

# Sports

THE BATTALION

Page 7

Monday, October 22, 2001

## Bautovich emerges as Crew leader

By DOUG FUENTES  
THE BATTALION

MANHATTAN, Kan. — All that could be said about Texas A&M's 31-24 victory over Kansas State on Saturday was summed up by looking at senior safety Wes Bautovich as he limped toward the post-game press conference.

Battered, bruised and bloody, Bautovich gave a sigh of relief as he sat down on the stoop to field questions, relieved he could finally take a break.

He led the team with 12 tackles despite getting down on his hands and knees in between some plays to rest.

"It was a busy day," Bautovich said. "That's about the hardest game I ever played right here. We really showed what we were about. We stuck in it, and when push came to shove, we stopped them."

Bautovich, pressed into the starting lineup because senior safety Jay Brooks was inactive because of a pulled groin muscle, played like a warrior.

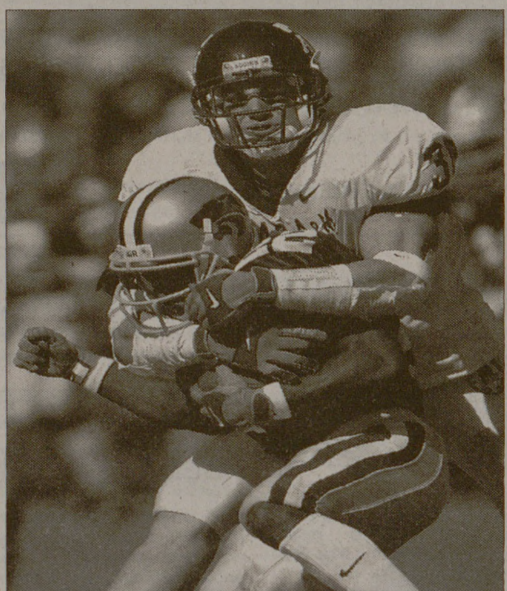
Bautovich and the rest of the Wrecking Crew bent, but did not break, as they held off a late charge from the Wildcats.

The biggest play was a fourth down stop with 50 seconds left in the game by junior safety Terrence Kiel that saved the victory for the Aggies.

Trailing 31-24, the Wildcats were in good field position after a 52-yard punt return by Aaron Lockett put the Wildcats at the A&M 23-yard line, with 2:59 left in the game.

After converting a fourth down on the drive, the Wildcats were faced with a fourth-and-three at the A&M 5-yard line, with 53 seconds left.

KSU quarterback Marc Dunn took the ball and set out on an option play toward the left — a play the Wildcats had run effectively all game long. He pitched to running back Josh Scobey who was met by Kiel. When the dust settled, Kiel



Senior strong safety Wes Bautovich corals Kansas State's Aaron Lockett Saturday, during the Aggies' 31-24 win over the Wildcats. Bautovich, who stepped in for an injured Jay Brooks, led the team with 12 tackles against the Wildcats.

See BAUTOVICH on page 9.

GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

## Aggies hold off Wildcats

Kansas State mounts late rally but comes up short, 31-24

By TRUE BROWN  
THE BATTALION

MANHATTAN, Kan. — The Aggies held off a furious fourth-quarter rally by the Kansas State Wildcats and edged out of Manhattan with a 31-24 win in front of 49,935 at KSU Stadium Saturday.

It took a stop in the final minute of play on fourth-and-three from the A&M 5-yard line by junior strong safety Terrence Kiel to preserve the win for the Aggies, who handed the Kansas State Wildcats their fourth straight loss.

"That was the biggest play of my career," said Kiel, who finished the game with seven tackles. None of them was bigger than his stop of KSU running back Josh Scobey in the final quarter.

It was A&M's defense that was the difference, as the Wrecking Crew set up one touchdown and scored another in a span of 20 seconds in the third quarter.

The Aggies (6-1, 3-1 Big 12) managed just nine first downs and 189 yards of offense against KSU (2-4, 0-4). The Wildcats are now 0-4 in conference play for the first time since 1989.

A&M jumped out to a 14-0 lead early in the game.

The Aggies drove 73 yards on their second possession and scored on a shovel pass from junior quarterback Mark Farris to sophomore running back Oschler Flemming.

The drive was the Aggies' longest of the game. True freshman running back Derek Farmer carried the ball on eight of the 13 plays, picking up 42 of his 65 rushing yards. As a team, the Aggies managed only 51 ground yards to the stiff KSU defense.

A&M scored its second touchdown when Farris found freshman wide receiver Terrence Murphy on a 44-yard pass just over two minutes into the first quarter.

It was not until there were seven seconds remaining in the first half that

the Wildcats got on the board. Scobey scored on a four-yard option after breaking a tackle at the 5-yard line.

KSU, who dominated the Aggies offensively, racked up 358 yards of total offense. The 258 yards the Wildcats gained on the ground is the most against A&M this season, and all of the Wildcats' touchdowns came on the ground.

