

Defense only bright spot in 12-0 loss

By TRUE BROWN
THE BATTALION

LUBBOCK — As has been the case this season, it was the Texas A&M defense that saved the Aggies from what could have been a disastrous final game. The Wrecking Crew proved to be the silver lining of the Aggies' 12-0 loss to Texas Tech, holding the Red Raiders to two field goals and a touch-down on four trips inside the 20-yard line.

Texas Tech also missed a field goal on a drive that advanced into A&M territory.

"We have a lot of confidence in the red zone," said A&M junior cornerback Sammy Davis. "We knew that if they got [inside the 20-yard line], they weren't going to score. We knew they were going to have to settle for a field goal, or we were going to block it. We had to get it done on defense and make the plays."

No play was bigger than senior linebacker Jesse Hunt's first-quarter stop on Tech running back Ricky Williams at the A&M 1-yard line. After the Aggies were forced to punt on their opening

drive, Tech took 11 plays to reach the A&M 5-yard line.

After a four-yard completion from Red Raiders' quarterback Kliff Kingsbury to receiver Anton Paige on third down was stopped at the 1-yard line, Hunnicutt stuffed Williams for no gain on the next play, and A&M took over on downs.

"I thought our defense did a great job," said A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum. "They played hard the whole ballgame."

The Aggies' defensive job is even more impressive, considering the Red Raiders owned A&M in the ball-control game, holding the ball over 10 minutes more than A&M.

"We were out there for a whole lot of plays," Slocum said. "We didn't give [our defense] much to play with."

Tech's second and third trips inside the A&M 20 resulted in field goals of 25 and 37 yards by Texas Tech kicker Robert Treece.

Midway through the fourth quarter, it was the Wrecking Crew that kept A&M's hopes alive.

Leading 6-0, Kingsbury guided the Red Raiders to the A&M 21-yard line before the Aggies forced Treece to attempt a 40-yard field goal. Treece's attempt



Tech quarterback Kliff Kingsbury is brought down by senior defensive tackle Rocky Bernard in the third quarter of the Aggies 12-0 loss to the Red Raiders. The Wrecking Crew tallied seven sacks against Tech and held one of the Big 12's best offenses to six points for most of the game.

was marred by a bad snap and the kick was wide right, giving the Aggies their last real shot to put points on the board.

"That is when we step it up," said senior defensive back Wes

Bautovich. "We let them drive all the way down the field and then were able to put the brakes on them. We knew we had our backs up against the wall, but we made some plays."

Dominance of the red zone has been a trademark of A&M this season, as the Aggies have given up just 12 touchdowns to their opponents on a combined 28 trips inside their own 20-yard line.

"We've played with a lot of character on defense all year," said A&M junior linebacker Brian Gamble. "We were able to play our type of game in there and keep them outside of the end zone."

Aggie offense, Tech fans unacceptable

Tech win was expected, Aggies not upset of the century

Before getting to the reason why Texas A&M lost on Saturday (the ineptness of the Aggie offense), something more needs to be said of the extra-curricular activities at Jones SBC Stadium.

The actions of the Texas Tech fans after their team's 12-0 victory over the Aggies on Saturday in Lubbock were unacceptable, and not because they were unexpected.

In fact, the Aggies almost always seem to have trouble with Tech fans when they travel to Lubbock (football team in 1999, men's basketball team in 2000).

The trouble with the classless fans in Lubbock is so bad, people up there should not be allowed to have the Texas license plates on their cars.

Dr. Mike McKinney, father of former A&M offensive lineman Steve and current offensive lineman Seth — regardless of who he was struck by — was put in a compromising situation because of the Tech fans' "courtesy," would more than likely agree with the previous statement.

"I've been to every game Texas A&M has played for the last eight years," said the elder McKinney. "Every single one of them. First thing that means is that I've never seen them win in Lubbock. Second thing that means is, of every place we have ever been, I hate to say it that the worst fans and the worst place to ever play is within our state."

"I hate that. I'm proud of Texas from the Panhandle down to Brownsville, but what they did today, and it's not because of what they did to me, it's just that's not the way people in Texas act."

No, the unacceptable fact is

that Tech deserved to win the game. It was not a momentous upset that rocked the college football world. In fact, the Red Raiders were five-point favorites to win the game.

So instead of tearing down the goal posts and trying to use the A&M section as a shish kabob, the Tech fans should have been happy to win a game they actually were slated to win.

The Tech cause was helped out by an A&M offense that racked up the yards but could not put points up on the board. In fact, the Aggies finally got burned in the game of statistical roulette they had been playing the last few weeks.

Kansas State and Iowa State held huge offensive statistical advantages, but A&M managed to find ways to eke out victories. Saturday, A&M was the offense that racked up the yards, but Tech was the team that found ways to put points on the board.

See UNACCEPTABLE on page 4A

SPORTS IN BRIEF

No. 14 Ags tally sixth-straight win

The No. 14 Texas A&M volleyball team remained unbeaten on the road as it swept the Baylor Bears Saturday in Waco.

Senior outside hitters Brandi Mount and Michelle Cole lead the Aggies with 13 kills each.

With the victory over the Bears, the Aggies' record moved to 18-3 overall, and 11-2 in Big 12 action. A&M is 12-0 on the road this season.

Basketball squad opens up season

The Texas A&M women's basketball team will open up its season with an exhibition game against Abyhoj of Denmark at 7 p.m. at Reed Arena.

The Aggies look to be led by sophomore point guard Toccaro Williams, who was a starter for A&M as a freshman last season.

The game will be the first of two exhibition match ups the Aggies will take part in before opening up the 2001 season.



Senior free safety Wes Bautovich is tackled by Tech free safety Curtis on a fake field goal attempt Saturday.

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L.T. Jordan Institute Fellows Presentation

Ashley Haislet and Carey Matson will share their experiences abroad at this Fellows presentation. Ashley learned about language acquisition programs in public and private schools in Costa Rica, while Carey traveled to Madagascar to study the hematology of lemurs.

November 6, 2001
8:30 pm in Rudder 407

ltjordan.tamu.edu

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Bee A Good Neighbor

The number one enemy of social gatherings is the reaction of upset members of the community. It is your neighbors who will call the police if your party is too loud.

- Talk to your neighbor before the party and give out a phone number so they can call you if it gets too loud
- Limit the number of guests at your party
- If alcohol is present, make sure everyone who is drinking is 21 or older
- Monitor the noise level by going outside periodically

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