

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Embarrassed

Sooners crush Aggies, 77-0

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

Whether on the ground or through the air, the University of Oklahoma Sooners couldn't be stopped as they took control of the game early and never let up in a 77-0 rout of Texas A&M.

The No. 1 Sooners exorcised some demons by taking care of the team that knocked them out of national title contention a season ago, increasing their NCAA-leading win streak to 12 games.

"We came in believing that we could play pretty well," said Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops. "We did this against a team that ripped us up a year ago."

A&M (4-6, 2-4 Big 12) took a chance on the first play from scrimmage when sophomore quarterback Reggie McNeal decided to go deep on a play-action pass to junior wide receiver Terence Murphy. With the Sooner crowd holding its collective breath and having nightmares of A&M's improbable victory over OU a year ago, the pass fell out of reach of the wide-open Murphy.

After an A&M punt, OU senior quarterback Jason White quickly reassured the home crowd, orchestrating a touchdown drive that ended in a 40-yard touchdown pass to junior receiver Mark Clayton.

The drive proved the Aggies were overmatched.

"At the time I thought (the Texas Tech game) would be the worst we'd see all year," said senior offensive lineman Alan Reuber. "I was wrong."

White went on to complete 16 of 18 passes for 263 yards and set a new Oklahoma single-game record with five touchdowns. And that was just in the first half.

Of all the Heisman contenders the Aggies have faced, from Pittsburgh's Larry Fitzgerald to Virginia Tech's Kevin Jones, White showed he may be the best. He dominated the Aggie defense, completing passes at will.

"I just know that if we come out and



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

University of Oklahoma running back **Donta Hickson** runs past Texas A&M linebacker **Scott Stickane** for some of his 131 yards Saturday. The No. 1 Sooners piled up 639 offensive yards and 11 touchdowns against the Aggies, including seven in the first half.

play like we know how, we'll be pretty good," Clayton said. "Jason White" was right on the money. The last couple weeks we've had some drops, making him look bad. He was just Jason."

Clayton was White's favorite target of the day as he caught seven passes for 166 yards and three touchdowns in the first half.

Clayton has clearly been overshadowed this season by White, but he may be one of the best receivers in the Big 12, joining the likes of Oklahoma State's Rashaun Woods and Texas' Roy Williams.

"Nobody in the country makes more big plays than Mark Clayton," Stoops said.

The second half started off just like the first ended, but with a new Sooner doing all the damage. Sophomore Paul Thompson took over for White at the helm of the Sooner offense and quickly put more points on the board. He ran 29 yards for a touchdown just 1:13 into the second half to put Oklahoma (10-0, 6-0) up, 56-0.

Thompson went on to complete two of three pass attempts for 34 yards. He also gained 79 yards on six carries on the ground, finding the end zone for two

touchdowns.

"(Thompson) gives a different dimension," Stoops said. "We have a different set and group of plays that we can go to (with Thompson). He can execute all the (plays) Jason does, but he gives you more to go to when he's in there."

If the score doesn't say it enough, the Aggies were manhandled in every aspect of the game. The Aggies gained just 54 yards and converted only three first downs on the afternoon.

When it seemed like a hole might

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AP TOP 25

	Record	Pvs
1. OU (65)	10-0	1
2. USC	8-1	2
3. LSU	8-1	4
4. Ohio St.	9-1	7
5. Michigan	8-2	8
6. Texas	8-2	11
7. Georgia	7-2	9
8. Washington St.	8-2	12
9. Tennessee	7-2	18
10. TCU	9-0	13
11. Purdue	8-2	16
12. Virginia Tech	7-2	5
13. Florida St.	8-2	3
14. Miami	7-2	6
15. Florida	7-3	17
16. Pittsburgh	7-2	25
17. Mississippi	8-2	20
18. Nebraska	8-2	19
19. Minnesota	9-2	24
20. Iowa	7-3	10
21. Michigan St.	7-3	14
21. N. Illinois	9-1	23
23. Miami (Ohio)	8-1	—
24. Boise St.	8-1	—
25. Bowling Green	7-2	15

(First place votes in parentheses)

ESPN COACHES POLL

	Record	Pvs
1. OU (63)	10-0	1
2. USC	8-1	2
3. LSU	8-1	4
4. Ohio State	9-1	6
5. Michigan	8-2	8
6. Georgia	7-2	9
7. Texas	8-2	11
8. Wash. State	8-2	13
9. TCU	9-0	12
10. Purdue	8-2	14
11. Florida State	8-2	3
12. Virginia Tech	7-2	5
13. Tennessee	7-2	17
14. Miami	7-2	7
15. Nebraska	8-2	16
16. Pittsburgh	7-2	21
17. Minnesota	9-2	18
18. Florida	7-3	19
19. Mississippi	8-2	24
20. Iowa	7-3	10
21. N. Illinois	9-1	23
22. Mich. State	7-3	15
23. Boise State	8-1	—
24. Miami (Ohio)	8-1	—
25. Kansas State	8-3	—

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

BIG 12 STANDINGS

	conf	all
SOUTH		
OU	6-0	10-0
Texas	5-1	8-2
Texas Tech	4-2	7-3
OSU	3-3	7-3
Texas A&M	2-4	4-6
Baylor	1-5	3-7
NORTH		
Nebraska	4-2	8-2
Kansas State	4-2	8-3
Missouri	2-3	6-3
Kansas	2-4	5-5
Colorado	2-4	4-6
Iowa State	0-5	2-7

OTHER SCORES

Big 12
Texas 55, OSU 16
Colorado 21, Missouri 16
Texas Tech 62, Baylor 14
Nebraska 24, Kansas 3
Kansas St. 45, Iowa St. 0

Others
Minnesota 37, Wisconsin 34
Notre Dame 27, Navy 24
Ohio St. 33, Michigan St. 23
Purdue 27, Iowa 14
Florida 35, Vanderbilt 17
Tennessee 10, Miami 6

OU's performance dominating

Dominance. It's the only word that comes to mind when talking about Oklahoma football. This year's Sooner team could easily be one of the best in college football history, putting them in the same class as 1993 Florida State, the Nebraska teams under Tom Osborne, and Bear Bryant's Alabama squads.

