

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Monday, October 6, 2003

## West Texas whippin'

### AP TOP 25

Rank	Team	Record	Pvs
1	OU (59)	5-0	1
2	Miami (1)	5-0	2
3	Ohio St. (5)	5-0	3
4	Virginia Tech	5-0	4
5	Florida St.	5-0	5
6	LSU	5-0	6
7	Arkansas	4-0	8
8	Georgia	4-1	11
9	USC	4-1	10
10	Nebraska	4-0	12
11	Texas	5-1	13
12	Wash. St.	5-1	14
13	Tennessee	4-1	7
14	Iowa	5-1	23
15	Pittsburgh	3-1	15
16	N. Illinois	5-0	17
17	Minnesota	6-0	21
18	Purdue	4-1	22
19	TCU	5-0	20
20	Michigan	4-2	9
21	Michigan St.	5-1	25
22	Kansas St.	4-2	16
23	Wisconsin	5-1	—
24	Oregon St.	5-1	—
25	Virginia	4-1	—

First place votes in parentheses

### Red-hot Symons, Tech route A&M

By True Brown  
THE BATTALION

LUBBOCK — Records fell Saturday night as quickly as Texas Tech University quarterback B.J. Symons could get his hands on the ball.

Symons and the Red Raiders dissected the Texas A&M defense for eight touchdowns and 505 passing yards as the Red Raiders cruised to a 59-28 win Saturday night.

Just three minutes into the fourth quarter, Symons set the Big 12 record for the most touchdown passes in a game when he connected with Wes Welker on a 16-yard strike.

Symons has now thrown for 2,467 yards in five games. By comparison, A&M's total offense has 1,930 yards in its five contests.

"Sometimes you just get out there and feel it," Symons said. "I got into that groove and felt like I couldn't be stopped and we felt like that as an offense. You get in that groove where everything you seem to do works out for you, and I felt like we had that mentality as a whole offense."

Meanwhile, A&M's defense had one of its worst performances in school history. Tech's 59 points is the most ever scored against A&M. The previous high came in a 57-28 loss to the University of Texas in 1977.

It was also the most points any Dennis Franchione-coached team has ever allowed. The 669 yards of offense by Tech (4-1, 1-0 Big 12) is the most ever allowed by A&M (2-3, 0-1), as is the Raiders' 605 passing yards.

"I don't think you ever come out and expect something like this, but they are an excellent team," Franchione said. "We tried to do a lot of different things, but for everything we tried they had an answer."

Tech has now won four straight games against the Aggies, including seven of the past nine. A&M has not won in Lubbock since 1993.

Saturday's score was the most lopsided Tech win since 1959 when the Red Raiders posted a 41-9 win over A&M in Bear Bryant's first game as A&M's coach.

The Aggies now have a 2-3 record for the first time since 1996, when they finished 6-6.

Tech took charge on its first possession with an eight play, 89-yard drive that took just 2:31. Symons had completions of 17, 14, 13 and 17 yards on the drive, which ended with a touchdown pass to Nehemiah Glover.

