

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Tech shocks No. 23 Aggies in OT, 48-47

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore quarterback **Dustin Long** attempts a pass in the second quarter of Saturday's game against Texas Tech. Long completed seven touchdown passes in the game, a Big 12 record.

Aggie sophomore quarterback Dustin Long set a Big 12 record by throwing seven touchdowns in a 48-47 overtime loss to the Texas Tech Red Raiders. No. 23 Texas A&M came into the game boasting the No. 3 defense in the nation, but Tech senior quarterback Kliff Kingsbury threw 49-59 for 474 yards and five touchdowns to lead Tech.

The Aggies (3-2) claimed the lead on their first play from scrimmage. Long completed a pass over the middle to senior Bethel Johnson who broke one tackle and sprinted 78 yards for the touchdown.

"I knew how important it was to come out and get our offense on a roll early," said Johnson. "Coach is always telling us that we have to set the pace, I just did what the coaches asked us to do."

The Aggies held the lead until Tech senior Wes Welker returned a Cody Scates punt 88 yards for a touchdown with 2:48 left in the game to put the Red Raiders (4-2) up 38-35. Tech had scored 21 unanswered points to come back from a 35-17 fourth quarter deficit.

"You know it's going to be a barnburner," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "I've been in enough of these (games) to know that it's going to come down to the wire."

Long then led the Aggies on a 75-yard drive that ended with a bizarre touchdown. Long completed an eight-yard

pass to senior tight end Greg Porter who was stripped by Tech senior Joselio Hanson on the goal line. The ball popped out and senior fullback Stacey Jones recovered the ball in the air while diving into the end zone for the touchdown to give the Aggies back the lead at 41-38.

The kicking game then began its troubling day as walk-on junior John Pierson missed the first of two extra points in the game.

Tech senior Robert Treece hit a 42-yard field goal as time expired to send the game into overtime knotted at 41.

"I thought our offense played well," Slocum said. "We just came up one short, had we kicked the extra point it would have been a totally different game. They would have had to score a touchdown. Missing that extra point allowed them to kick the field goal with two seconds left and send it to overtime."

In overtime, the Aggies got on the board first when Long completed his seventh touchdown pass of the game to sophomore Terrence Thomas. Pierson then missed the extra point.

"It's nobody's fault but mine," said Pierson. "I'm going to work hard in practice this week and I guarantee it won't happen again."

Kingsbury then led a six-play drive that ended on a ten-yard wide receiver screen to sophomore Nehemiah Glover

See **Tech** on page 9

Wrecking Crew got wrecked by Texas Tech



More than 86,000 fans showed up. The offense was there. But apparently the Wrecking Crew didn't get its invitation to Saturday's game at Kyle Field against Texas Tech. In four short weeks, the Texas A&M football team has done a complete 180 degree turn.

Coming into the season and through the first three games of the year, the Aggie offense was a huge question mark. But on Saturday, sophomore quarterback Dustin Long and the Aggie offense looked a lot

more like an exclamation point.

Meanwhile, the Wrecking Crew, which entered Saturday's game ranked No. 3 in the nation, was missing in action.

The A&M defense struggled throughout the game, giving up 544 yards of total offense to the Red Raiders.

But after three quarters of play, it looked like none of that would matter. The offense supplied the Wrecking Crew with a 35-17 lead heading into the fourth quarter. But as ESPN's Lee Corso would say, "Not so fast my friend!"

The Wrecking Crew imploded in the fourth quarter, allowing Tech's quarterback Kliff Kingsbury to move the Raiders up and down the field at his discretion.

Even after their failure to stop the Raider offense, the Aggies drove 75 yards in 2:48 to reclaim the lead.

"There was no doubt in our minds that our offense would come back and score and it would be up to the defense to stop them," said senior linebacker Brian Gamble. "We just didn't stop them."

"This is definitely the best I've seen (Tech's offense) play. Kliff (Kingsbury) played one of his best games ever. You have to hand it to them for coming into a hostile environment and getting the job done."

Maybe so, but it should not have ended that way. The Aggies squandered one of their best offensive performances in school history.

Long completed 21-of-37 attempts for 367 yards and a new Big 12 record seven touchdown passes. The Aggies had scored only one touchdown pass in their previous

See **Wrecked** on page 9



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Texas A&M senior defensive back **Sammy Davis** tries to gather his composure after Texas Tech defeated A&M in overtime on Saturday.

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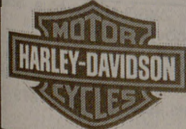
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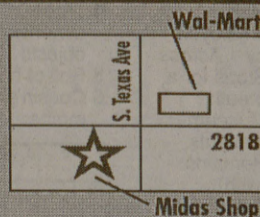
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