

the sports

Tech impresses A&M coach

Bellard praises Aggies

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

There was nothing but praise for both the offense and defense at Emory Bellard's weekly press conference Tuesday afternoon. After all, the Aggies have rolled up an average of 474 yards total offense per game while allowing their opponents a 117-yard average. And Bellard is happy.

"Every player at every position on this team has improved," Bellard said. "And for that reason everybody looks good on both offense and defense. With people at every position doing their job, others don't have to overplay and leave themselves vulnerable."

"I've said since last spring that this

offense would become a very good unit if it could stay healthy and play together. The success of our offense depends on coordination and working together, which takes time. The team is getting their work in as a unit and it's beginning to pay off.

"Defensively, we're operating on a solid foundation. In the spring workouts we worked solely on fundamentals in practice, no stunting, and the team returned in great physical shape in the fall. They've played and fought like mad and it's shown these first three games."

The entire team has played exceptionally well in its first three games this season. But some people may point to the opposition the Aggies have come up against and claim that the team hasn't been really tested yet. Coach Bellard holds a different view of the first three teams.

"We haven't played a team yet this year the caliber of the teams we're about to face in the conference," Bellard said. "But the best test a team can have may come from itself. A team strives to be the best it possibly can and once you achieve that you are what you are."

"We're not a finished product yet. We have room for improvement and

we will continue to improve if we can keep everyone healthy. This team is sincere and really wants to play football and play well. And I hope it can play well no matter who we're facing."

The Aggies face the Red Raiders of Texas Tech in this week's contest. Although Tech is coming off of a 24-7 loss to the Texas Longhorns, Bellard fears the Raider attack.

"I'm very impressed with Tech this season," Bellard said. "They have a going team and their coaches have them playing with enthusiasm. They showed that with their dramatic comeback against Arizona two weeks ago."

"Out of that game emerged their new quarterback (Ron Reeves) who has stepped in and become a leader on the team. With Reeves at quarterback they have a great passing attack with an outstanding group of receivers, as dangerous as any group of receivers in the conference. They have a fine football team."

One reason the Raiders have kept their opponents under control has been the performance of freshman punter Maury Buford. Against Texas Saturday night, Buford punted six times for a 50.8 yard average. On the

season Buford leads the conference with a 45.7 yard punting average.

"Punting the ball like that puts a lot of grass between you and the goal line," Bellard commented. "We tried to recruit Buford last season, so we know how he can punt."

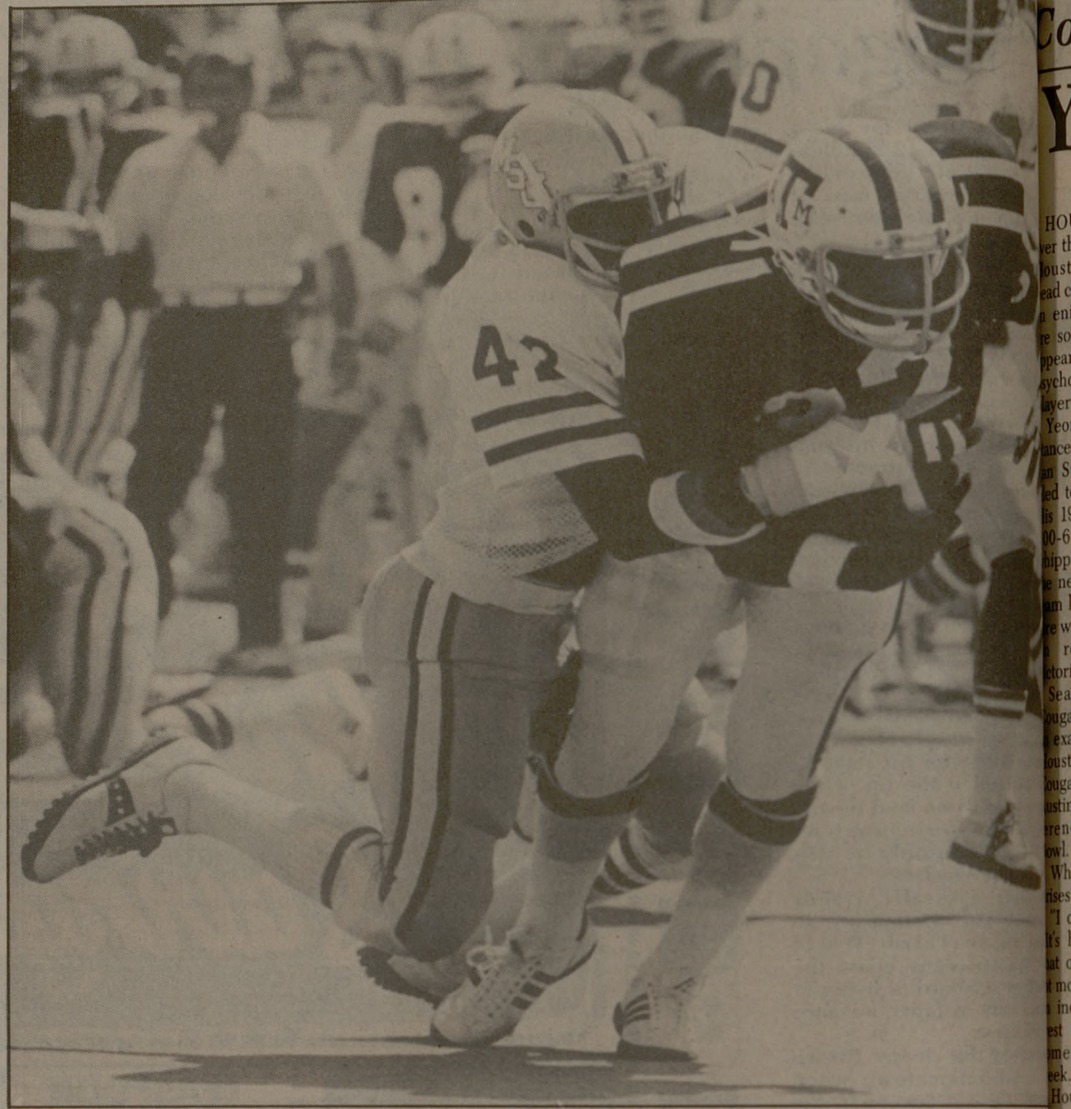
"Maury is the son of a former Aggie and he had a strong interest in coming to play here for us. But we had to decide if we wanted to recruit a punter last year or not. When we finally did decide we wanted him he had already made plans to go elsewhere. Yea, he's a good one."

