

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Monday, October 20, 2003

Crazy Eights

Nebraska cashes in on eight A&M turnovers in 48-12 win

By Dallas Shipp
THE BATTALION

chance to win the game." The turnovers were deadly for an Aggie offense that started the game with an eight-play, 55-yard drive. A&M looked poised to continue the offensive assault that started against Baylor a week ago.

But as the turnovers began to pile up, so did the Nebraska side of the scoreboard. The Huskers didn't waste any extra opportunities provided by the Aggies.

Nebraska quarterback Jammal Lord led the Huskers with 109 yards on the ground and two touchdowns. It was Lord's third 100-yard rushing performance this season and the eighth of his career.

"Jammal has been through a lot in his career and it was great to see him really get some things done in a manner that I think is extremely good," said Nebraska coach Frank Solich.

The Huskers racked up 333 yards on the ground, just four yards shy of their season high 337 yards against Penn State. With the win, Nebraska is 194-7 in the last 30 years when rushing for 300 yards or more in a game, and 13-2 under Solich.

Nebraska safety Josh Bullocks picked off his seventh pass of the season Saturday, tying a school record. His seven interceptions is the best in the nation, averaging one pick per game so far this season.

The lone bright spot for the Aggie offense was the play of A-back Jason Carter, who was predicted to be a key contributor for the Aggies this year.

Until Saturday, Carter had not lived up to his expectations and was removed from punt returner after key fumbles earlier this season.

But as the fourth quarter game was winding down, Carter returned a kickoff 89 yards for a touchdown. It was the first kickoff returned for a touchdown by the Aggies since 1997, when Stu Parker scored on a 78-yarder against Iowa State.

The Aggie defense held up well against the Huskers despite giving up more than 300 yards rushing.

Nebraska scored six of its seven touchdowns on drives that began in Aggie territory. The other touchdown came on a drive



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal juggles the ball during Nebraska's 48-12 win Saturday. McNeal accounted for five of A&M's turnovers: three interceptions and two fumbles.

that started on their own 49-yard line.

A&M safety Jaxson Appel refused to make that an excuse for the 48 Husker points.

"It doesn't matter how far they have to go, the result is the same," Appel said. "They did what we thought we had to

stop. We felt prepared coming in, we just didn't execute well enough."

Appel finished the game with a team-high nine tackles.

The Aggies will look to regroup Saturday against No. 18 Oklahoma State at Kyle Field at 2:30 p.m.

LINCOLN, Neb. — It was like Christmas in Nebraska Saturday. Everyone was wearing red and the gifts just kept on coming for the Cornhuskers, who capitalized on eight Texas A&M turnovers on their way to a 48-12 win at Memorial Stadium.

No. 18 Nebraska scored 35 points off Aggie turnovers, including 14 points in the first quarter that seemed to take the life out of an A&M offense that was otherwise off to a good start.

"We turned the ball over too many times today," said A&M coach Dennis Franchione. "It's not like this offense to turn the ball over as many times as we did. It was like a snowball effect out there."

A&M quarterback Reggie McNeal had the worst game of his career, leading the turnover parade with three interceptions — one returned for a touchdown by Nebraska linebacker Barrett Ruud — and two fumbles for the Aggies.

"We just didn't execute today," McNeal said. "That's just part of the game, nothing major. It just happens."

Prior to Saturday, McNeal had never thrown more than one interception in a game. But he wasn't the only Aggie playing Santa Claus Saturday.

Junior quarterback Dustin Long threw two interceptions, one of which was returned for a touchdown, and A&M running back Derek Farmer coughed up a fumble as well.

