

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Friday, October 4, 2002

## Aggies looking for payback against Raiders

By Dallas Shipp  
THE BATTALION

A record crowd is expected this weekend at Kyle Field for a game that Aggie football fans have had circled on his or her calendars since last October following the Aggies' 12-0 loss in Lubbock. Tech fans added insult to injury for the Aggies by tearing down the goalposts and attempting to shove them into a section full of A&M fans.

Payback will be on the minds of those in the stands and on the field as the No. 23 Aggies look to avenge their loss to Texas Tech this weekend in the conference opener for both teams.

"The first thing that comes to my mind when I think of Texas Tech is their fans," said senior strong safety Terrance Kiel. "My first year we went up there and they were throwing tortillas and spitting on us. I just thought they had rude fans. I've never seen a crowd like Texas Tech."

Redshirt freshman safety Jaxson Appel chimed in with Kiel on the fans from Texas Tech.

"We took offense at what happened last year," Appel said. "I'm just glad that we don't have fans like that."

However, this year the game is at

Kyle Field and Kiel says the Aggies won't have to worry about Tech fans because they will take care of business on the field.

The story of the game will be the Aggie Wrecking Crew, which is ranked No. 3 nationally in total defense, going up against Texas Tech's highly touted offense, which is ranked No. 12 in the nation.

The Texas Tech offense is coming off a strong offensive performance against New Mexico last week, breaking six team offensive records. Senior quarterback Kliff Kingsbury was named the Big 12 Player of the Week following his school record, six touchdown passes against the Lobos.

The Wrecking Crew, long known for its ability to stop opponents rushing attack, considers itself fortunate to have played against Louisiana Tech prior to the game this weekend with Texas Tech.

Many critics wondered if the Wrecking Crew would be able to control the passing game of highly touted quarterback Luke McCown. The critics were silenced last week when the Wrecking Crew held McCown, who averages over 300 yards passing per game, to 172 yards.

The Aggies are hoping for similar results this week against Texas Tech.

"(Kingsbury) is a very good quarterback," Kiel said. "He takes a lot of hits. I know he's not as fast as McCown is and his arm isn't as strong as McCown, but he's a lot tougher. I don't know if he has any weaknesses."

After struggling offensively through their first three games this year, the Aggies came out firing against Louisiana Tech last week, rolling up 444 total yards of offense and finally giving the defense a break.

"The longer they are on the field, the longer we can rest and be sharp on defense," Appel said.

A&M is looking for another strong performance from the duo of sophomore running back Derek Farmer and sophomore quarterback Dustin Long, who sparked a sense of optimism in the Aggie offense last week for the first time in a long time.

Farmer rushed for 119 yards while Long passed for 205 yards to lead the Aggies in a balanced offensive attack.

"The A&M/Tech game has always been a hard-fought tough contest," said head coach R.C. Slocum, "going back 30 years, it's always been that way."



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Aggie senior strong safety **Terrence Kiel** wraps up Pittsburgh quarterback **Rod Rutherford** for a sack earlier this season. The Wrecking Crew is No. 3 in the nation in total defense this season.

### TEXAS A&M / TEXAS TECH Predictions



**Kevin Espenlaub** 14 - 13 Texas A&M  
"Aggies climb from deficit with 4th quarter touchdown pass!"



**Dallas Shipp** 34 - 7 Texas A&M  
"Wrecking Crew dominates again and no calling off the dogs in the 4th quarter this week!"



**True Brown** 24 - 10 Texas A&M  
"High-powered Wrecking Crew shuts down high-powered Tech offense!"

RUBEN DELUNA • THE BATTALION

## Volleyball team ready for No. 2 Nebraska

By True Brown  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team's 17-match home winning streak will be put to the test Sunday by the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The Aggies have yet to lose inside G. Rollie White Coliseum this season but have not yet faced a ranked opponent at home. The Huskers enter the game ranked No. 2.

G. Rollie White Coliseum has become one of the toughest road venues in the nation as the No. 25 Aggies (11-3, 3-2 Big

12) have rolled up a 113-17 record at home since head coach Laurie Corbelli began coaching A&M in 1993.

"It's huge for us," Corbelli said of A&M's home court advantage. "We are in a place where we are comfortable. A lot of crowds are really rough on the home team, but I don't think ours is at all. They want us to be successful, but they are so supportive."

With a capacity of 7,800, G. Rollie White has been home to Aggie volleyball since 1975. The arena became a volleyball-only venue for the 1998 season after Reed Arena was built and boasts one of

the loudest, intimidating student sections in the Big 12.

"It's awesome playing in here," said sophomore setter Lexy Beers. "Our gym is one of the loudest gyms I've ever played in. That helps us feel supported and hurts the other team because they kind of freak out when they hear all the screaming and the yells."

Nebraska, though, will stretch the Aggies to the limit.

The Cornhuskers' (12-1, 3-0) lone loss came at the hands of No. 3 USC on

See **Nebraska** on page 9

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*Dr. J. Malon Southerland*  
Vice President for Student Affairs

is hosting the  
Student Leader Recognition Reception 2002

in honor of  
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of TAMU Recognized Student Organizations  
and  
President and Mrs. Robert M. Gates

on Saturday, October 5, 2002  
9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.  
at his home  
100 Throckmorton, College Station

The chief executive officer of each organization is invited to this event in recognition of all the students within their organizations who volunteer their time and effort to make Texas A&M a very special educational experience.

For further information,  
please contact the Department of Student Activities  
(845-1133).