

A&M 'O' on pace with Navy, UTEP

What do the University of Texas-El Paso, Texas Christian University, Ball State, an 0-8 Navy team and Louisiana-Lafayette have in common? Each one of those teams average more yards per game than the 95th-ranked offense in the country, Texas A&M, which averages 319.8 yards per game.

If it were not for offensive powerhouses SMU, North Texas and Baylor, the Aggies would have the most pedestrian offense in the state of Texas.

What do Army, Vanderbilt, Wyoming (whom the Aggies beat earlier this season), Kent State and Ball State have in common? All of those teams put points on the board at a higher rate than the team who is 90th in the country at doing that very thing, A&M.

Using that logic, the Ball State Cardinals have a more "explosive" offense than the Aggie offense that currently calls Aggieland home.

While conventional wisdom says A&M has more offensive talent than the mighty Cardinals, at least the Cardinals have been more proficient on the offensive side of the ball.

The point is not to debate which has the better offense, A&M or Ball State. The point

is that just two weeks ago, the Aggies were harboring ideas of winning the Big 12 South and now their offense is being compared to the Ball States, Kent States and Louisiana-Lafayettes of the world.

The Aggies offense has been so bad the last two weeks that they would probably be in the middle of the pack in the East Texas high school District 12-5A, where a good portion of the talent on A&M's team originates.

What has to be done with the A&M offense? Despite all the excuses — injuries, young players in starting roles, lack of execution — the Aggies need to be and are better than the 132 yards of offense amassed against Oklahoma.

Make no mistake, Oklahoma does have one of the best defenses in the Big 12 Conference, if not the nation. But the A&M offense made them look like the Doomsday Defense that used to patrol the sidelines in Texas Stadium.

If the Aggies could have thrown in 100 more yards and more than five first downs against the Sooners — not unreasonable requests mind you — the defense might not have worn down in the second half.

While the Wrecking Crew has played admirably, it cannot continue to carry the team. If the offense had played with half the intensity the defense has this season, the Aggies

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Where did all the offense go?

Aggies in search of production

By BRIAN RUFF
THE BATTALION

Ten yards is all that is needed to achieve a first down. Saturday against the Oklahoma Sooners, 10 yards seemed like 10 miles to the Texas A&M offense.

With more than one minute left in the first quarter, junior fullback Joe Weber took the handoff and ran down to the A&M 24-yard line, giving the Aggies the first down. It would be the last moving of the chains for the Aggies until early in the fourth quarter.

The Aggie offense completely shut down in the second and third quarters, going seven possessions and 26 plays without a first down.

"We played a very good defensive team," said A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum. "We just couldn't get anything going."

