

A&M survives again, 24-21

Farmer helps Aggies squeak by Cyclones

By KEVIN ESPENLAUB
THE BATTALION

With the help of a 65-yard, Derek Farmer run with just more than five minutes remaining, the Texas A&M football team defeated the Iowa State Cyclones (5-2, 3-2 Big 12) Saturday by a score of 24-21 to improve its record to 7-1 overall and 4-1 in Big 12.

"It was a great battle against a great opponent," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "We knew it was going to be a dog-fight and it was."

Farmer's sweep to the left sideline was the longest of the year for an Aggie and helped the team survive an Iowa State drive that was capped by a quarterback sneak by Seneca Wallace. The touchdown pulled the Cyclones to within three points of the Aggies with 1:23 remaining. The Iowa State outside kick rolled out of bounds, and the Aggies used four plays to run out the clock and remain undefeated at home for the season.

"I think a good team finds a way to win games like this," said A&M quarterback Mark Farris. "It's real simple. It comes down to winning and losing, and we've been able to get it done. That's the mark of a good team."

The Cyclones began the game by driving 75 yards to the Aggie 9-yard line before having a 26-yard field goal by kicker Tony Yelk partially

blocked by defensive lineman Rocky Bernard and turning the ball over to the Aggies at the 20-yard line. The kick was the first of four misses by Yelk during the game.

After gaining possession, the Aggies moved the ball on an 80-yard drive that was highlighted by a 42-yard run by Dwain Goynes bringing the Aggies to the Iowa State 13-yard line. Seven plays later, the Aggies took a 7-0 lead on a one-yard rush by junior full-back Joe Weber.

Weber actually fumbled the ball into the end zone during his dive over the pile, but the referee ruled that the ball had crossed the goal line before the fumble.

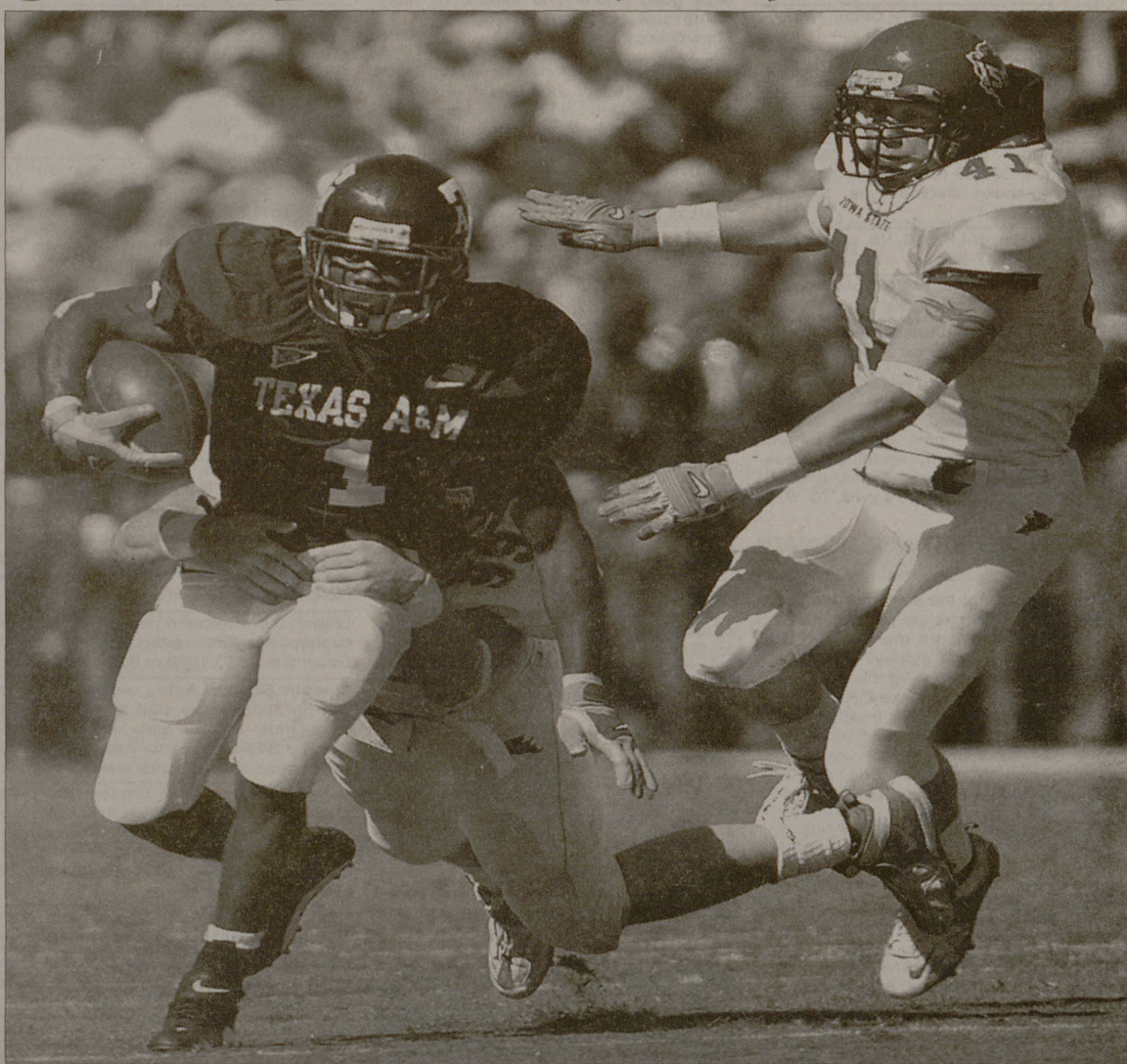
Iowa State answered with a five-play, 72-yard touchdown drive after sophomore Cody Scates' punt more than one minute into the second quarter.