The game was determined in the second half, as a pair of fumbles and one interception by KSU in the third quarter proved to be the difference. The Aggies took advantage, scoring 17 points off of K-State's mistakes.

"The statistics probably say something about turnovers," said Kansas State football head coach Bill Snyder. "They may have been our demise as much as anything."

First, Kiel recovered a dropped punt by KSU returner Aaron Lockett at the Wildcat 25-yard line, giving A&M solid field position.

But as was the case in the second half, the Aggies failed to move the ball. A&M settled for a 42-yard Cody Scates field goal, bringing the score to 17-10.

Junior linebacker Brian Gamble set up A&M's next touchdown, as he picked off an Eli Roberson pass at the KSU 21-yard line and returned it to the 9-yard line.

It took two plays before junior fullback Joe Weber scored on a 1-yard run, giving the Aggies a 24-10 cushion.

"That is what Wrecking Crew football is all about," Gamble said. "It's about stepping up and making plays, and we stepped up and made the plays we needed to."

The ceiling caved in on KSU 20 seconds later.

Senior linebacker Christian Rodriguez leveled Roberson on an option play, and Roberson's errant toss to Scobey was picked up by junior linebacker Jarrod Penright. Penright returned the fumble 17 yards,

See SURVIVE on page 9.



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Junior quarterback Mark Farris celebrates with fullback Joe Weber and running back Derek Farmer following Weber's 1-yard touchdown run during the third quarter of the Aggies' 31-24 win

over the Kansas State Wildcats. The A&M Wrecking Crew defense stopped the Wildcats with 46-seconds left in the game at the Aggies' own 4-yard line.

AG AUDIO  
"That is one of the loudest places I've heard. It's a tough place to play and be able to hold on and get a win."

A&M quarterback Mark Farris on the atmosphere in KSU Stadium

"It's frustrating because we know we're right there. We played hard but just came short."

KSU linebacker Terry Pierce on the Wildcats near comeback

"As a Wrecking Crew member, you ought to really want to be in that position."

A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum on KSU's last play

"It's very frustrating that we got off to such a slow start."

KSU fullback Rock Cartwright on the Wildcats' offense

## No. 17 A&M notches much-needed win

By ANDY HANCOCK  
THE BATTALION

The matchup between the No. 17 Texas A&M volleyball team and the Missouri Tigers Saturday night was a must win but not an easy win for the Aggies.

Coming off a four-game winning streak, including against No. 20 Colorado, the Tigers were on a roll and looking to upset the Aggies.

A&M had a difficult time penetrating the Missouri blockers and dropped the first match 30-28.

Following the first match, the Aggies had a sense of urgency. Sophomore middle blocker Tara Pulaski and senior setter Jenna Moscovic were elemental in the Aggies' wake-up call and were vocal in motivating the team.

Attributing the first match loss to mis-positioning, coach Laurie Corbelli worked to reposition the Aggies on the court.

"They do a great job of identifying the attacker and putting up a very solid bloc. They are good at blocking the seam, and we like to hit seam," Corbelli said. "We made a big change, because they didn't change their blocking, we changed our direction of where we were hitting."

"We realized that that was exactly where the match was going to be won or lost, by hitting and blocking," she said.

Midway through the second match, Corbelli's decision to reposition the blockers paid off, as the Aggies capitalized, winning 30-21.

However, in the third match the Tigers again challenged the Aggies by stepping up their intensity and gained an early lead by finding holes in A&M's back line. Throughout the third match the score remained close, but the Aggies proved superior begin-

ning with the serves from junior outside hitter A.D. Achilefu, whose powerful serves, accompanied with a combined 12 kills between Erin Lechler and Brandi Mount, proved too much for the Tigers. The Aggies took the third match 33-31.

Team play was the nails in the coffin for the Aggies' second home victory, taking the fourth match easily 30-20.

"We focused in practice on making me an attacker because it opens up the other hitters, luckily they were not on me as strong tonight as some teams are," Moscovic said.

The Aggies' next contest is Monday at 7 p.m. against the Kansas State Wildcats.

"We have been struggling at home, and I think we came out with the mind set that we weren't going to lose," Pulaski said, "it was definitely a turning point for the team."

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Aggies sweep weekend action

Freshman forward Linsey Johnson continued her stellar rookie season, scoring her first career hat trick as the Texas A&M women's soccer team defeated the University of Missouri, 5-2 Sunday.

The Aggies (8-3-1, 5-1-1 Big 12) also defeated the University of Kansas by a score of 4-0 Friday night.

Johnson scored A&M's first hat trick since 1999 when teammate Nicky Thrasher netted three goals against Kansas.

On Friday, Thrasher scored two goals in a span of 33 seconds and goalkeepers Esther Thompson and Angela Barker combined for A&M's fourth shutout of the season.

Barker then made her first career start between the pipes on Sunday, stopping six shots and earning her first career win.



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION

Senior outside hitter Michelle Cole leaps after a ball during the Aggies' defeat of the Missouri Tigers Saturday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.