

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Monday, September 23, 2002

No. 7 Virginia Tech escapes Kyle Field, 13-3

Big play spoils solid Wrecking Crew performance

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

Virginia Tech used a 52-yard pass play early in the fourth quarter to get to the one-yard line before scoring the game's only touchdown on Saturday as the No. 7 Hokies became the first non-conference opponent to defeat Texas A&M at Kyle Field since 1988.

The short pass from quarterback Bryan Randall to receiver Ernest Wilford was broken downfield after a missed tackle by A&M sophomore cornerback Byron Jones. The pass set up a one-yard run on the next play by Tech running back Lee Suggs, giving the Hokies (4-0) a 13-3 victory.

"That was a huge play," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "That's what happens in a game like this, and you just hope that you're the team that makes the big play. It really affected how we played the rest of the ballgame. Without that play, we might have been sitting at 6-3 still and it would have changed some things that we had to do."

The No. 19 Aggies (2-1) got their only score of the game in the first quarter after

redshirt sophomore Dustin Long led the Aggies on an 18-yard drive in the second offensive series to set up a 43-yard field goal by freshman Todd Pegram.

Long's start broke a string of 26 consecutive starts for senior Mark Farris, who did not see action in the contest. Long finished with 111 yards on 13 for 28 passing. He also had one interception.

"I think there were some ups and downs with my playing today like there is in any game," Long said. "We started off moving the ball pretty well, but we couldn't get much going after that."

Tech answered with a field goal of its own with just 57 seconds remaining in the first half. The score led to the first points A&M has allowed before the fourth quarter this season.

Freshman Reggie McNeal entered the game at quarterback to open the third quarter and passed for only seven yards in his one-for-six passing performance before being pulled at the beginning of the fourth quarter. McNeal also had an interception that set up Tech's second field goal of the game, coming

from 26 yards out.

McNeal was sacked on two consecutive plays, losing 15 yards and taking the Aggies out of field goal range late in the third quarter.

"As soon as I got ready to throw the ball, [they] reached out and got me," McNeal said. "I saw him coming but I didn't think he was that close to me."

The Wrecking Crew allowed only 99 rushing yards on 28 carries to the Hokies' duo of Suggs and Kevin Jones, known as the 'Untouchables'. The two had been averaging over 200 combined yards per game before coming into College Station.

"I believe we played well defensively today," said A&M linebacker Brian Gamble. "We go into the game thinking that we have to score points (defensively) to win. If we can hold them to no points then we win the ballgame. That's not how it worked out today."

The Crew sacked Randall four times and Ty Warren blocked a 22-yard field goal attempt by Hokie kicker Carter Warley.

See Va. Tech on page 10



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior defensive end Ty Warren pursues Virginia Tech sophomore quarterback Bryan Randall in Saturday's game at Kyle Field.

O-Line is nothing short of offensive

TALKING Points

Dallas Shipp



the highest-ranked defenses it will face all season and the results were exactly what many feared, a whole lot of nothing.

The Aggies lone scoring drive covered a total of 18 yards on seven plays and resulted in a 43-yard field goal with just under five minutes remaining in the first quarter.

Most people blame the never-ending quarterback saga that has been staged by the Aggies over the last three weeks. Some will say that sophomore quarterback Dustin Long should have played

the whole game. Some will say the highly touted freshman, Reggie McNeal should play and get more experience.

However, neither quarterback has been able to get anything going with the offense because of the lack of rushing game the Aggies have had in their first three games of the season.

"The search for a quarterback is tied to the rushing game," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "If we become a more effective passing team and


See Offensive on page 10



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Sophomore running back Derek Farmer is hit by the Va. Tech defense.

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<p>INTRAMURAL SPORTS EXCITEMENT</p> <p>Intramural participants please remember that registration ends at 6:00 p.m. Please visit the Member Services Desk to sign up for your favorite Intramural sport.</p> <p>Registration CLOSES TUESDAY for the following IM sports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tennis FREE CoRec Softball \$40/team <p>Registration OPENS TODAY for the following IM sports:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Program</th> <th>Registration</th> <th>Cost</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Squash</td> <td>Sept. 23-Oct. 1</td> <td>FREE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Handball</td> <td>Sept. 23-Oct. 1</td> <td>FREE</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>IM Job Opportunities Volleyball Officials Training: Sept. 30 at 7:00p.m. in room 281.</p> <p>IM Captains Meeting CoRec Softball captains meet Sept. 26 at 6:00p.m. in room 281.</p>	Program	Registration	Cost	Squash	Sept. 23-Oct. 1	FREE	Handball	Sept. 23-Oct. 1	FREE	<p>TAKE A SWING AT IT-A&M GOLF COURSE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It's a great time to play! So many changes are under way at your A&M Golf course. Come by and find out why this tradition will continue on for another 50 years. Student and twilight rates available, along with a full line of golfing apparel in the Pro Shop. Call and ask about our group and individual lessons at amazing rates. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Call 845-1723 for tee times. <p style="text-align: center;">recsports.tamu.edu</p>	<p>EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ALWAYS Online!—Visit Rec Sports online and find all the information you need to know about—events, IM Headlines, student employment opportunities, program schedules, prices, building hours, etc. <p>TAKE THE PLUNGE WITH AQUATICS</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Program</th> <th>Registration</th> <th>Classes Start</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Springboard Diving</td> <td>Now-Oct. 21</td> <td>Oct. 21</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>MASTERS SWIMMING is a program designed for the swimmer in you! \$50 gets you 25 workout passes and provides you with the resources and activities to increase your fitness and improve your stroke. Sign up at Member Services TODAY!</p>	Program	Registration	Classes Start	Springboard Diving	Now-Oct. 21	Oct. 21									
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