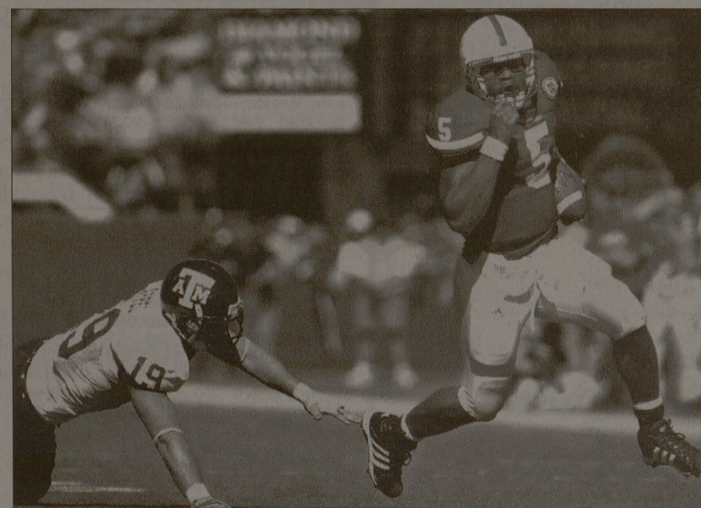
Two of the Aggies' eight turnovers came inside the red zone, killing two potential scoring opportunities for the Aggies.

McNeal fumbled on the Nebraska 21-yard line in the second quarter after a five-play, 76-yard drive to the Nebraska 41-yard line for the Aggies.

Farmer fumbled on the Cornhusker 10-yard line late in the third quarter to kill a three-play 40-yard drive.

"Everything you can't do to win a game, we did today," said A&M senior offensive lineman Alan Reuber. "Offensively we didn't give our team a

Aggies still haven't broken through in must-have situations on road



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Nebraska quarterback Jammal Lord races past A&M safety Jaxson Appel on one of his two rushing touchdowns Saturday. Lord finished with 109 yards.

LINCOLN, Neb. — If saying the road has been unfriendly to the Texas A&M football team is an understatement, then saying the Aggies have given themselves a fair chance to win any of their three road games is an overstatement.

It has been early in games on the road, a place where starting out strong to quiet an unfriendly crowd comes at a premium, that A&M has shown some of its worst qualities. Now 0-3 away from Kyle Field, A&M has started each game by doing exactly what a team can't do if it expects to win.



TRUE BROWN

Its latest misery came in the form of spotting the University of Nebraska 14 first-quarter points off of two Reggie McNeal interceptions. The two touchdowns provided the Cornhuskers with a 20-3 cushion that proved far too deep for the Aggies to overcome.

The interceptions, which came within 3:02 of each other, both happened inside A&M's 35-yard line and provided the Huskers exactly what they needed to whip the crowd of 77,604 into a frenzy.

So far this season, A&M has been outscored 142-59 on the road.

A&M offensive tackle Alan Reuber said after the game he didn't think being on the road played an active part in A&M's problems.

"I don't think it's a road situation because the noise didn't really affect us today," Reuber said. "We communicated well. That had affected us in earlier ballgames at Virginia Tech, but we learned from that game and played well through the noise. This is just an internal thing that we need to fix."

The stats, however, sing a different tune. A&M has not been able to respond in early must-have situations on the road.

See Road on page 9

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Glenn's three TDs helps Cowboys upend Lions

DETROIT (AP) — Terry Glenn did more than enough by himself to beat the Detroit Lions.

Glenn caught three first-half touchdowns, the first two in spectacular fashion, as the Dallas Cowboys beat Detroit 38-7 and matched their win total from each of the previous three seasons.

Under new coach Bill Parcells, the Cowboys (5-1) have won five straight games for the first time since 1994 and are off to their best start since winning eight of nine in 1995. Dallas has won three road games this season, one more than the two previous years combined.

The Cowboys, the only team to lose twice to Detroit the past two-plus seasons, beat the Lions for the first time since 1992.

The Lions (1-5), under first-year coach Steve Mariucci, are not faring much better than they did the past two years with Marty Mornhinweg, who was fired with a 5-27 record. Last year, the Lions won two of the first six games before finishing 3-13.

Two decisions Parcells has made in his first season with the Cowboys — acquiring Glenn and naming Quincy Carter his starter — paid off again Sunday.



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's Laura Probst dribbles past Iowa State University's Kelly Burke during the Aggies 2-0 win Friday.