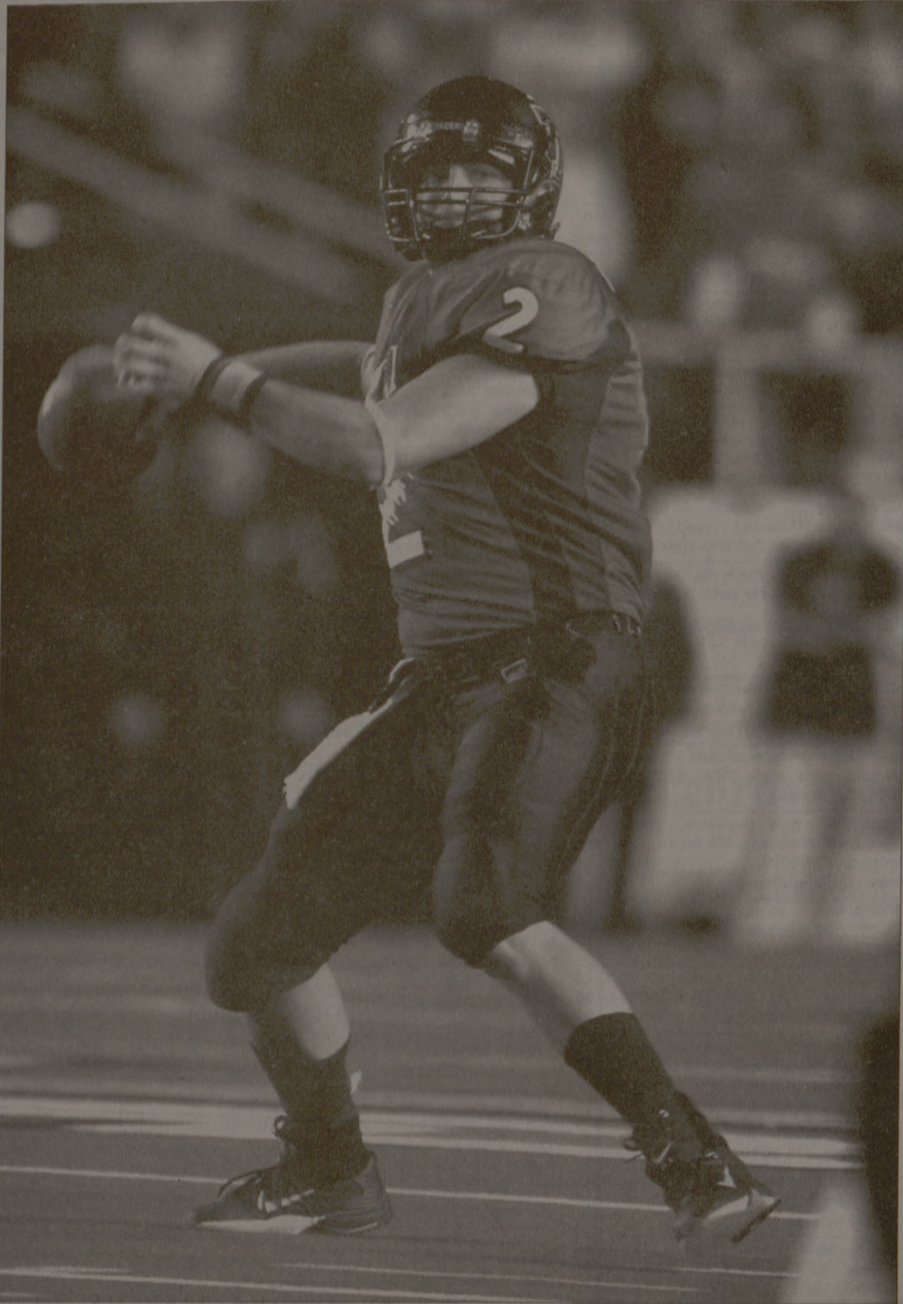
After an A&M three-and-out, Tech needed just six plays to score again. Symons connected with Glover again for a touchdown, this time on a 3rd-and-8 from A&M's 19-yard line.

A&M's secondary allowed the Red Raiders to convert every third-down during Tech's first two drives, and Symons was 9-of-10.

The Aggies never recovered. A&M's next possession ended with a missed field goal by Todd Pegram. One play before the missed field goal, the Aggies had a touchdown pass nullified after officials ruled that Reggie McNeal crossed the line of scrimmage before throwing to Terrence Thomas.

Tech added three more points after A&M's Jason Carter fumbled a punt on the Aggies' 18-yard line.

The Aggies cut Tech's lead to 10 points twice: once after a Courtney Lewis touchdown run made it 17-7 and again when a



PHOTOS BY JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

McNeal touchdown pass to Jamaar Taylor made it 24-14. Lewis finished with two touchdowns and 91 yards, and Taylor had three catches for 89 yards.

After the Taylor touchdown, however, Tech ran off 28 consecutive points, capitalized on a botched A&M fake punt and used its spread offense to near perfection.

The Red Raiders scored on their next five possessions, each one ending with a Symons touchdown pass.

