak.

After the Aggies' trip to Colorado, Kansas State will welcome the Aggies to Manhattan. The Wildcats, already having lost to the Buffaloes at home, will be looking to regain their homefield dominance when the Aggies visit KSU.

Returning home after the KSU matchup, the Aggies schedule may not get any easier, when a much-improved Iowa State team visits Kyle Field.

The Cyclones dismantled the same Baylor team that gave the Aggies all they could handle, 41-0.

In order for the Aggies to have a shot at the Big 12 South title, they must win the next two road games and come away with a victory over Iowa State.

Yes, 5-0 is great, but the Aggies need to dominate the rest of the season to have a chance at the Big 12 South title. They cannot continue to rely on the Wrecking Crew to bail them out, and they need the offense to be firing on all cylinders in the most important stretch of the season.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

NFL reacts to American strikes

(AP) — The Atlanta Falcons were about to run onto the field for their game against the Chicago Bears when coach Dan Reeves delivered some sobering news: The attack on Afghanistan had started.

Cornerback Ray Buchanan admitted he was frightened.

As Atlanta prepared for its first possession, the public address announcer told a Georgia Dome crowd of 46,483 about U.S. and British strikes against terrorist targets on the other side of the world. The fans cheered and began chanting "U-S-A! U-S-A!"

Word of the military action came just before Sunday's sports events began.

The start of the Cardinals-Eagles NFL game at Philadelphia's Veterans Stadium was delayed nine minutes as part of President Bush's speech was shown on the stadium's big screen.

The sellout crowd of more than 64,000 immediately began cheering as video images of the attack were televised.

In several NFL stadiums, the speech was shown on scoreboards at halftime. In Pittsburgh, the Steelers came onto the field for second-half warmups during the speech, but most seemed oblivious.

Miami Dolphins officials decided against telling the crowd of 72,713 in Joe Robbie Stadium about the attack, but the team learned of the news before the kickoff of its game with New England.



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