



A TCU RUNNER finds an all too familiar problem as he is tackled in last year's game by then-freshman sensation Ed Simonini.

A&M's Supersoph

Simonini--Interesting Flip Side

By BARRY DONNELLY
To flip a great record over and hear another great side is a wonderful thing. The flip side of Ed Simonini is just as great an experience.

By this time there have been thousands of words written about the super Aggie sophomore linebacker. All that has been written is justified and much more. He is a super player indeed, but there is another side of Simonini people seldom recognize.

Simonini wants to be just one of the guys. To speak in his own words, he hates to dress up. He would rather be in his cut-offs or in his uniform. He says, "I feel the way a person dresses is the expression of the person." He would rather be comfortable and let his actions speak for themselves. He wears his suit to the games, but once on the field, he expresses himself in the way that made him the fifth ranked sophomore in the nation by Playboy Magazine.

The words "reckless abandon" have been used many times to de-

scribe Simonini's type of play. This may be true, but his every move is a carefully studied one. Simonini says the key to aggressive play is knowledge of the opponent. He studies the opposition game films at great length, memorizing the offense of the opposing team. He then combines this knowledge with his ability on the field to make the great plays he has grown famous for. This is the type of "knowledgeable abandon" that makes great football players.

Simonini's love for the game is evident, but he wants something more. The second year Biology major wants to continue his scholastic studies to the doctoral level. He says he would like to play pro ball, but the offer will have to be right. Simonini said, "It's too early to worry about the pros, I'll just wait and see what happens."

Football players who love practice are a rare breed. Simonini is such an exception. He said, "If we could go three on three

and scrimmage all the time I would love it." He feels that practice is the part of the game that makes the athlete excel. He expressed his success by just working, "working hard."

This is the age of the finisher. Again Simonini is the exception. During the season he is "Mister Conservative." He said that even during the off season he is not really the party type. Relaxation is the favorite pastime of the guy critics compare to the late Mike DiNero.

"I enjoy the parties just as much as anyone, but during the season, I'm all business," he said.

The flip side of Ed Simonini is a great one. He is a student athlete who wants to excel and he knows it could be this is a good flip side of Aggie football.

Newcomers Key To Grid Fortunes

Newcomers are expected to figure heavily in A&M's football fortunes this year as the Aggies begin practice with the youngest team in the SWC.

Stars from last year's freshmen team include running back Bucky Sams; receivers Roy Murray and David Greeno; defensive linemen Glen Bujnoch and Kent Krueger; and linebackers Garth Ten Napel and Tony Blankenship.

Defensive backs Tim Gray and

Larry Daniels and linebacker John McCrumby are top JC transfers.

Freshmen to watch include running back Reggie Rogers; receivers Mike Floyd and Del Leatherwood; linemen Brad Burnett, Glenn Carter, Jimmy Dean, Matt Freeman, Anderson Harrison, Lester Hayes, Billy Lemons, Charles (Tank) Marshall and Dennis Swilley; linebackers Grady Wilkerson and Craig Glendenning; and safety Reggie Williams.

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Football Practice To Start Today

The 1973 A&M football squad opened fall practice today with 16 lettermen returning to a squad of 103.

Included in the squad are 35 freshmen who will work out with the varsity as A&M will not field a freshman team this year.

The gridders had evening meal Tuesday night as their first official function of the practice season.

The actual practice won't begin until tomorrow with today reserved for taking physicals and fitting uniforms.

The squad will practice in field shorts the remainder of the week and will suit up for contact practice the beginning of next week.

Two sessions will be held each day, one from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30

a.m. and the other from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. The sessions will be held in Kyle Field and are open to the public.

Of the 16 returning lettermen, only one, safety Larry Ellis, is a senior, giving A&M the youngest squad in the conference.

Because of the youth, very few on the team can be considered definite starters so most positions will have to be determined between now and Sept. 15, the start of the season.

The key position of quarterback is wide open with last year's QB Don Dean defecting to Louisiana Tech. Ex-Marine Mike Jay is a slight favorite for the starting berth but he can expect strong competition from freshmen David Shipman and David Walker.

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