



TAILGATING WITH THE SPIRIT

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THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

“Week 3 – Bringing the Fire to Kyle”



first ever meeting between the two schools in football; yes this is a money game for UAB (\$700,000), but the Aggies better not think the Blazers are just going to come to College Station and hand them a victory.

OVERVIEW

The University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB) Blazers will invade Kyle Field this Saturday night as the Texas A&M Aggies look to make it a perfect 3-0 start to the 2009 season. The Aggies are coming off a 38-30 victory over Utah State. UAB (1-2) on the other hand will try to turn its season around after losing to Troy last week 27-14. This will be the

THE MATCH-UP

Utah State @ Texas A&M

Date: 09/26/2009

Time: 6:00 pm

Game Day Morsels:

- University of Alabama-Birmingham (UAB): The UAB Blazers are coming off a 27-14 loss to Troy. The Blazers are relying on senior quarterback Joe Webb to carry them to a winning season. Webb, the 6-4, 220-pound quarterback, who moves like a tailback is the face of the UAB football program. Webb had a breakout season in 2008; he threw for 2,367 yards, ran for 1,021 more, and accounted for 21 touchdowns. Wide receiver Frantrell Forrest came out of nowhere in 2008 to lead the team with 536 receiving yards as a freshman and Mario Wright is an experienced wide-out. Add tight



end Jeffery Anderson to the mix and Webb has plenty of targets. The entire two-deep from last year is back and that experience should have the Blazers offense set up to be one of the best in Conference USA. The defense returns a ton of players too, but the three not returning were last year's top three tacklers. This was a unit that was outplayed most of the time in 2008. The secondary is the biggest concern since the Blazers were 108th in pass defense last year. Junior DE Bryant Turner is UAB's impact player on defense. Turner has two years of experience and has gradually evolved into one of Conference USA's better pure pass rushers. A technically-sound 6-2, 260-pounder, he'll use his leverage to get underneath the blocks of tackles and drive them back toward the pocket.

- Texas A&M: The Texas A&M Aggies are coming off a 38-30 victory over Utah State. QB Jarrod Johnson completed 21 of 41 passes for 322 yards. True freshman WR Uzoma Nwachukwu scored 4 touchdowns breaking the schools record for touchdowns scored in a game by a freshman. On defense the Aggies continued to put pressure on the quarterback; Von Miller had three sacks and currently holds the highest mark in the nation of sacks per game. All in all A&M totaled five sacks on the night with nine tackles for loss and two forced fumbles. All five sacks came from the defensive line. The game wasn't all good for the Aggies with the biggest blow coming from injuries. The Aggies lost sophomore receiver Jeff Fuller and freshman running back Christine Michael to leg injuries and senior OT Lee Grimes to a rib injury. Latest reports have Fuller missing 4-6 weeks, Michael likely making his return this week after a calf sprain and Grimes is questionable for this week's game against UAB. Additionally, for the second straight game the Aggies continue to have problems with penalties. The Aggies had 16 penalties for 147 yards against Utah State with the majority against the offensive line where the Aggies had nine penalties, eight being false starts.
- The Game: Aggie fans will get a chance to see what kind of coaching staff they have this Saturday. Can the Ags correct the numerous penalties they continue to have? Will they come out and have another slow start? Will they ever use that defense they





changed to at the end of the Utah State game that made the game to close for the Aggie faithful? This is a good coaching staff and you should see a marked improvement in these areas. The Aggies offense even with a subpar offensive line and a sidelined Jeff Fuller has too much fire power for UABs overmatched defense to handle. If the Aggies control the penalties they should score at will. On the defensive side of the ball the Aggies have a tough test in

containing QB Joe Webb. Athletic QBs seem to be the Aggies kryptonite and that's exactly what they will see this week. The Aggies defense will be able to stop UAB just enough to pull this one out.

Prediction: UAB- 27 A&M- 38

TRIVIA

How do you pronounce Uzoma Nwachukwu?

SCHEDULE

Estimated Arrival Time: 8:00 am 9/26/09

Food Served: 2:30 pm 9/26/09

Estimated Departure Time: 11:00 pm 9/26/09

MENU

- Sack Joe Webber all day long sausage on a bun



- Cool the Blazers Coleslaw



LOCATION

The Spirit will be in the horseshoe in front of Kleberg every game-day Saturday morning.

