

Texas outlasts stumbling Ags, 21-7

By BRIAN RUFF
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M football fans heard a different type of yell at Kyle Field Friday. Unfortunately for the Aggies, the chant of "BCS, BCS" was referring to the No. 5 University of Texas Longhorns, winners of a very defensive 21-7 battle that kept Texas' Bowl Championship Series hopes alive.

With Oklahoma State upsetting the then-Big 12 South-leading Oklahoma Sooners Saturday night, Texas' national championship hopes got a major shot of adrenaline with its win over the Aggies and the Sooners loss.

The Longhorns came into the game against the Aggies averaging 425 yards of offense and were held to just 235 yards by a stingy A&M defense.

"This was a great game," said A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum. "We knew we had to keep it a low-scoring game to win against Texas."

The Longhorn defense was equally effective, holding the Aggies to only 165 total yards, including a crucial defensive stop late in the fourth quarter.

With 2:21 left in the game and the Aggies trailing 14-7, junior quarterback Mark Farris was pressured but found junior wide receiver Greg Porter near the right sideline. Farris' pass was high, and Porter could only get a hand on the ball. Senior linebacker Everick Rawls came down with the tip, and carried the interception to the A&M 12-yard line, setting up the game-clinching 11-yard touchdown run by freshman running back Cedric Benson.

"They won, and you have to give them a lot of credit," Farris said. "We did not play well enough to win, which is always frustrating. Against UT, it is a little more frustrating."

The interception was the last chance the Aggies would have to

claim the upset.

Early in the first quarter, sophomore punter Cody Scates dropped back to punt on fourth down, but was hit during the kick, and Texas was given a 15-yard penalty for roughing the kicker.

A&M was unable to capitalize on the team's new-found life, going three plays and again

being forced to punt.

The Longhorns took over, but the Texas drive stalled on third-and-eleven, when a well-executed safety blitz gave Simms no time to throw and the Texas quarterback was sacked immediately by junior strong safety Terrence Kiel. Junior punter Brian Bradford punted the ball off the side of his foot on 4th down, and the Aggies were given good field position at their own 40-yard line.

A&M failed

to threaten despite the field position, and was forced to punt on fourth-and-ten.

Scates took the snap and was pressured by junior cornerback Roderick Babers, who blocked Scates' kick at the A&M 23-yard line.

Redshirt freshman wide receiver Tony Jeffrey scooped up the ball and raced to the end zone to give Texas an early 7-0 lead.

"Our coaches always believe in going for the big plays on

special teams," Jeffrey said. "Hearing the 'thump' when the is blocked is a big momentum changer. It meant a lot to me come away with such a big play."

On the Longhorns' next possession they were given good field position a short A&M punt and moved the ball to the A&M 32-yard line. Freshman place kicker Dusty Mangum attempted a field goal, but the ball sailed to the right and kept the score at 7-0.

Early in the second quarter, Aggies were again given excellent field position, taking over at the Longhorn 39-yard line.

The Aggies advanced to the Texas 24-yard line, but were forced to settle for a field goal try. Scates' line-kick sailed wide left, and the Aggies remained scoreless going into halftime.

After A&M stopped Texas on the first possession of the second half, wide receiver Mickey Jones took Bradford punt at the A&M 36-yard line, started to the right and then reversed head back toward the left sideline. Senior free safety Jay Brooks, running in the opposite direction of Jones, provided a delectable block on Longhorn tight end Mike Jones that cleared the path to the sidelines for the Jones' big return.

"I didn't even know I was going to punt returns today," Jones said. "All of a sudden, I made a big play and we got momentum back."

Jones returned the ball to the Texas 27-yard line setting up the Aggies' first score.

On 3rd-and-five from the 22-yard line, Farris scrambled right and found Porter over the middle, kept the drive alive and gave the Aggies 1st-and-goal on the Texas 8-yard line.

Two plays later, redshirt freshman Keith Joseph took a toss to the right side and plunged into the end zone, tying the score at 7-7.

The Longhorns would not give up as well. The Aggies countered in the fourth quarter, when Texas took over on the Texas 36-yard line. A&M quarterback Scates' 54-yard pass to wide receiver Mickey Jones set up a classic at Reed Center.

Center Adrian Williams with a third-and-three pass completion from Simms to sophomore tight end Bob Scaife, which gave the Longhorns a

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GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Defensive domination

Defense highlights low scoring battle between Aggies, Horns

By TRUE BROWN
THE BATTALION

What had the potential to be an offensive explosion turned into a defensive showdown at Kyle Field Saturday. Neither the University of Texas Longhorns or the Texas A&M Aggies managed to gain more than 250 yards, and neither team drove the ball more than 43 yards in a single possession.

UT's offense, which averaged 425.4 yards per game before Saturday's match-up, was held to 253 yards by the Aggies.

"Both teams played hard," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "Our defense played especially hard. We've been good defensively all year and we didn't change anything [for this game]."

The A&M offense managed just 165 yards and scored one touchdown, the Aggies' first offensive touchdown since the fourth quarter of A&M's 24-21 win over Iowa State Oct. 27.

The 165 yards UT allowed was its ninth-best defensive performance since the start of the 1990 season and the fourth time this season that Texas has held its opponent to less than 200 yards.

"[A&M's] defense played as good as they have all year," said UT head coach Mack Brown. "Our defense played the same as theirs. Coming in, we knew our defense was going to play well."

UT running back Cedric Benson's bid for a 1,000-yard season ended after gaining only 79 yards against the Aggies. Saturday's 79-yard rushing performance was 17 yards short of breaking the UT freshman record for ground yards set by Ricky Williams in 1995.

A&M has not allowed a 100-yard rusher this season.

"Benson is a great running back," said

"[A&M's] defense played as good as they have all year. Our defense played the same as theirs."

— Mack Brown
Texas football head coach

second fewest the Horns have scored in a season. Texas scored three points in a 14-10 loss to Oklahoma.

"We played well today," said junior A&M linebacker Brian Gambrell. "Defensively, the effort was there."

A&M rattled UT quarterback Chris Simms throughout the game. After torching the Aggies for 383 yards last season with a completion percentage of 66.7, Simms finished the day 16-of-33 passes for 138 yards.

In his last five games before Saturday, Simms had guided the Longhorns' offense to 26 touchdowns.

"We've got to give a lot of credit to our D-line," said senior A&M defensive back Jay Brooks. "They put a lot of pressure on Simms and you could tell he was starting to get frustrated back there."

"You've got to give credit to him though. He made a lot of underneath passes when he needed to."

Brooks saw regular playing time for the first time since A&M's 31-21 loss to Colorado on Oct. 13 and finished with four tackles.

The Wrecking Crew has allowed more than 30 points in two games this season and has allowed only one rush of more than 20 yards.

"We think we played well," said junior A&M cornerback Sammy Davis. "We're not satisfied, because you can always do better."



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Junior linebacker Jarrod Penright brings down Texas running back Cedric Benson with the help of senior tackle Rocky Bernard Friday.

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Question of the week: He gave up his medical practice in 1891 to devote himself to writing, but resumed it during the Boer War and was knighted for his hospital work in South Africa.
Who was this Scottish doctor and creator of the all-time master of deductive detective work?
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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