

sports

Brothers will move to fullback position



David Brothers, Texas A&M halfback, sprints past a TCU defender last season. This fall, Brothers will see things from a slightly different perspective. Coach Emory Bellard has announced that Brothers will start at the fullback position, replacing the injured George Woodard and Eddie Hardin.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Editor

Emory Bellard, Texas A&M University's athletic director and head football coach, must wish that the month of June had never happened this year.

Much as the University of Texas' football coach, Fred Akers, saw his quarterbacks fall by the wayside with injuries last season, Bellard has seen his depth at the fullback position grow increasingly shallow in the past few weeks.

First came the news that the Aggies' stellar fullback, George Woodard, was lost for the fall with an injured leg.

Bellard had planned to replace the 265-pound Woodard with his understudy of three years, Eddie Hardin. Then came the word that Hardin, too, would not play with the Aggies next season due to a neck injury sustained in spring training.

What is a football coach to do? "The way it looks right now, we will probably move David Brothers (from halfback) to fullback," Bellard said. "He is a very aggressive, tough runner and he can bolt into the line with authority."

Brothers, a 205-pound junior, has had to struggle in the past to get his name mentioned, lining up in the same backfield with the likes of Woodard and speedster Curtis

Dickey. That is not to say that the Seguin native is not talented. He first started for the Aggies in the third game of his freshman season against the University of Houston. During that year, Brothers gained 249 yards on 47 carries. Last year, he had a better average than either Woodard or Dickey--330 yards in 59 carries for a 5.6-yard average.

"What we had to do is get our top three backs into positions," Bellard said, referring to Brothers, Dickey and halfback Adgar Armstrong. "Actually, any of those three could play fullback. David is a little quicker getting started going straight ahead. Adgar has better hands for handling pitches outside, so that is the way we will run them."

"Of course, those are not definitely final positions. Raymond Belcher, of course, will be there. And we have a fine freshman, Roger Wiley from Humble, who will give us some help. All of his past experience is at wishbone fullback."

What now concerns Bellard is the lack of depth at halfback position created by moving Brothers.

"We can make the adjustments necessary," the Aggie coach said. "But any injuries beyond this point

will take their toll. You don't lose a quality football player without some weakening.

"So good fortune is going to have to smile on us. Before these injuries, we were two deep at the halfback positions. Moving Brothers cuts down on our proven depth at

halfback." Through all this, Bellard sees no change in the Aggies' offensive game plan next season.

"We will still emphasize our fullback," he said. "I am optimistic that we will still have a good football team."

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Two games are sold out

The Texas A&M University ticket office has announced that there are no more tickets on sale for two football games in the 1978 season.

The Oct. 7 Texas Tech game in College Station and the Oct. 14 University of Houston game at the Astrodome in Houston, have been sold out, ticket manager Euleta Miller said.

The new aluminum seats that are being put in Kyle Field will increase the seating capacity to 54,000, assuring a new record attendance for a Texas Tech game.

Miller said that ticket sales for other Aggie games are "going strong."

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Women need proper training for fewer injuries in sports

United Press International
ST. LOUIS — Women need only one thing to compete successfully with men in most sports — proper preparation.

That's the view of Dr. Lyle J. Micheli, a Harvard physician and director of sports medicine at the Children's Hospital Medical Center in Boston.

Micheli is watching the growing participation of women and children in sports — and the growing number of injuries that result. He wants all athletes to spend more time training to reduce the frequency and severity of their injuries.

Any athletic activity, even simple running or throwing, results in small strains of muscles. Without proper preparation, Micheli said, these injuries can lead to more severe hurts.

"In any sports activity you have to prepare with slow, progressive activity," he said at a sports medicine symposium sponsored by St. Louis University. "If you get women who begin running without the proper preparation, you're going to have a high incidence of injuries. You can count on

Micheli said many women who take up distance running suffer knee injuries. He compared the situation 10 years ago when women began increased involvement in downhill skiing. Many were injured, he said, because they went too far too fast.

Now you don't see so many skiing injuries, simply because the

women have learned to ski. They've prepared properly."

Where sheer force is a factor, women are at a disadvantage because of size, Micheli said. But he sees no physical reason why most sports cannot be coed. So far, he said, cultural factors have been the biggest barrier for women.

"It's more nurture than nature," he said. In some sports the women may have an edge, he added.

"Women's bodies generally have more fat, and there is some evidence they may be able to use that fat better than men. It may be that women can do better than men in long endurance sports, such as runs of 50 miles or longer."

As the father of two daughters — a 12-year-old who rides and jumps and a 6-year-old budding gymnast — Micheli's interest in women's sports also extends to proper training of children.

"We're not looking closely enough at what we are doing when we organize all these sports for kids. We may be subjecting them to too much stress at an early age."

"Sports stems from play, but children's play gets them out of the adult world, into an area of fantasy that is not adult-organized. Adults must realize how impressionable these children are and how sensitive an area this is."

As for children and women invading the traditionally male-

dominated sports world, Micheli suggests ballet as the best possible training.

"Ballet has learned to bring people along slowly," he said. "In some schools you have to be in training three or four years before you ever get up on your toes. It teaches flexibility, endurance and technique. If you want to have a child who's a good basketball player, have him take ballet."

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