

No. 6 Aggies manhandle Red Raiders, 6-2

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

The No. 6 Texas A&M women's soccer team (10-3-1, 4-0-1) beat Texas Tech (2-11, 0-5) 6-2 on Sunday at a wet and windy Aggie Soccer Complex. The Aggies were led by sophomore Christina Echavarry who scored two goals and added an assist in the game.

Echavarry's first goal came in the 47th minute as she dribbled through the Tech defense down the left side of midfield. Just outside the penalty box Echavarry cut back inside and arched a shot from 20 yards that bent underneath the upper right corner of the goal posts to give the Aggies a 2-1 lead.

"Tech was posing some problems as far as closing down the space in front of their goal and it made for really tight spaces," said A&M head coach G. Guerrieri. "That's why we had (Echavarry) in there for most of the game because that fits most into (Echavarry's) strengths."

Echavarry's second goal in the 65th minute also turned out to be the game-winner when senior Jessica Martin served a cross into the penalty box that Echavarry headed in from eight yards out.

"I felt very confident after coming off

the bench," Echavarry said. "It felt good to make a difference out there."

The scoring started in the 17th minute when Texas Tech sophomore Michaela Roberts scored an open net goal. Junior Catie Arsenault played the ball past Aggie goalkeeper Katie Jo Spisak to a wide-open Roberts for the tally.

"This is the eighth game where the other team has scored first against us," Guerrieri said. "We have to do a better job at coming out and dictating the pace and putting teams away in the first half."

The Aggies countered in the 22nd minute when sophomore Linsey Woodard scored her 11th goal of the season. Woodard played an Echavarry cross from the top of the six-yard box to score the game-tying goal.

The second half started out with much more offensive pressure by the Aggies that led to Echavarry's first goal. The Red Raiders scored the equalizer in the 55th minute when Roberts scored her second goal of the game by beating Spisak to the bottom right in a one-on-one situation.

"I thought Tech came in and played us very hard," Guerrieri said. "We made some key defensive errors and we weren't doing enough in attack in the first half."

In the 80th minute, 15 minutes after

Echavarry's second goal put the Aggies up 3-2. Martin headed in a goal of a corner kick from sophomore Amanda Burke.

Sophomore Emma Smith came in off the bench to add two open-net goals in the last eight minutes of the game. In the 82nd minute, Smith received the ball from senior Andrea Starns and dribbled past Tech goalkeeper Lindsay Fish to score the goal. Tech substitute goalkeeper Erin Lippert did not learn from watching Fish as Smith scored again by doing the same in the 87th minute.

"I needed some goals for my confidence," Smith said. "I've had some good opportunities but I just haven't put them away, and I needed some goals."

After two hard fought road wins against Colorado and Nebraska, Texas A&M played tight with Texas Tech and tied Baylor 1-1 Friday night in Waco.

"It's still a symptom of a young team that tends to play to the level of its opponent," Guerrieri said. "We have to keep our concentration for 90 minutes. To meet our team goals we have to do better."

Despite the bumps in the road, the Aggies still enjoy a nine-game unbeaten streak. Their next test comes against Oklahoma State University Friday night in Stillwater, Oklahoma.



John C. Livas • THE BATTALION
Sophomore Emma Smith beats Texas Tech goalie Lindsay Fish for the goal in the second half of Sunday's match. Smith added two goals to the Aggies 6-2 win over Tech.

Carter leads Cowboys to 'amazing' come from behind victory

IRVING, Texas (AP) — If Quincy Carter could play the first 55 minutes like he plays the last five, the Dallas Cowboys might be better than .500.

But their games wouldn't be as interesting. Carter led Dallas to a dramatic victory for the second time in three weeks, turning a 13-0 deficit to the Carolina Panthers into a 14-13 victory by throwing an 80-yard touchdown pass to Joey Galloway with 3:55 left, then a 24-yarder to rookie Antonio Bryant with 56 seconds to go.

"This is one of the craziest wins I've ever been involved in," Cowboys running back Emmitt Smith said. "That was amazing, truly amazing."

Carter started showing his comeback skills two games ago, when he overshadowed a mostly poor performance by directing a last-minute drive that led to the game-winning field goal against St. Louis. He almost did it again last week against the New York Giants, but he overthrew Bryant on a deep ball.