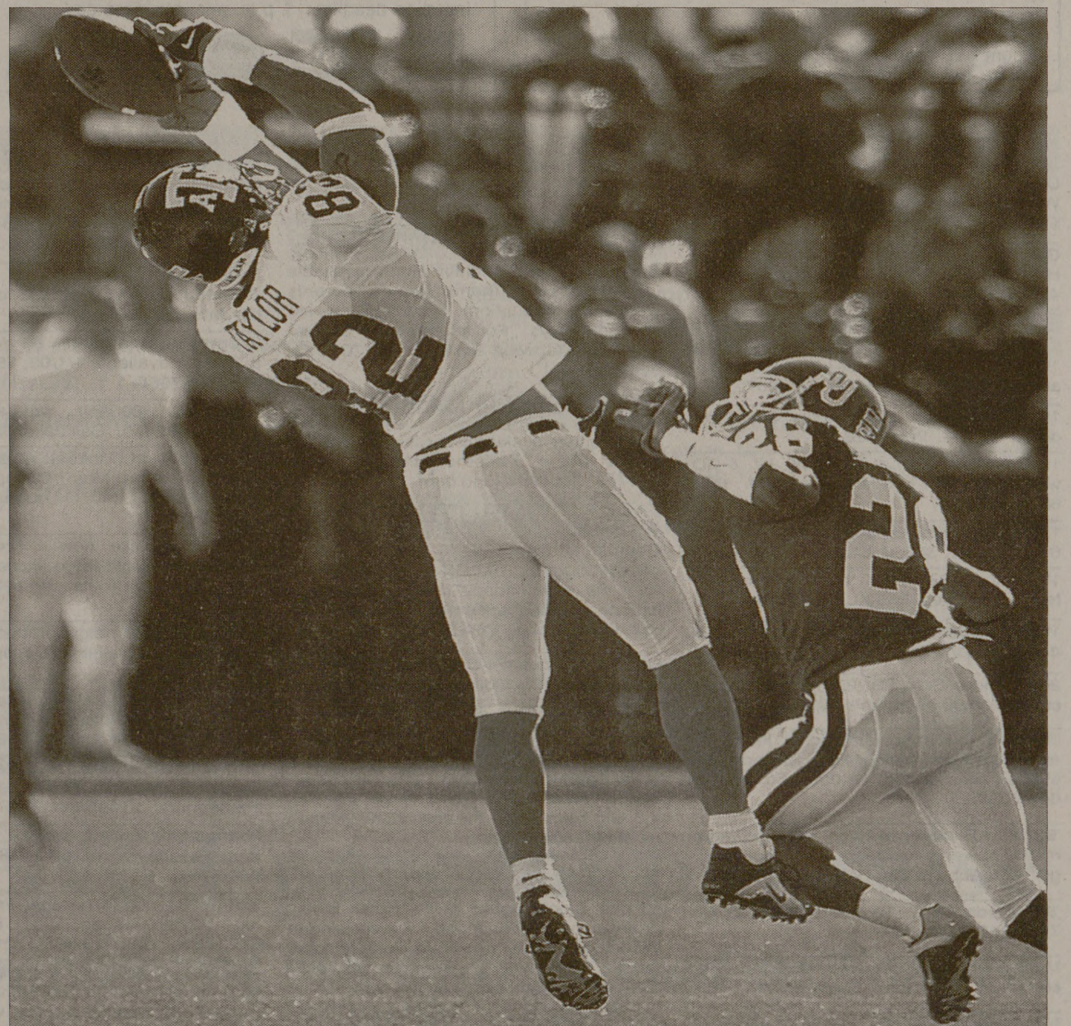
A&M managed only 132 total yards against one of the nation's best defenses, A&M's lowest offensive output of the season. The previous season low for the Aggies was against Kansas State, when the Aggies posted 189 yards against the Wildcats.

"The defensive unit was exceptional," said Oklahoma football head coach Bob Stoops. "Their outstanding play has been a staple throughout the season. The defense was sound and disciplined, and there wasn't a time when they were out of position."

The Aggie offense's only scoring drive came on its third possession, when A&M was given good field position as Sooner senior punter Jeff Ferguson shanked a 26-yard punt.

A&M took over on its own 45-yard line and moved the ball 36 total yards on passes from Farris to senior wide receiver Mickey Jones and a 12-yard pass to freshman receiver Terrence Murphy.

The Aggie drive stalled on a Farris incomple- tion, and A&M was forced to settle for a



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Sophomore wide receiver **Jamaar Taylor** has a ball go through his hands during A&M's 31-10 loss to the University of Oklahoma Saturday. In two games, the Aggies' offense has scored three points.

43-yard Cody Scates field goal that put the Aggies ahead 3-0.

Scates' field goal would be the only points the Aggie offense would paint on the scoreboard.

"It was very frustrating," said A&M senior center Seth McKinney. "No excuses. We just didn't get it done on offense."

The Sooners rattled off 31 unanswered points after the Aggies jumped out to a 10-0 lead when junior linebacker Brian Gamble picked up a fumble and ran for a 17-yard touchdown.

"There is no doubt [Oklahoma] was the best defense we have played this year,"

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