



Paul Arnett

# Road trip's a long one

Blacksburg, Lubbock, Ann Arbor, Houston and Waco... that's one heck of a road engagement for the Texas Aggies.

"When we get back to College Station it will be the middle of winter," coach Emory Ballard said. "We'll barely get back in time for spring training."

The first stop for the touring Aggies should be like spring compared to the weather of College Station.

After playing Kansas in unbearable heat, coach Ballard looked forward to the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia.

"I'll bet my last penny it won't be as hot," Ballard said. "It was just like being in an oven when we played Kansas."

The Kansas victory should give the young Aggie team an emotional lift. Ballard was pleased with his team's showing and hopes they will

be ready for Virginia Tech this weekend.

"We'll be playig them blind," Ballard said. "This is their first game of the season. I know they will give an emotional effort out there on the field."

The Gobblers have 38 lettermen returning to from last year. Five starters are returning on offense, and eight starters on defense. Running back Roscoe Coles will be the man the Ags have to stop.

"Coles is a great runner," Ballard said. "He has rushed for over 1,000 yards the last three years. He is an exceptional break away threat."

Another threat the Gobblers have is in their defensive secondary. Six men can start for coach James Sharpe on any given Saturday.

"Last year when we played them we surprised their secondary with the drop back pass," Ballard said. "This year I am sure they will be ready for that style of play."

A&M defeated Virginia Tech last year 19-0. It was the Ags' first game of the season, and not an impressive one.

"In our game with them last year I don't think there was any doubt about who was going to win," Ballard said. "But we certainly didn't blow them off the field. It was a tough contest for us last year, and they nearly return all of their folks."

Coach Ballard has decided to make a change in his offensive strategy. Instead of sending in running backs with the offensive plays, Ballard has decided to send in his wide receivers.

"I didn't like sending in Brothers and Armstrong with the plays," Ballard said. "It slowed down the continuity of the backfield. Instead I will use Darrell Smith and Doug Teague at the wide receiver slot."

Ballard was pleased with his offensive's performance against Kansas. He felt that they made some mistakes, but basically they played a sound football game.

He couldn't say the same about the punt coverage.

"I thought our punt coverage was terrible," Ballard said. "It was the one thing that kept Kansas in the ball game. Our kicking game was too defensive. This weekend we want it to be more offensive."

The game this Saturday begins at 1:30 p.m. It is the second meeting between the two schools. It is the first stop of five for the Aggie road show.



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Adger Armstrong picked up five yards on a sweep to the left side of the Aggie line. Armstrong and David Brothers were bringing in

the plays during the Kansas game. Coach Emory Ballard has decided to bring in plays with his wide receivers.

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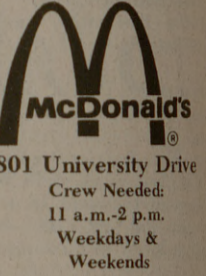
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