Not only in their destruction of Texas A&M on Saturday, but throughout the entire 2003 season, the Sooners have been utterly dominant. In six of their 10 games this season the Sooners have scored more than 50 points. They've made top 25 opponents look like middle school teams.

And their schedule isn't a patSY either. The Big 12 Conference is arguably the toughest conference in all of college football, and the Sooners are eating it up like Rip Van Winkle waking from his slumber.

They're simply the best.

"Right now we have excitement and



TROY MILLER

momentum behind us," said Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops. "I like the way these guys play."

So where does this put the Aggies?

After suffering their worst defeat in history — the previous record deficit was 48 points to Texas in 1898 — and giving up the most points ever, the Aggies are in a world of hurt. They just received a course in Beatings 101, and now they know exactly how far behind they have gotten.

Please don't blame A&M coach Dennis Franchione and the new coaching staff either. There isn't much for them to do because the talent of this A&M team is exactly what was exposed in Norman: bare.

"I don't think you ever think it's going to be like this," Franchione said. "You prepare to deal with this but you don't ever

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SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M defensive back **Ronald Jones** stays on the ground after a play against the University of Oklahoma on Saturday. A&M's defense forced OU to punt just once.

Volleyball holds off Sooners in four

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

At least someone scored on Oklahoma Saturday.

Just a couple of hours after the regionally televised humiliation of the Texas A&M football team was complete, the Aggie volleyball team posted a 3-1 win over the University of Oklahoma.

Before Saturday, OU had never managed to sneak a single game away from the Aggies in College Station, and had not won a game against the Aggies since the inaugural year of the Big 12 in 1996.

"(The Sooners) were out for blood tonight," said A&M coach Larue Corbelli. "They really wanted this win and it would've been huge for their program, and I think it would have been devastating for ours, and I think the girls held up their own composure very well."

Fortunately, the No. 21 Aggies (18-6, 10-4 Big 12) endured a strong push by the highly motivated Sooners (11-15, 3-11), to maintain their position in the top three in the Big 12.

However, it was not quite as easy as the Aggies hoped.

A&M held OU to a .107 hitting percentage and just 17 points in the first game. Junior Melissa Munsch led the Aggies with seven kills on seven attempts. Munsch finished the match with 17 kills, leaving her just 15 shy of 1,000 in her Aggie career.

However, OU rallied in the second game. The Sooners came out strong behind the play of Christina Maynes, who garnered seven kills in the game. She was complimented by Joanna Schmitt, who posted five kills to go with five digs in the second frame. The combination of Maynes and Schmitt led the Sooners throughout the night, and the duo combined for 114 attempts, more than the rest of the Sooner club combined.

In that second game, the Sooners were able to thwart the Aggies' game point at 29-28, and score three consecutive points, breaking the 43-game losing streak to the Aggies.

"I thought the team really prepared well for game one, the first 30 minutes we were in a pretty good rhythm. In game two they

made some adjustments, and we were having to make a lot of adjustments on defense that made it hard for us to transition quick," Corbelli said.

After a disappointing second game, the Aggies regrouped for another efficient win in game three, putting away the Sooners 30-18.

The Sooners were able to push the Aggies to the brink again in game four, breaking match point multiple times before finally succumbing after a hitting error to give the Aggies the 34-32 win.

"It was a little frustrating to start off a little slow after a great game one and awesome game three," said A&M senior middle blocker Carol Price. "But we pulled it out and we knew we had to get out of our funk and I think the persistence paid off in game four and it showed how bad we wanted it."

The win gives the Aggies some breathing room in the standings, as they push their lead to one and a half games over Missouri, which fell to second-place Nebraska on Friday.

"We are the team everyone is after," Corbelli said. "A top three spot in this conference is pretty good. Teams are not going to come in and lay down for us and let us beat up on them."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Aggies take six matches from TCU

Members of Texas A&M's men's tennis team won six of seven singles matches over TCU Sunday at the Texas A&M Invitational at the Mitchell Tennis Center.

Highlighted by freshman Brett Joelson's straight sets win over TCU's Jacopo Tezza, 6-4, 7-6 (4), the Aggies wrapped the weekend team-like tournament with wins over Arizona and TCU.

A&M won only one of nine singles and doubles matches against LSU on Saturday while playing the event without two of its top players in Lester Cook and Ante Matijevic, who were competing at the ITA National Intercollegiate Indoor Championships.

Junior Zack Malmgren got the Aggies' day started with a win over TCU's Craig Stopa, 6-0, 6-3. Malmgren won the first eight games of the match. Doubles matches were not

contested. The event concludes the fall portion of the Aggies' schedule. The dual match portion of the season is slated to begin in January.

Roland, Vieira fall in ITA Nationals

Texas A&M's Jessica Roland and Helga Vieira faced tough competition this weekend at the ITA National Indoor Championships played at the University of Michigan Varsity Tennis Center.

The tandem, which became A&M's first automatic qualifier in women's singles or doubles in the history of the elite event by winning the ITA Southwest Regional in Fort Worth last month, was eliminated in the consolation quarterfinals late Friday after falling to 29th-ranked Maria Brito and Julie Coin of Clemson, 8-5.

Roland and Vieira had fallen to Sandy Lukowski and Maja Kovacek of New Mexico, 8-5, in the first round of the 16-team field earlier in the day.