

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 1B • Thursday, September 18, 2003

Hokies led by ground game 'Horns try to rebound, others battle schedules

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M football team will be in Blacksburg, Va. on Thursday night. According to the National Weather Service, Hurricane Isabel will be there too.

The Virginia Tech Athletic Department announced that it does not anticipate any changes to the scheduled game, but a special University committee is monitoring weather-related developments and will decide if it will be necessary to move the kickoff.

While the thought of a hurricane strikes fear in the hearts of many, the Aggies will be more concerned with the hurricane-like power of Virginia Tech running back Kevin Jones.

For two seasons now, Jones has been waiting for his opportunity to stand alone in the Hokies' backfield. During this time, he has rushed for more than 1,800 yards while starting just three regular-season games.

Jones was forced to share the spotlight with the now departed record-setter Lee Suggs. The two combined to become the most effective 1-2 punch in Tech history, rushing for more than 2,000 yards and 31 touchdowns. Jones ran for 871 yards despite missing the end of the season with a hamstring injury.

Now that Suggs is gone, Jones figures to be the feature back in the Hokies 1-formation. That is, if he can avoid the injury bug.



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Virginia Tech quarterback Bryan Randall eludes Aggie defenders at Kyle Field last season. Randall and running back Kevin Jones lead an explosive Hokies' offense in 2003.

Jones appeared to be headed for a big day against James Madison last week until he was knocked out of the game early in the second quarter. Jones sprained both wrists on a play that led to an ejection of a James Madison player. The X-rays, however, proved to be negative, and Jones will be ready for Thursday night's game against A&M.

The game, which will be nationally televised on ESPN, will be Jones' first

chance to shine alone in the Hokies' backfield. This should concern the Aggie faithful, especially after watching Utah's Brandon Warfield run for 186 yards and three touchdowns two weeks ago at Kyle Field.

Making matters worse for A&M is the loss of its leading tackler and middle linebacker, Jarred Morris, for the season.

See Hokies on page 3B

'Horns Look to Regroup
Maybe the Chris Simms Era wasn't so bad after all.

Last week's shocking 38-28 loss to former conference foe Arkansas likely dashed Texas's national championship hopes for the umpteenth year in a row.

But this time around, fans can no longer fault Simms, the Longhorns' much-maligned quarterback the past four seasons, for losing "the big game."

Junior Chance Mock, Simms' replacement under center, threw for 264 yards and three touchdowns but had little help in the backfield. Running back Cedric Benson managed just 27 yards on 13 carries.

Pollsters were not kind to fifth-ranked Texas (1-1) after the loss, dropping them to No. 13 in The Associated Press and ESPN/USA Today Coaches' rankings. What's worse, the shocking home loss was the Longhorns' first defeat at Royal Memorial Stadium since October 1999, ending the nation's second-longest home win streak.

Texas looks to vent its frustration Saturday at Rice (0-2) and against Tulane (1-1) the following week before starting October against fellow Big 12 powers Kansas State and Oklahoma.

No Non-Conference Cupcakes
Playing in arguably the toughest conference in college football apparently

isn't enough for Oklahoma (3-0) and Colorado (2-1).

Facing the likes of Texas, Kansas State and Nebraska each season is daunting enough, but the Sooners and Buffaloes have also played respectable non-conference opponents and will face two more Saturday.

Having already disposed of Alabama and an underrated North Texas team, the No. 1 Sooners will host a dangerous

UCLA team Saturday. Despite dropping a 16-14 heartbreaker to Colorado on opening weekend, the Bruins (1-1) are legitimate contenders for the Pac-10 title.

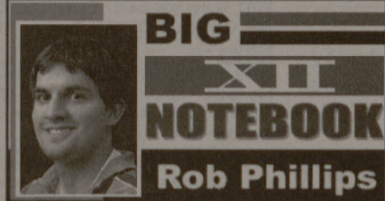
Oklahoma will also be without senior linebacker and Butkus Award candidate Lance Mitchell, who suffered a torn left ACL in the Sooners' 52-28 win over Fresno State last week.

Colorado (2-1) survived its first two games against rival Colorado State and UCLA before last week's 47-28 blowout loss to Pac-10 power Washington State.

The Buffaloes will face their toughest non-conference test yet when they take on No. 10 Florida St. (3-0) in Tallahassee Saturday.

Colorado quarterback Erik Greenberg will likely start in place of injured starter Joel Klatt (shoulder). Greenberg completed 19-of-30 passes for three touchdowns and two interceptions against

See Big XII on page 3B



BIG XII NOTEBOOK
Rob Phillips

ACCUTANE

Prescribed for Acne:

Have you or your loved one taken Accutane?

Side Effects:

- Birth Defects
- Inflammatory Bowel Disease
- Damage to Major Organs including:
 - Liver, Kidneys, Pancreas, Heart, & Eyes
 - Psychiatric Injuries & Diseases

Jack K. Robinson
Attorney at Law
Rockwall, Texas

www.jackrobinson.com
accutane@jackrobinson.com

Please Call for a free consultation

1-866-Know.Law

1-866-566-9529

Call Answered 24 hours a day

Some cases may be referred to other Law Firms.
Not Certified by Texas Board of Legal Specialization

File Your Claim Now!

LEARN TO FLY NOW

At United Flight Systems
THE EXPERIENCED FLIGHT SCHOOL



2001-2003 Best of the Brazos Valley Winner!

FAA Approved Flight School
Private - Advance Training
Aircraft Rental Available
VA Eligible Benefits
Pilot Shop

COLLEGE STATION
At Easterwood Airport
(979) 260-6322

www.unitedflight.com

AVIATION CAREER TRACKS

While working on your college degree accomplish your pilot's certificates at the same time. Upon finishing your college career, you can secure a job as an airline pilot.

All Students, Faculty and Staff are invited to attend a public meeting to hear a briefing on the approved increase in the University Authorized Tuition

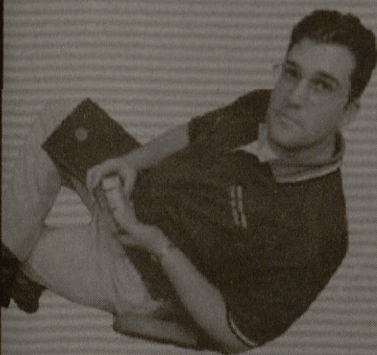
Monday, September 22, 2003
5:30 p.m.

Room 292
Memorial Student Center



Office of the President, Texas A&M University

IT'S OKAY TO BE A SUCK UP.



**HOST A COMPANY
HANG WITH A RECRUITER
GET A JOB**

INFORMATIONALS

September 22 @ 7:15 pm WCBA 160

OR

September 23 @ 7 pm WCBA 160

For more info: bsc.tamu.edu/cfair

BUSINESS STUDENT COUNCIL • CAREER FAIR 2003

MCAT

Beat the price increase!

The price of Kaplan's MCAT course will go up \$100 on October 1, 2003.

There's still space available in the MCAT classes offered at the College Station Kaplan Center 707 Texas, Ave., Suite 106-E

Find out how Kaplan's MCAT program can help you reach your goals. Call 1-800-KAP-TEST and speak with an educational adviser or visit kaptest.com/mcat today.

Lock in the current price—enroll today!

KAPLAN

1-800-KAP-TEST
kaptest.com/mcat

*MCAT is a registered trademark of the Association of American Medical Colleges.