"We attacked everything," Symons said. "(Running back) Taurean (Henderson) ran the ball when we ran the ball. We attacked deep, we attacked short and we attacked everything. Whatever they gave, we tried to make a routine play. Routine play after routine play adds up, and you can look at the result."

Five different Raiders scored touchdowns, as Symons and Co. moved the ball at will against A&M. In all, 13 receivers had catches. Welker led all receivers with 114 yards and two touchdowns. Glover had three touchdown catches and 97 yards.

Tech only punted twice during the game and did not fail to score a touchdown on a drive until the 4:56 mark of the fourth quarter after a failed fourth down conversion attempt.

"B.J. (Symons) was making good decisions," said Tech coach Mike Leach. "Our receivers are doing a great job, and our offensive line in particular is playing really well. The other thing was we had some really big plays on the other two sides of the ball, and we played at a high level on all three cylinders."

### Aggies find themselves at crossroads

Every time the Red Raider offense took the field Saturday night, the SBC Jones Stadium jumbotron crew tried to warn the Aggie defense of the impending "Air Raid," complete with sirens and bombers.

On the field, the Aggie defense was as defenseless as the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor. Texas Tech University quarterback B.J. Symons led the barrage against the Aggies with 505 yards through the air and a Big 12-record eight touchdowns.

It was embarrassing to watch an Aggie defense that tried several different defensive packages to no avail.

"It's frustrating anytime you get on the field and you can't get yourself off of it," said A&M defensive coordinator Carl Torbush. "We need to remember what happened to us. That's how you build a foundation. You've got to go through some tough times, and obviously this is some tough times."

These aren't just tough times, this is the toughest time the famed Wrecking Crew, which has failed to live up to the name this season, has faced in more than a decade.

When the season began, no one expected the Oct. 11 Baylor game to be much more than a speed bump for the Aggies. But after Baylor's 42-30 win over Colorado that brought down the goalposts in Waco Saturday, the A&M-Baylor game has turned out to have much more significance for the Aggies who desperately need a win.

After losing three straight games, including the embarrassing throttling by Tech on national television, the Aggies have to decide this week where they go from here.

"We're going to really find out what we're made of," said A&M safety Jaxson Appel as Raider fans screamed "Hey Aggies, when are you going to beat Tech?" pouring salt into the Aggies' wounds.

"We can either come back out and let this eat us up and have a terrible rest of the season, or we can come back next week and have a good game against Baylor, who of course

See Gut check on page 9



DALLAS SHIPP

### ESPN COACHES POLL

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3	Ohio State	5-0	3
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13	Minnesota	6-0	16
14	Tennessee	4-1	7
15	Iowa	5-1	19
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25	Oregon St.	5-1	—

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### QUOTABLE

"He was everything we expected. He was very composed back there."

- A&M coach Dennis Franchione on Tech quarterback B.J. Symons

"This will be a big test for our team leadership wise. It will be interesting to see how we bounce back from this one."

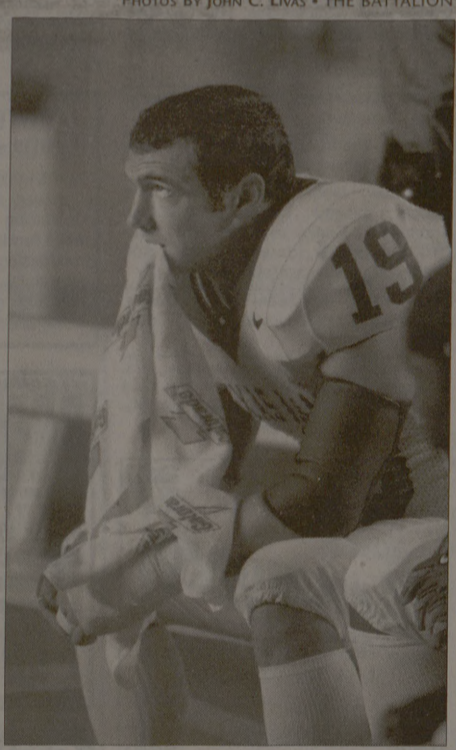
- Franchione on Saturday's game against Baylor

"We executed flawlessly. We never lost focus on what our job was, and we went out and attacked the defense and took what they had to give us."