This time, on his 25th birthday, Carter got the Cowboys (3-3) in a hole by committing two turnovers and making few good throws. Fans were

booing, and nearly half of Texas Stadium emptied as Dallas appeared headed to their first home shutout in 11 years.

Then Carter started clicking. After going 9-of-22 for 77 yards over the first 55 minutes, he was 6-of-10 for 148 yards on the final two drives. The Galloway TD was the longest pass of Carter's career, and it stretched his streak of consecutive 200-yard passing games to five straight.

To pull it out, he had to be as lucky as he was good.

On Galloway's touchdown, Carter scrambled out of a sack and steadied himself with his free hand. The pass was nearly intercepted by Deon Grant, but instead he deflected it — straight to Galloway.

"The ball just elevated more than I thought," Grant said. "I didn't jump high enough."

On the game-winning drive, Carolina (3-3) thought it had recovered a Carter fumble, but replay officials called it an incompletion, citing the same "tuck rule" that saved Tom Brady and the

New England Patriots in the playoffs.

Given new life, Dallas improvised. A 10-yard completion to Darnay Scott on fourth-and-6 came on a play that wasn't in the game plan, as was the TD pass to Bryant, which also was on fourth down.

"Sometimes all the things you planned didn't work, so then you have to go into your back of tricks and pull out some more," Carter said.

On the game-winning catch, Bryant juggled it, then rolled over, causing a few seconds of hesitation. Once it was clear he still had it, fans screamed and players piled on top of each other.

It still had to withstand a replay, but Bryant wasn't concerned.

"I thought they just liked the catch and wanted to see it again," he said.

Carolina almost answered as Chris Weinke — who played the second half after Rodney Peete sustained a concussion — completed passes of 24 and 22 yards to reach the Dallas 41 with 11 seconds left and no timeouts.

The Panthers still weren't in kicker Shayne Graham's range, so Weinke hit Muhsin

Muhammad for 9 yards. He was tackled in bounds and time expired before the Panthers could spike the ball.

"It's a shame that we played so hard and so well, only to come up short in the end," said Carolina coach John Fox, whose team won its first three but has lost three straight by a combined seven points, all in the closing minutes. "To be in such control of the game and have a couple of fluke plays happen is a shame."

The win continued Dallas' lose-win, lose-win cycle and again keeps Carter's critics at bay for a week. It also was a nice birthday present for the boss, Jerry Jones, who turned 60.

"What a lift," said Jones, who skipped his usual second-half stroll on the sidelines.

The Panthers built their lead on a 25-yard TD pass from Peete to Brad Hoover after Carter practically handed an interception to Julius Peppers. Graham kicked field goals of 50 and 44 yards. He also missed a 44-yarder.

Smith had 59 yards, leaving him 175 yards from passing Walter Payton.

Defense

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Crew had returned to its early season form and silenced some of the critics that appeared after last week's debacle against Texas Tech.

The Aggies held the Bears to 229 total yards, the fifth time this season A&M has held the opposition to less than 255 yards.

A&M's secondary, which was blistered by Tech quarterback Kliff Kingsbury last week for 474 yards, set up the Aggie offense with some very favorable field position.

"It was a big boost for us," said A&M quarterback Dustin Long. "Our defense gave us the ball in great field position and then didn't let them score all night. All we had to do was score a couple touchdowns to win the game."

The Wrecking Crew wasn't much gentler on Baylor's running game, holding Baylor's top rusher, Rashad Armstrong, to 54 yards. The Aggies have now not allowed a 100-yard rusher in 19 straight regular season games.

"We made some big plays," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "We did an excellent job of bouncing back. We talked about it last week and said you can walk around feeling sorry for yourself but nobody's going to come along and bail you out. You have to dig yourself out, and we did a good job of that today."

Shutout

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the first touchdown reception of Carriger's college career. "Right when I came out, I started falling down, but I knew where (Carriger) was going to be so I threw it and he made a great catch on it," Long said.

Freshman quarterback Reggie McNeal entered the game for the Aggies with 12:37 remaining in the contest, beginning at the Baylor 15-yard line.

The offense stalled in his opening drive, but Pegram hit a 30-yard field goal to stretch the A&M lead to 27-0.