AP TOP 25

Rank	Record	Pvs
1. OU (62)	7-0	1
2. Miami (3)	7-0	2
3. Virginia Tech	6-0	3
4. Georgia	6-1	4
5. Southern Cal	6-1	5
6. Florida St.	6-1	7
6. Washington St.	6-1	6
8. Ohio St.	6-1	8
9. LSU	6-1	10
10. Purdue	6-1	13
11. Michigan St.	7-1	15
12. N. Illinois	7-0	12
13. Michigan	6-2	17
14. Nebraska	6-1	18
15. TCU	7-0	16
16. Iowa	5-2	9
17. Auburn	5-2	19
18. Okla. State	6-1	23
19. Texas	5-2	20
20. Wisconsin	6-2	14
21. Arkansas	4-2	11
22. Tennessee	4-2	21
23. Bowling Grn	6-1	—
24. Utah	6-1	—
25. Florida	5-3	—

(First place votes in parentheses)

ESPN COACHES POLL

Rank	Record	Pvs
1. OU (57)	7-0	1
2. Miami (6)	7-0	2
3. Virginia Tech	6-0	3
4. USC	6-1	4
5. Georgia	6-1	5
6. Washington St.	6-1	6
7. Florida State	6-1	7
8. Ohio State	6-1	8
9. LSU	6-1	10
10. Purdue	6-1	15
11. Nebraska	6-1	14
12. Mich. State	7-1	18
13. TCU	7-0	13
14. N. Illinois	7-0	16
15. Michigan	6-2	17
16. Iowa	5-2	9
17. Wisconsin	6-2	12
18. Texas	5-2	20
19. Okla. State	6-1	24
20. Arkansas	4-2	11
21. Auburn	5-2	25
22. Tennessee	4-2	22
23. Utah	6-1	—
24. Minnesota	6-2	19
25. Florida	5-3	—

(As voted on by 63 Division I-A coaches)

QUOTABLE

"It almost felt like we were playing with a wet ball out there."

- A&M coach Dennis Franchione

"It might have been our most complete game in terms of what we were able to get done offensively, defensively and on special teams."

- Nebraska coach Frank Solich

"The offensive linemen got their blocks and I was able to make a couple of cuts and it was daylight."

- Nebraska quarterback Jammal Lord

"The fact is we didn't come out and play. We don't play consistent enough to win enough football games. I'm not going to say (the team's youth) is an excuse by any means."

- A&M free safety Jaxson Appel

Aggies collapse in second half, Tigers win

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

After a good second half performance in its 2-0 victory over Iowa State, it was the second half that proved to be the demise of the Texas A&M women's soccer team on Sunday. The Aggies suffered their first loss in 23 Big 12 regular season games by falling at Missouri 5-4 in overtime.

After taking a 4-1 lead into halftime, the No. 4 Aggies gave up three goals in the second half and one in overtime as the Tigers (7-8-1, 1-4-1 Big 12) won their first Big 12 contest this season.

Missouri junior forward Melissa Peabody scored the game winner 4:26 into overtime. Peabody scored three goals in the match, and the five Tiger goals matched the previous season total of goals allowed by the Aggies (11-2-2, 4-1-2).

The scoring began in the ninth minute as Aggie junior defender Amanda Burke made good on a penalty kick after junior forward Emma Smith was dragged down inside the penalty area.

Just 24 seconds later, Tiger freshman midfielder Elyse Nikonchuck scored the equalizer and erased the Aggies' chances for a fourth straight shutout.

Smith answered in the 21st minute as she knocked in a header off a serve from freshman defender Annie Burnett. Freshman forward Kat

Krambeer then scored two consecutive goals in the 28th and 41st minutes of the match.

The second half quickly became the Melissa Peabody show as the Missouri junior scored just six minutes into the second half. Peabody's goal marked the first time the Aggies have given up more than one goal in a match all season.

Nikonchuck added her second goal of the match with just 12 minutes remaining to pull the Tigers within a goal, and Peabody tied the score at four.

The loss comes on the heels of an impressive 2-0 victory over Iowa State at the Aggie Soccer Complex in which the Aggies kept possession in the Cyclone defensive zone for almost the entire match.

"I thought our first 20 minutes (against Iowa State) were some of the best that I've seen all year," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "It's awful hard for them to score when they're constantly pinned back against their goal line."

The loss leaves the Aggies in third place as they head into a weekend where they face No. 16 Nebraska and No. 12 Colorado, the two teams ahead of them in the Big 12 standings, at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

To successfully defend their Big 12 Championship, the Aggies must beat not only both Nebraska and Colorado, but also arch-rival Texas in Austin in the last match of the regular season.

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