

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Wrecking Crew posts shutout in Waco, 41-0

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The Wrecking Crew defense intercepted five passes and posted its first shutout of the season on Saturday as Texas A&M defeated Baylor University in Waco, 41-0.

After Baylor's drive to the Aggie one yard line on its first drive of the game, junior linebacker Jared Morris stopped a fourth down attempt at a touchdown, setting up a 75-yard offensive drive led by sophomore quarterback Dustin Long. The drive took more than eight minutes off the game clock.

"We knew the defense had to step up and make a big play," Morris said. "We knew they had a little momentum and this was the time our defense could make a statement. I think we really took control of the game after that first drive."

The Aggie drive ended in a failed attempt at a 42-yard field goal by freshman Todd Pegram. After the Wrecking Crew stopped Baylor on four straight plays, the Aggies

retained the ball and marched 71 yards to the Bear end zone and took the 7-0 lead with only seconds remaining in the first quarter.

"I was a little disappointed in the first half," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "I think we had some things that we didn't take advantage of but we settled down in the second half and did a nice job there."

The drive was capped off by Long's pass to senior receiver Bethel Johnson for 12 yards and the first of A&M's four touchdown passes in the game. A&M has now scored first in each of its six games this season.

Long finished the first quarter with 117 yards passing and eight of 12 passing.

The Aggie offense stumbled in the second quarter and failed to take advantage of redshirt freshman Jaxson Appel's interception, setting up a string of four straight punts by junior punter Cody Scates.

"The whole day we knew we could move the ball on them," Long said. "There's a bunch of throws I wish I had back today, and I wish I

was a little more accurate. But I'm going to work harder and get ready for next week."

Scates averaged 51.2 yards per punt in his seven in the contest.

"Overall I think (special teams) played well today," Scates said. "Actually I warmed up pretty bad and I felt sick before the game. Last week I felt bad as well, but it seems to be working out pretty well for me. I don't know what that means."

On the last play of the first half, Pegram hit a 26-yard field goal to put the Aggies up 10-0 at the half.

"Our field goal kicker got some more experience in a game setting today," Slocum said. "Hopefully he gained some confidence by the way he performed today."

The second half was a different story as the Bears faltered, allowing two A&M touchdowns in the first eight minutes of the third quarter.

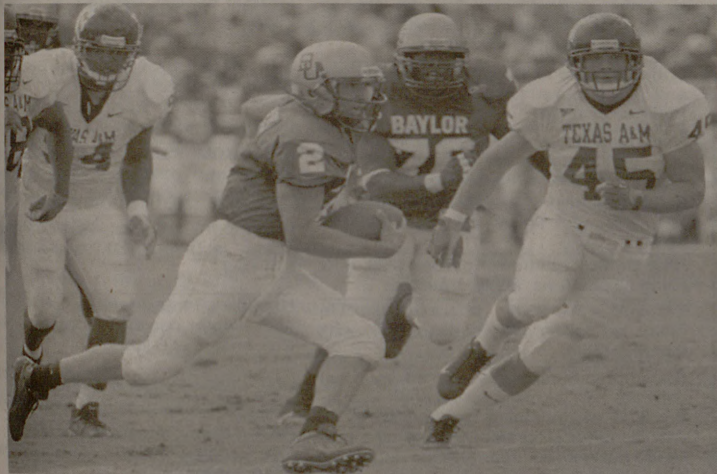
The first was Long's touchdown pass of the game to sophomore tight end Thomas Carriger. The score was



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION
Texas A&M sophomore runningback Derek Farmer stiff-arms Baylor junior linebacker Stephen Sepulveda to avoid a tackle in the Aggies' 41-0 shutout victory in Waco Saturday.

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Defense sets tone of game with first goal-line stand



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION
A&M junior linebacker Jared Morris pursues Baylor quarterback Aaron Karas. Morris made the tackle in the goal-line stand during BU's first drive.



Despite the slim 10-0 lead the Aggies held after the first half Saturday against Baylor, the Wrecking Crew had already cemented the outcome after the game's first four minutes.

After the Aggies went three-and-out on their first drive, the Bears began with solid field position after Bobby Hart returned Cody Scates' punt 22 yards to the A&M 44.

Four plays and one penalty later, the Bears were sitting pretty with first-and-goal on the

nine-yard line. Baylor needed three plays to reach just past A&M's 1-yard line, setting up fourth down inches away from the end zone.

A score here would have been disastrous to the Aggies, as Baylor began the game with a strong head of steam after beating Kansas last week. The win against the Jayhawks was the team's first Big 12 win in four years and prompted Baylor fans to tear down the goal posts at Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco. It even had Baylor fans talking of a repeat performance against the Aggies.

Hoping to run with the momentum, Baylor coach Kevin Steele decided to go for it on fourth down, but A&M linebacker Jaren Morris stuffed Baylor's Jonathan Golden for no gain on a sweep to the right, and the Aggies took over on downs.

After A&M's goal-line stand, it would be 40 minutes before Baylor found its way back onto A&M's side of the field.

"(Baylor) came out really pumped up and started out with a lot of confidence," said A&M linebacker Brian Gamble. "We figured if we could make that goal-line stand, it would take some of the life out of them. It did take the life out of them, and that's one thing we take pride in as the Wrecking Crew. We want to be great inside the red zone."

The stop let the Aggie defense take total control of the game, forcing punts on Baylor's next two drives before Jaxson Appel snagged the first of five A&M interceptions.

After all was said and done, the Wrecking

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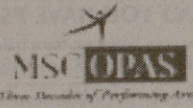
Tres Vidas

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Interviewing	Oct. 15	3:00pm	111 Koldus
Salary Negotiation	Oct. 16	4:00pm	111 Koldus
Reap Rewards from Study Abroad	Oct. 16	4:00pm	410 Rudder
Interviewing	Oct. 17	4:00pm	111 Koldus
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ARCHES

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