

the sports

Appleby unsure of reason behind slump

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff
Last season punter David Appleby was the toast of College Station. Following a freshman season in which the Dallas native averaged 39.7 yards a punt Appleby topped his average to 43.3 yards and finished eighth nationally in 1977.

But hard times have fallen upon Appleby in the first two Texas A&M football games this season. In his six attempts he has seen his average drop to 31.8 yards per attempt. And the cause of the drop-off has Appleby baffled.
"I don't know if I'm doing anything different from last year or

not," Appleby said. "I know I haven't changed the number of steps I take before I kick. But the steps I have been taking may be part of my problem.
"I'm going to try and shorten my steps and see if that helps. I might be throwing my timing off by overstriding. That may be one problem, but right now I don't know what's wrong.

One difficulty Appleby faced going into last Saturday's Boston College game was an ankle injury he sustained in practice last week. During workouts last Monday one of the Aggie players fell on Appleby's ankle spraining it and making Appleby questionable for the Boston College game. After sitting out of last week's practice sessions Appleby had to wait until game time to see if he would be able to punt.
"Coach (Chuck) Moser asked me in pre-game warm-ups if I was ready

to punt and I said I was," Appleby said. "I know that my poor performance didn't have anything to do with my ankle injury (three punts for a 26-yard average against Boston College). I felt fine but just didn't kick the ball well at all. I haven't all season."
The kicking game has been a sore spot for Coach Emory Ballard all season. Thus Appleby's problem is a great concern of the coaches in preparing for the Memphis State game.
"The kicking game is an important key to the outcome of any football game no matter who's playing," Ballard said. "Our kicking is the only aspect of the team I'm not pleased with. We're not playing smart and they're (the kicking team) not playing well.
"We're going to work real hard all this week with David to see if we can work out his problem. There is really no reason why David is not

punting well. He punted earlier this fall as well as any other punter I've seen.
attempts against Boston College last weekend Franklin averaged 42 yards per attempt.
"Unless Appleby continues to punt poorly this week he'll get his chance to punt against Memphis State this week," Ballard said. "David is just in a slump right now, as all athletes have gone through. I haven't lost confidence in his ability, it's just up to him to work out his problems in practice and get back into his groove."
Practice this week for Appleby will include extra work with the coaches to see if they can figure out what is wrong with his punting this season.
"I'm going to sit down with the coaches and watch films from last year and compare them to this season to see if I'm doing anything differently," Appleby said. "The problem may be in the way I'm dropping the ball or the way I'm following through on the ball. I haven't been able to tell if anything's different. I


hope they can see something.
"Coach Moser said I may be swinging my leg differently, cutting across the ball and not getting as much into each kick as I should. I know just one little thing I'm doing wrong. Once I get that one thing worked out I'll be back to normal."
But if Appleby fails to correct the problem Franklin will be called upon to perform the punting duties as well as his place kicking duties. Appleby is willing to accept.
"When Tony and I are both kicking well we don't spend too much time working on our game. Appleby said. "And because we know this much, if we're in an important game and an extra punt is decided if we win it, I'd rather let him kick it. And I'm sure he'll be the same about me and my punting. But if he can perform better at a time he ought to be doing the job



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United Press International
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- Oklahoma (25) (3-0)
- So. Calif. (7) (3-0)
- Michigan (3) (2-0)
- Arkansas (3) (2-0)
- Penn St. (1) (4-0)
- Texas (2-0)
- Alabama (2-1)
- Texas A&M (2-0)
- Florida St. (3-0)
- Pittsburgh (2-0)
- LSU (2-0)
- Nebraska (2-1)
- Maryland (3-0)
- Colorado (3-0)
- Ohio St. (1-1)
- Iowa St. (3-0)
- Missouri (2-1)
- Kentucky (1-0-1)
- Stanford (2-1)
- Purdue (2-0)

Conference notes Tech, Texas to use frosh QBs

United Press International
The Texas Tech Red Raiders probably expend more enthusiasm getting ready for the Texas Longhorns than they do any other team on their schedule and this week much of that preparation is going to be dropped in the lap of a freshman quarterback.
Tech Coach Rex Dockery said Monday freshman Ron Reeves, hero of last Saturday night's 41-26 win over Arizona, would start against the Longhorns when Texas comes to call next Saturday evening.
And at the same time Texas Coach Fred Akers, who is concerned about his team's lack of offensive consistency, said he was going to start looking more and more at his freshman quarterback — Donnie Little.
Reeves, a Lubbock product who is an outstanding baseball player as well, threw for two touchdowns and ran for two more in rallying the Raiders Saturday night and Dockery did not hesitate to make the change in starters.
"Ron's a very mature young man," said Dockery. "He knows what competition is all about. He could make our roster as a

linebacker so he has developed toughness as well.
"Sure, there will be pressure on him. But there will be pressure on everybody in this game."
Texas will start Randy McEachern at quarterback in the conference outing against Tech, but Akers said Little is getting better each week.
"I can tell you, you're going to start seeing more of Donnie Little," Akers said. "He's gaining and gaining in performance. He doesn't know as much about the offense as McEachern, which is normal.
"But if he's prepared to play, he's prepared to play, and he's getting closer to that every game."
Texas has not allowed a touchdown in two games, but the Longhorns had trouble moving the ball against Wyoming in a 17-3 win and Akers said Tech is a better team than Wyoming.
"Well, I'm not ready to commit suicide," Akers said. "But sure, I'm concerned."
"We're just faced with getting as much experience as we can in as short a time as possible. I'm sure we're going to get it worked out. I'm not concerned about how, but I am concerned about when."