- Symons on Tech's offensive performance

"Every play worked tonight. We weren't foolproof, but a lot of credit goes to B.J. Symons."

- Tech coach Mike Leach



Top: Texas Tech quarterback B.J. Symons threw for 505 yards and a Big 12 record eight touchdowns Saturday against Texas A&M. Bottom: A&M safety Jaxson Appel watches from the sideline late in the game during Tech's 59-28 win. Appel led the Aggies with seven tackles.

### Ags lose to K-State



Texas A&M's Jayna Baker goes for a kill during the Aggies' loss to Kansas State on Saturday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The No. 12 Wildcats posted a 3-1 win against the No. 22 Aggies.

### Aggies tie Jayhawks, Cowgirls

Staff & Wire  
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Kristen Strutz scored in the 25th minute, but the Aggies could not tally again on Sunday, as the No. 3 A&M soccer team and Kansas played to a 1-1 tie in front of 389 fans at SuperTarget field.

The tie was the second of the weekend for the Aggies.

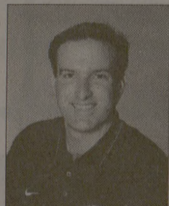
They move to 8-1-2 overall and 1-0-2 in Big 12 Conference play. A&M has not lost in its last 20 regular-season Big 12 matches.

Kansas is now 9-3-1 overall and 1-2-1 in Big 12 play.

"This result shows just how hard it is to get a win on the road in our conference," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "Going into a hostile environment and playing against a well-coached team is never easy, but the difficulty is magnified when you play in a great conference like the Big 12."

Strutz put the Aggies on top 24:31 into the match when she scored her sixth goal of the sea-

son. Laura Probst played the ball from the left flank to Strutz, who one-timed a volley from the top of the 6-yard box to beat Kansas goalkeeper Meghan Miller.



GUERRIERI

Early in the second period, Emma Smith barely missed the Aggies a two-goal lead when her rocket shot from the top of the 18 yard box deflected off the crossbar and out of play.

Kansas' Monica Brothers scored the equalizer in the 57th minute with her second goal of the season. Rachel Gilfillan's pass was perfectly slotted between two A&M defenders to give Brothers a one-on-one situation with Aggie goalkeeper Kati Jo Spisak.

Kansas was forced to play with only 10 players after Brothers was immediately red-carded for striking in the 92nd minute.

A&M outshot the Jayhawks 4-0 in the two overtime periods but

could not get the golden goal and the win.

"We are a little beat up right now," Guerrieri said. "We are really looking forward to being at home for a few games."

On Friday against Oklahoma State, scoring chances were at a premium in the first half as there were only 11 shots taken in the first 45 minutes, with the Aggies taking seven of them. Coming into the match the two teams were averaging 42.2 shots per contest.

The Aggies had the best scoring opportunity of the first half in the 25th minute of play. Cristina Echavarry forced OSU goalkeeper Kathrin Lehmann to make a sprawling save on a header off a cross from the left foot of Laura Probst.

Spisak stopped seven OSU shots, earning her fifth shutout of the season, while Lehmann turned back five A&M tries. Lehman has allowed just one goal in 756 minutes between the pipes.

A&M will begin a three-game homestand when it plays Texas Tech University on Friday. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### El Dorry ends ITA tournament run

Texas A&M senior Khaled El Dorry fell in the round of 32 in prequalifying of the Icy Hot/ITA All-American Championships Sunday at the Champions Club in Tennessee.

El Dorry, from Cairo, Egypt, ended his run after falling to Florida's Martin Stiegwardt in straight sets, 6-4, 7-5. El Dorry was a No. 1 seed and ranked No. 100 nationally, while Stiegwardt was a No. 17 seed in the 256-player draw.

El Dorry needed to beat Stiegwardt and an opponent in the round of 64 in order to advance to the 64-player qualifying round.

Beginning Thursday, A&M All-Americans Lester Cook and Ante Matijevic will start play in the 64-player main draw singles and 32-team doubles draw. Four players from the qualifying round will advance to the main draw.

The tournament is the first of three national championship events at the Division I level.