Wallace hit Jack Whitver on a fade route down the right sideline for a 54-yard catch that tied the game after Yelk's extra-point kick.

The Aggies wasted no time in the second half, scoring on their first possession on an 11-play, 80-yard drive that ended with sophomore running back Keith Joseph punching through the left side of the offensive line for a two-yard touchdown run.

A&M stretched the lead to 10 with a 34-yard field goal by Scates to open the fourth quarter.

The Cyclones cut the lead on



Freshman running back **Derek Farmer** tries to run through Iowa State defensive end **Kevin DeRonde** Saturday. Farmer racked up 133 yards and one touchdown in 17 carries during the Aggies' 24-21 victory at Kyle Field.

Specialty unit carries Ags

By BRIAN RUFF
THE BATTALION

A number of things can go wrong when a special teams unit takes the field. Saturday, for the Texas A&M football team, everything that could have gone wrong was executed flawlessly.

The extraordinary play of the special teams unit let the Aggies walk away from Kyle Field with a narrow, 24-21, win.

"We take pride in our special teams and work very hard on them each week," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "In big games, special teams always play a key role."

Sophomore kicker Cody Scates connected on a 34-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter, which was the difference in the game.

Scates punted the ball five times and averaged 43 yards per punt. Scates was forced to take the place-kicking job after an injury left the Aggies without a field-goal kicker. "That dual role was not something that he was jumping up and down wanting," Slocum said. "He had half of it handed to him, and he has done a good job."

The Iowa State kicking game did not have such a successful outing, also depending on a kicker faced with the punting and place-kicking duties. Iowa State redshirt freshman kicker Tony Yelk failed to convert four field goal attempts, points the Cyclones desperately needed.

On the Cyclones' first possession of the game, quarterback Seneca Wallace drove Iowa State down the field to the Aggies' 9-yard line.

After the Aggie defense held strong, the Cyclones were forced to attempt a 26-yard field goal.

Senior defensive tackle Rocky Bernard found a crack in the Cyclone wall, got a hand on the kick, and the ball fell short of the crossbar.

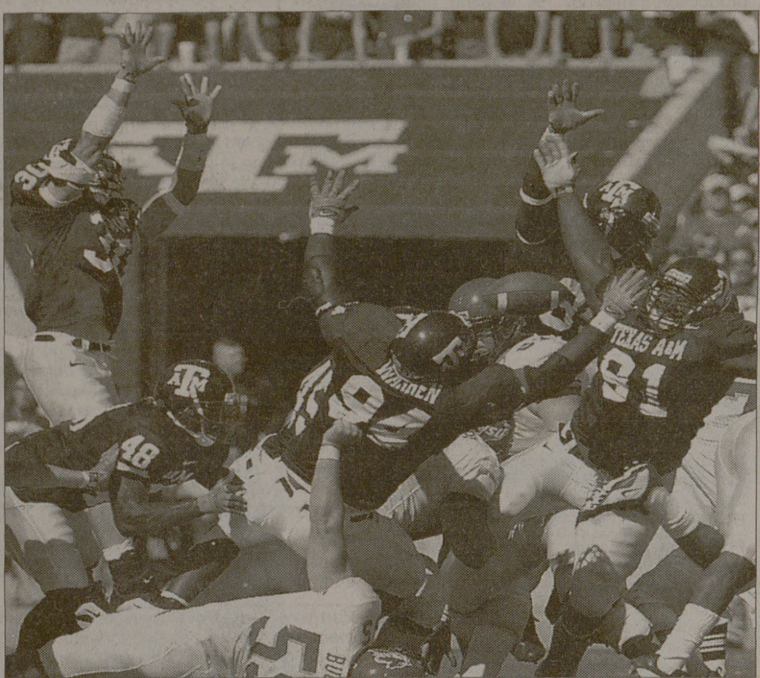
"We knew that it was going to come down to special teams," Bernard said.

"When you come into tight ball games, you have to pay attention to not just the offense and defense, but the special teams are real important."

The Aggie special teams also found some luck at Kyle Field.

With five minutes remaining before halftime, Yelk attempted another field goal from 48 yards, but the ball struck the left

See SPECIAL on page 12.



Texas A&M defensive tackle **Marcus Jasmin** knocks down a **Tony Yelk** field goal attempt during the second quarter Saturday.

AG AUDIO

"I don't think the best team won today. We had opportunities to score and we should have beaten them."

— ISU receiver Craig Campbell

"I'm really proud of this team because they've gone through a lot of problems that might have made other teams cave in."

— A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum

"It's deflating when you drive downfield and get field goals blocked."

— ISU quarterback Seneca Wallace

"The game wasn't pretty, but it's a 'W.' We'll take them how we can get them."

— A&M linebacker Brian Gamble

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Poor Yorick's Trivia Contest

Question of the week: It's not a purely genetic disease but, if one identical twin gets it, the other twin has a 30% chance of developing it.

What is this crippling auto-immune disease in which the body attacks the insulating sheaths around nerve cells?

Instructions: Entry forms are available at the Circulation Desks in Evans, Annex, WCL, and PSEL. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries submitted by 5 p.m. on Wednesday. Winner will receive a Poor Yorick's coffee mug.

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