

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Regular season ends with lopsided loss at UT

Aggies waiting for word on bowl game

By Kevin Espenlaub
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M football team stumbled through a lopsided loss to the University of Texas on Friday, ending its regular season with a 6-6 mark and putting its chances of a bowl game invitation into question.

Texas dominated the Aggies for much of the game, scoring not only on offense, but on defense and special teams as well before the 50-20 contest came to a close from Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium in Austin.

UT senior quarterback Chris Simms completed 16 of 24 pass attempts on the game for 278 yards and three touchdowns to help bury the Aggies.

"I almost started crying before the game," Simms said. "The game was a good way to end the regular season. I was happy with the way we played; the team responded well."

The game came less than a week after A&M freshman defensive lineman Brandon Fails died in his dorm room after a blood clot spread from his leg to his lungs, according to the Travis County coroner's office.

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum has had to console his team while also preparing his players to take on their rivals from UT.

"I can't think of another week that was as hard as this one has been," Slocum said. "But we had our chances to practice and we had our chance to play today, and it would be unfair to blame our performance on that."

The Aggies started the game on a shaky note, turning the ball over on each of their first three possessions, including an interception by sophomore quarterback Dustin Long and two fumbles.

"The biggest difference in the game was the six turnovers," said UT head coach Mack Brown. "To have that many turnovers converted into points takes a team out of the game. It took them out of their game plan early, but you have to give A&M credit for not giving up."

However, Simms failed to lead the Longhorns into the end zone and Texas had to settle with three field goals by sophomore kicker Dusty Mangum, giving the Longhorns an early 9-0 lead. UT stretched the lead to two possessions despite only gaining 48 yards of total offense in the first quarter.

"I was really proud of how our defense responded after those early turnovers," said A&M linebacker Brian Gamble.

With time running down in the opening period, Long led the Aggies on a six play, 82-yard drive, highlighted by a deep pass down the left sideline to junior wide receiver Jamaar Taylor for 39 yards.

The Aggies capped off the drive with a short pass over the middle to sophomore Terrence Thomas, who stretched the reception for 12 yards and the touchdown, closing the gap to 9-7.

The Longhorns came alive in the second quarter, however, with two touchdown strikes of 44 and 75 yards to pull away from the Aggies, 23-7 with just more than six minutes remaining in the half.

While UT was rolling in the second quarter, Long and the Aggies were plagued with not only missed coverages by the defense, but a poor offensive line performance that led to a hurried offense and two sacks for a loss of 17 yards in the 15 minute period.

The Aggies best chance to score before the end of the half was squandered with just more than 30 seconds remaining when Long threw an interception in the endzone from the 10-yard line on a pass intended for senior wide receiver Bethel Johnson.

"I was really sure that we were going to score when we got the ball down there," Long said. "I don't know exactly what happened on the pass, but they made a good play and got the interception."

Long completed 10 of his 13 pass attempts in the first half for 131 yards and a touchdown to go with his two interceptions.



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

UT sophomore running back Cedric Benson runs through A&M's redshirt freshman Jaxson Appel and senior Terrence Kiel in Friday's game in Austin. Benson ran for 88 yards and a touchdown in the Longhorns' 50-20 win.

After the Wrecking Crew forced Texas to a three and out possession to start the second half, the Aggies drove the field for 57 yards and Long completed a two-yard touchdown pass to senior Terrence Murphy to pull the score closer, 23-14.

The Longhorns fired back with a 54-yard drive before setting up for a 43-yard field goal attempt by Mangum. However, the kick was blocked by freshman Johnny Jolly and after the ball rolled back towards midfield, the Aggies recovered at their own 46 yard line.

The Aggie offense failed to score and Texas would take its 30-14 lead into the fourth quarter, and as the Aggies were driving, senior Cory Redding sacked Long, causing and recovering a fumble at the A&M 38-yard line.

On the next play, Simms completed a touchdown pass to Williams and after failing to convert on the two-point attempt, took a 36-14 lead.

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Aggies host tournament, claim title

By Gary Livingston
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team won the Whataburger Aggie Women's Basketball Classic by defeating the Santa Clara Broncos, 73-51, at Reed Arena Sunday.

Junior guard Toccara Williams led the way for the Aggies as she tied a career best with 22 points. She also led the Aggies with nine rebounds. Sophomore Sabrina Mitchell also had a career best 15 points for the Aggies.