Texas A&M will open at home Saturday against Memphis State but it appears the team will be without the services of junior linebacker Randy Harvey.
Harvey received a knee injury last Saturday in the Aggies' 37-2 win over Boston College.
The Aggies also said Curtis Dickey and split end Doug Teague received minor injuries in the game

but both were expected to return Saturday. Dickey received thigh bruise against Boston College while Teague suffered a shoulder sprain.
HOUSTON — Houston coach Bill Yeoman Monday named offensive tackle Robert Jones as running back Emmett King as offensive players in Saturday's 45-21 victory over Utah.

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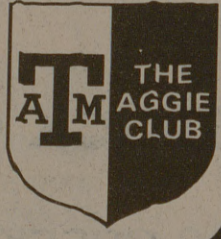
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WHEN: Wednesday, September 27, 1978
WHERE: Lettermans Lounge - G. Rollie White
TIME: 7:30 P.M.
WHAT: Guest speaker, Door Prizes, Organization of Parties and Bus Trips.



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TWU defeats Aggies in weekend tourney

The odds were against Texas A&M Saturday in the championship game of the Texas Woman's University Tournament with TWU's All-America pitcher Kathy Arendsen on the mound.
Arendsen pitched a perfect game with 16 strikeouts against the Aggies to give TWU its second win over Texas A&M this season. The A&M team is now 10-2 for the season.
In pool play Friday, the Aggies played Stephen F. Austin in the first round. A catch in center field by Mary Lou Wargo saved the team's 5-4 lead. The leading hitter for the Aggies was Glorian Motal with a double and a home run.
Texas A&M then defeated San Angelo State 6-3. Nancy Sullivan was the leading hitter for the Aggies with a triple and a double followed by Sami Evans with two hits.
The University of Texas at Arlington gave Texas A&M little trouble as the Aggies came out ahead 11-1. A home run by Wargo and a triple by Evans helped increase the margin over UTA.
In the final game of pool play Texas A&M defeated Baylor 7-1. A&M's Shannon Murray struck out seven batters and allowed only one run on six hits. Vicki Markowsky and Motal each had three hits for the Aggies.
Texas A&M had a bye in the first round of tournament play moving the team into the semi-finals against Sam Houston State. The Aggies scored two runs in the bottom of the

seventh inning to squeak out a 1-0 win over SFSU. A triple by Cindy Gough of the Aggies into scoring position Gough scored on a double by Zemanek. Wargo singled and scored the winning run on a double by Markowsky.
In the championship game against TWU, Texas A&M was down 5-0.
Softball action continues Wednesday when the women meet Baylor in a doubleheader in Waco beginning at 2:00 p.m. Pitcher Baylor will be Cindy Maddox, one of the top pitchers in the state. Baylor will lead off for the Aggies. Gough goes into the game underdog Murray, with a record of 4-0, will pitch for Texas A&M in the seventh game.

Aggie Bowlers begin competition

The 1978 Texas A&M women's bowling teams will begin their season this weekend in Austin. They will compete in a singles tournament against Houston, Southern Texas State, Texas Southern, Texas Tech, West Texas State and other schools across Texas.
This semester's men's Texas intercollegiate Bowling Conference team consists of Jay Chester, Dan Illingworth, Dave Nelson, Wagner, Paul Merriman, and Marak. The women's TIBC team made up of Debbie Philip, Lloyd, Candy Burnett, Dore Minter, Jody Puckett, and Mel Hooper.
The Aggies will be competing in the southern division of the TIBC against Houston, TSU, Rice and others. Each school will host their own meet with Texas A&M's meet held Nov. 11 on the MSC bowling lanes. The state championship tournament will be held Feb. 10-11, which the winners of the TIBC northern, central and southern divisions will compete. Both the men's and women's teams will be trying to defend their first place finish of the 1977-1978 season.

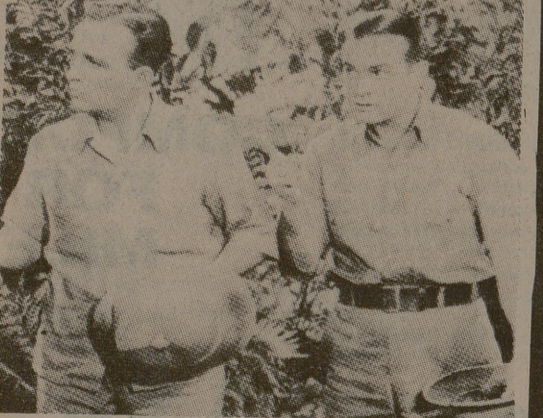


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