

Marc Black still ready, willing and able

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

A little lighter, somewhat more experienced, and very eager to win is a good description of Aggie fullback Marc Black.

At 6-3, Black is down to 203 pounds after the summer, a weight which pleases Gene Stallings.

"Marc is in the best physical condition since he came to A&M,"

the coach says.

Black has a number of reasons for losing the seven pounds he dropped since last year, when he carried 34 times for 123 yards and an average gain of 3.8 yards.

"I've got a bad knee," he explained, "and any weight it does not have to support is going to help. I can cut better than before. Besides, I needed to be in real good shape for fall drills, and the weight loss came easily."

Like most of his teammates, Black has definite ideas about what will improve the team this year and what is being done differently this season.

"For one thing, the offensive line is using different techniques," he said. "The concern last year was on how a block was made and how the lineman fired out. This year the emphasis is on blocking the defensive man out of the play, without worrying about how it's done."

"Another thing that will help us is our experience and depth," Black continued. "A lot of teams have a good first unit, but if someone gets hurt, you can't afford to let everything fall to pieces."

In regard to the simplified offense, Marc said that he was happy with the change.

"The offense we're using now is easy to understand and easy to run," he said. "Last year, it

was so complicated that all our thought went into what we were supposed to do. Now, the emphasis is on repetition. This way, I can work on my quickness and concentrate on not fumbling the ball."

A two-sport man, Black has participated in track since com-

ing to A&M. In fact, he holds the school record in the javelin, and he placed third in the conference meet last spring.

"I like to win, that's why I went out for track," he explained. "As I gained more experience in football, I missed less in spring training. It was really worth it to be on the track team."

Marc is optimistic about the changing of Brad Dusek to safety and Todd Christopher to offensive guard.

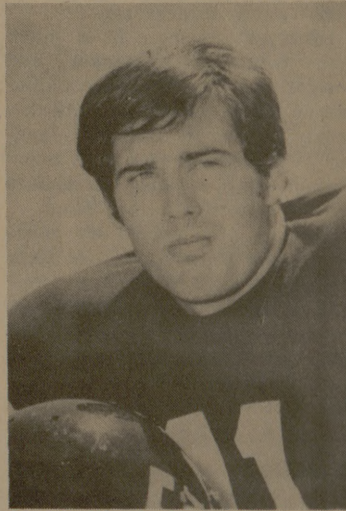
"I think Brad will do a good job at safety," he said. "He's a tremendous natural athlete. I am glad to see Todd in the offensive line, now. He's very quick and gets downfield well."

Black is presently involved in a hot battle for the starting position with Doug Neill, last year's leading ground gainer.

"The competition is good for us," he said. "We can't afford to make mistakes, and that brings out the best in both of us."

After going 2-9 last year and 3-7 the year before that, Marc is one of many Aggies hungry to win this time around.

"All I'll say is that I'm really looking forward to the season."



Marc Black

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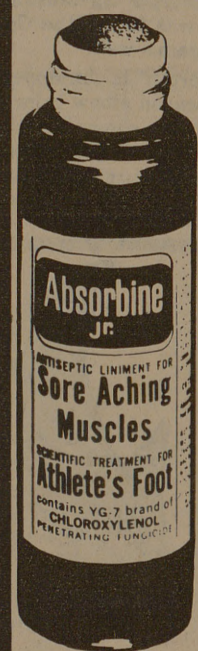


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