"Toccara is a very smart defender," said head coach Peggie Gillom. "She's always there at the right time. I'm very happy she was able to score more today."

The Aggies started the game fast going up by five after two quick steals. The Broncos recovered from the early deficit and went on a 10-point run; their largest run of the game. It was

also the only time the Broncos led during the game. The Aggies kept their composure, however, and went on a 13-point run to go up 20-12.

Both teams traded baskets during the next few minutes and the Broncos pulled within one point as the Aggies led 26-25 with about six minutes remaining. The Aggies then went on one of the greatest runs in their history by scoring 22 unanswered points. The Broncos went the rest of the first half without scoring and didn't score until five minutes into the second half.

"(Santa Clara) are a good three-point shooting team and I knew they were capable of coming back," Gillom said. "(The run) was hard to believe, we tried to keep our composure and play our game. That had to be the slowest clock ever."

The Broncos did everything they could to catch up, firing threes at will. For the game, the Broncos fired 26 bombs from three-point range connecting on eight of them. While they shot more than 30 percent from the three point line, the Broncos shot a poor 27 percent from everywhere else.

The Aggies fared better, shooting 41 percent and 46 percent from the three point line as they went 6-13. Sophomore guard Mindy Garrison was 3-5 from the three-point line. Juniors Janae Derrick and Lynn Classen also scored nine points each for the Aggies.

"During the run the intensity level kept us going," said Williams. "Everyone was into it, my teammates were open and I just tried to get the ball to them."

After the 22-point run ended, the Broncos got as close as 16 points a couple of times, but never posed a serious threat. Strong play from Williams and freshman Natasha Summerville gave A&M a 25-point lead, the Aggies' largest of the night. The two teams then traded baskets and A&M went on to win 73-51.

Summerville led the Aggies with 22-points in the Aggie victory over IUPUI Fort Wayne on Saturday. As a freshman, she is already making a name for herself, according to Gillom.

"She is a very good shooter, who feels very comfortable shooting," Gillom said. "She's gonna take her shots. It doesn't matter to me that she's a freshmen, we are going to put our best players out there."



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

A&M guard Toccara Williams drives to the basket Sunday.

Soccer season ends at NCAA's

Staff and Wire
THE BATTALION

The No. 2 University of North Carolina women's soccer team got two goals and an assist from junior forward Alyssa Ramsey to defeat No. 4 Texas A&M 3-0 Friday afternoon and earn a spot in the NCAA Women's College Cup semifinals for the 21st successive year. The game was played before a crowd of 1,375 fans at Fetzer Field.

With the win, UNC improved to 21-1-4 on the season. UNC has now advanced to every NCAA Women's Soccer Final Four ever played. Texas A&M saw its season end at 20-5-1. The quarterfinal berth equalled the farthest the Aggies have advanced in NCAA play in their nine-year history.

Carolina scored its earliest goal ever in its 79 NCAA Tournament games and it proved to be the game winner. Ramsey tallied the goal, her 16th of the season, just 22 seconds into the match. Susan Bush took a ball into the right corner and fed Lindsay Tarpley just steps inside the right side of the A&M penalty box. Tarpley centered the ball to Annie Morrell who held off her defender with her back to the goal and she sent the ball back to the onrushing Ramsey who finished into the lower right corner from about eight yards out.

"Getting a goal that early was a bit

of a relief, but as the half went on we played worse and worse," said UNC head coach Anson Dorrance. "It was a mixed blessing. You can really see though that our leadership on the field has been extraordinary. There is no question that the team is playing for their leaders."

Neither team would score again in the first half as the Tar Heels outshot the Aggies 10-4 in the opening 45 minutes. UNC had eight corner kicks in the first half but was unable to convert on those opportunities.

"First and foremost, the best team on that field won today," said A&M head coach G. Guerrieri. "Carolina came out strong and scored some typical Carolina goals with a strong attack. After the goal and the first three minutes, our players did a good job in the first half of adjusting, playing good defense and creating some scoring chances up front."

UNC came out in the second half of play and scored two goals in the first nine minutes of play to put the game away. At 51:57, Ramsey hooked up with Maggie Tomecka on a corner kick to make the score 2-0. Tomecka's header into the left side provided her with her third goal of the season.

Just 2:46 later the Heels made it 3-0 as Ramsey scored her second goal of

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