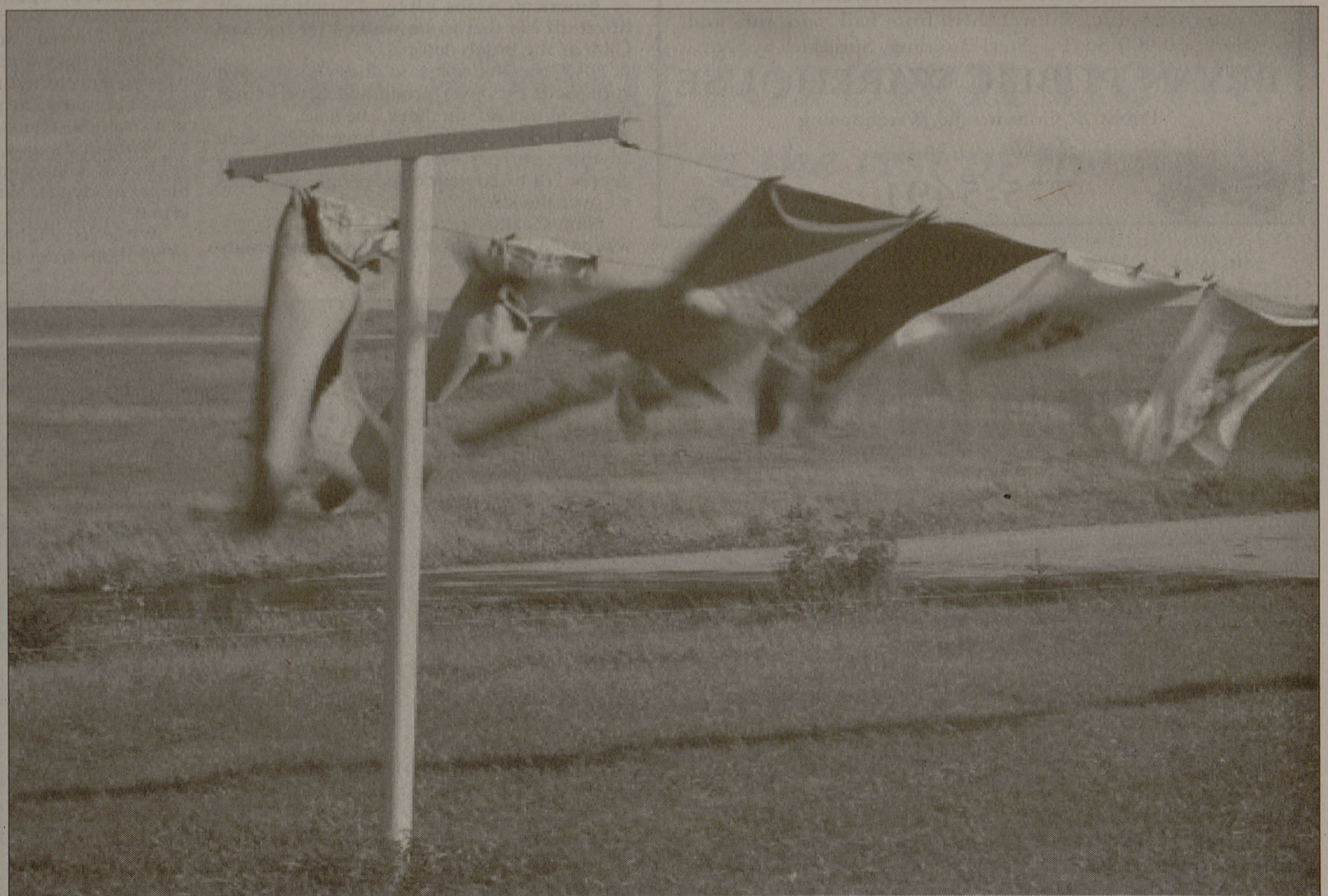
McNeal fired back in his next series, however, connecting with Johnson for a 59-yard touchdown strike to cap off an 85-yard drive.

McNeal later connected with true freshman L'Tydrick Riley for a five-yard touchdown pass. It was the first reception and touchdown catch of Riley's career, ending speculation that Slocum would redshirt him this season.

McNeal finished the game five of six passing for 88 yards with two touchdown passes.

The defense posted the eighth shut-out in Slocum's career at A&M, and the first since blanking Baylor in 2000 in Waco.

The five interceptions in a game were the most by the Aggie defense since nabbing six against University of Louisiana-Lafayette.



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