

Little Carl Roaches aids Ags with blocking and receiving

By ROBERT CESSNA
Staff Sports Writer

The door of opportunity only opens for those who knock, and such was the case for Carl Roaches at Baylor Saturday night.

Roaches scooped up a fumble by Bubba Bean and scampered 56 yards for the first A&M score. Roaches was in position because he was doing what he was supposed to do. "I was going down field to block the safety and the ball came right across in front of me," Roaches said. He never did get a chance to block the safety.

Blocking is the key to the success of the Wishbone offense and this includes the wide receiver. Roaches takes a lot of pride in his blocking assignments and realizes its importance. "The difference between a five-yard run and a fifteen-yard run could depend on my block of the safety," Roaches said.

This has been a major part of the game for Roaches as they have only passed to him a few times. But his importance, though overlooked by the casual fan, is not overlooked by the opposition. The offensive line was voted the outstanding player of the week by the Dallas Morning News after the LSU game and Roaches shared in this honor with his downfield blocking.

Even though Roaches has not caught that many passes or made long punt returns, his presence is still felt as much or maybe even more than before. If the fan knows what Carl can do, then so does the opposition. In other words, Carl Roaches is a marked man.

He came in with a splash and the teams adjusted. When you go to the game, look at the coverage afforded Roaches. Is it single, double or zone? "Other teams are doing a good job of defense," Roaches said. Also they changed the blocking rule, which now does not permit you to block below the waist, Roaches said. This makes setting up punt returns much harder.

"Other teams have good kicking games," Roaches said. He explained that if you noticed at Baylor, the A&M coverage did a good job of containing returns and Baylor had to set up a lot of times inside their twenty. But he also added that other teams have improved their kicking game, thus making it harder for him to break one.

The man who must get Roaches the ball is David Walker and Roaches is, "very high" on his ability. A&M is able to throw the ball when they have to. Roaches pointed out the example of the TCU game when Walker passed for over 200 yards.

"I have no pro ambitions," was the comment of Carl Roaches when the subject switched to football as a



CARL ROACHES looks on as A&M runs through practice in preparation for the Arkansas game Saturday. Roaches has been a key in the Aggie offense with his pass catching and blocking ability. (Photo by Glen Johnson)

living. "With my size, I can't look to make it in the pros," Roaches said. He came to A&M to get an education first and play football second. If he had an opportunity to play pro ball though he would give it a try. It wouldn't matter if it was the NFL or WFL to Carl but who would give him the most money. If he goes on the pros he would be playing football for a living, it would be his work, not for fun. Right now he is getting an education and playing football for fun.

Roaches calls the current Aggie squad, "The best team since I've been here. Everybody works together as a team and there are no individual standouts."

Recently students have been complaining, not about the Aggies winning, but the way they were winning. One student said, "I wish our offense was as good as our defense." When this was brought up to Roaches he said, "If they think they can do better, why don't they come out for the team? We'd appreciate it. We like people pushing us for our jobs. Most of these people I feel are freshmen who haven't been around when we were losing. They expect us to roll over everyone."

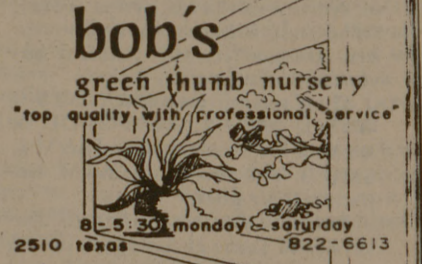
But Roaches doesn't let these comments bother him. He knows that A&M has an offense that can run the ball or pass it when it has to. For now Carl can make his blocks and smile knowing he has the inner

satisfaction of winning. Why then did Carl Roaches choose A&M over all the other offers? "It wasn't too large of a school," Roaches said. He liked the campus when he visited it and the coaching staff showed the most interest of any of the teams. Also it's not too far away from Houston so that his folks can come and watch him play.

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The total of 18 victories was bet-

tered only twice in the last 20 years. It was the third straight winning non-conference year for the SWC.

Included among the 12 losses, were five to teams currently ranked among the top six in the nation.

Intramurals

Bowling Results

Stephens vs Thompson
Braesher vs Shainnessy

- League I: B1, 347; E2, 0
- Sq11, 363; M1, 345
- J Sq9, 425; Sq4, 256
- K: Sq10, 385; Sq7, 354
- N: Crocker D, 373; Utay, 0
- Schumacher, 581; Moses, 456
- P: Leggett 403; Hotard, 393
- Law 516 (Rick Harz, 214); McInnis, 474
- S: Dunn 354; Moses 0
- V: Wle 337; Wla 293
- Keathley b 302

GOLF SCHEDULE
Webb vs Lantier

Flag Football

- Civ B: McInnis 48; Milner 0
- C: Law 26; Leggett 0
- Club A: PSB, 8; BAC, 0
- PEM 21; DK, 7
- Co-Rec A: POA 1; PEI 0
- Ind B: PO 26; Barc 0
- A: PON 6; Vet 1, 0
- Rec B: Hart II, 14; Ag Eco 20
- Women A: Hughes 13; Wlb, 0

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