

Due to I-formation variation

Receivers to be used more in offensive plan

By MIKE BRUTON
Sports Editor

The most unused segment of Texas A&M's football team last season, the receivers, will be taken from the closet and put to full use with the new 1975 Aggie "I-Bone" offense.

Carl Roaches and Richard Osborne, two of the premier pass-catchers in the Southwest Conference, should see plenty of action in the upcoming season compared to

last year when the Ags completed only 48 passes on the season.

The recently acquired I-formation variation will put more pressure on enemy defensive backfields with the likes of flashy Roaches and sticky-fingered Osborne roaming around in the secondary.

Roaches, a 9.4 sprinter, has an uncanny knack for changing directions quickly and super acceleration. When carrying the pigskin in

open field, he runs like he has radar. Roaches is a threat to score every time he touches the ball.

The swift split end had a fantastic spring game, gathering in seven passes for 156 yards and a touchdown. If the Aggies throw during the regular season like they did in that game, fans will see how much of a weapon Roaches can really be.

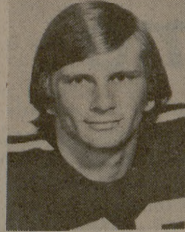
All of Roaches' talents do not lie on pass receiving as he is one of the best kick return specialists in the nation. He owns four A&M records and with a good year could shatter more. The senior from Houston has the most career punt returns with 77, and the most kickoff return yardage in a career with 942 yards. In 1973 Roaches broke two single game records, returning punts for 96 yards against SMU and bringing back kickoffs for 193 steps against Boston College.

Roaches (5-8, 162) may not be the biggest guy on the team, but he's certainly one of the toughest. He's a scrapper. On any running

Split end
Carl Roaches



Tight end
Richard Osborne



play, look downfield and you'll see No. 1 blocking somebody. Roaches is such a hustler that he sometimes blocks two people on the same play and it doesn't matter to him whether it's a cornerback or a huge defensive end.

On the other extreme of the line is tight end Osborne, who is also a threat to opposing defenses, but in a different way. He is a clutch pass receiver and has a knack for finding the open slot in the secondary. Osborne puts one in the mind of Fred Biletnikoff of the Oakland Raiders. He's not flashy, has adequate speed, but nearly always gets open.

The rangy San Antonio native is

The 6-5, 230-pound senior alternated with Roaches at split end his freshman year and was transformed to a tight end position for the 1973 season. His blocking, at first, left much to be desired. But he worked hard and is a solid blocker now.

Osborne, like Roaches, should become a more potent weapon when the Aggies are operating out of the I-formation. With a split end wide and a flanker, the tight end is often the man which ends up in the soft spots of the zone defense. And with a tight end like Osborne that could mean a lot of third-down con-

versions.

Depth should be no problem with the Texas A&M receivers with David Greeno standing in at tight end and Mike Floyd subbing at split end. Both are aggressive blockers and good pass receivers.

Receivers Coach Chuck Moser has done a fine job with this talented bunch; his reward will show in the 1975 A&M passing statistics.

Collegians, Steelers in All-Star tilt

Defense is the name of the game. It's what made the Pittsburgh Steelers the 1974 World Champions and it's the College All-Star's only chance to knock off the world champs in the 1975 College All-Star game Friday night in Chicago.

College All-Star coach John McKay feels that if the rookies are to beat the veterans they will have to do it on defense. "The thing about this game is that if you play good defense, slow the other team down, you have a chance to win," said McKay. "But you can't do that if you don't play good defense."

Defense is no new word to the Steelers. In last year's Super Bowl they gave the Minnesota Vikings only 17 rushing yards in winning the world championship. "They have a tremendous defense and a solid offense," McKay said. "Anytime you have a quarterback that can run the ball it presents trouble. Terry Bradshaw can run and Franco Harris is like Larry Csonka."

The Steelers have four all-pro performers on the defensive side, Lineman Joe Green and L. C. Greenwood and linebackers Jack Ham and Andy Russell. McKay is the first to admit that his team will have a tough time scoring on the Steelers but feels that the Steelers will have a tough time against his defense.

The All-Star defense is led by five first round draft picks: Gary Johnson, 6 feet 3 and 250 pounds from Grambling; Mack Mitchell, 6-8, 250 from Houston University; Mark Mullaney, 6-6, 237 from Colorado State; Jimmy Webb, 6-5, 250 from Mississippi State and Randy White, 6-4, 248, from Maryland. All are linemen.

On offense the All-Stars will rely on the strong passing of quarterback Steve Bartkowski of the University of California.

McKay still insists that if his team is to beat the Steelers they will have to do it with defense. As coach of the 1973 All-Stars McKay saw his defense stop the Miami Dolphins and almost win the game before finally bowing out, 14-3.

"I've never had a team perform as well as the one that lost to Miami two years ago," he said. "They performed well, because they held them to only one touchdown for most of the game."

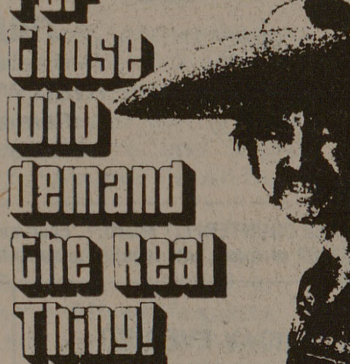
Even if his All-Stars do perform well, McKay is realistic about his team's chances to win. "This game isn't designed for the collegians to win," he said. "First of all we'll be playing the game by pro rules with a couple of exceptions, and it will be a veteran team against a squad that has just been assembled."

The last time the All-Stars beat the world champs was in 1963 when the rookies defeated the Green Bay Packers, 20-17.

Last year's game was canceled because of the National Football League player strike.

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