The Aggies will be without some of their good ones for this week's game as a number of players were injured in the Memphis State victory. Listed as questionable for the Tech game are running back Raymond Belcher and linebacker Cal Peveto, both with leg injuries. Belcher ruptured a leg muscle in his upper thigh and as of Tuesday still could not run on it. Peveto pulled a hamstring muscle in practice Monday during wind sprints. His status is not known for this weekend's game.

"But everyone else should be ready to go for us," Bellard said. "Holly Wilson had some bruised ribs but he was better this morning and should return to practice today."

Mike Mosley was in the hospital this weekend because of some stomach problems he's been having. He hasn't been able to eat and he's been run-down lately. We put him in the hospital for tests only and they all turned out negative. He was back at practice Monday and we don't anticipate any problems. We just want to help him."

So he, in turn, can help the steam-rolling Texas Aggies.



Memphis State defensive back Robert Livingston holds on for dear life as Texas A&M fullback David Brothers carries the ball for the Aggies Saturday. Brothers was the Aggies'

second-leading rusher behind Curtis in the 58-0 shutout of the Tigers. The 212-pound fullback gained 72 yards carries.

Battalion photo by Pat

Championship baseball

United Press International

NL Championship Series

Oct. 4 — Los Angeles at Philadelphia, 7:30 p.m. (CDT)
Oct. 5 — Los Angeles at Philadelphia, 1:30 p.m.
Oct. 6 — Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 7 — x-Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 8 — x-Philadelphia at Los Angeles, 2:55 p.m.

AL Championship Series

Oct. 3 — New York 7, Kansas City 1
Oct. 4 — New York at Kansas City, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 6 — Kansas City at New York, 2:30 p.m.
Oct. 7 — x-Kansas City at New York, 7:30 p.m.
Oct. 8 — x-Kansas City at New York, 7:30 p.m.
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Brothers adjusts well at fullback

Most students at Texas A&M are not concerned with "cramming" until the week before final exams. But for Aggie fullback David Brothers, the crash course began as early as August.

Brothers lettered his first two seasons for A&M as a halfback but was moved to fullback this summer after George Woodard and Eddie Hardin, the Aggies' No. 1 and No. 2 fullbacks, were sidelined for the 1978 season with off-season injuries. Suddenly, the 6-0, 212-pound Brothers became starting fullback, assuming he could pick up the new position during two-a-day drills.

"I was really sorry when I heard about George and Eddie being out for the season," said Brothers. "But the fact remained — our coaches had a decision to make and it didn't bother me at all when they told me I was being switched to fullback."

Brothers started at right halfback for Texas A&M both his freshman and sophomore years. The junior from Seguin rushed for 244 yards in 1976 and 330 last year. He also led all of Texas A&M's regular running backs with a 5.6 yards-per-carry average in 1977. Brothers' primary asset to the Aggie offense has been as a blocking back, a duty he resigned himself to early since he came to Aggieland in the same recruiting class as speedster Curtis Dickey.

"There really wasn't that much to learn," Brothers said of his move to the fullback slot. "There are different blocking assignments and the pass route are different, but overall the adjustment hasn't been that difficult for me. Of course, I'm spending more time inside and there's a lot more contact than when I ran at right halfback."

Even though the Aggies got off to a fast start offensively this season, Brother feels the best is yet to come.

"I don't think we have yet proved just what we are really capable of," he said. "I'm most pleased at the intensity of our offensive unit. We really want to make it happen this year. We've been improving steadily and I think that before the season's over, we will have proven that A&M has one of the best offenses around."

The improvement of the Aggie of-

David Brothers

David Brothers

ensive corps is partly due to Brothers' progress at learning his new position. "David shows improvement everytime he steps on the field," said Texas A&M offensive coordinator Tom Wilson. "He has already proven that he is a tremendous blocker and now, playing fullback, he will carry the ball a lot more due to the type of offense we run. He has good football sense. This year we've asked him to do something he's never done before and he has responded."

Texas A&M has added to their offense this season their basic wishbone. Brothers plays fullback formations and feels no pressure. "I like both formations well mainly because my abilities are very similar," said Brothers. "I think adding the us another dimension and us with a more varied attack on their list when it came time his senior year at Seguin."

"I chose A&M because the atmosphere here," he said. "People were friendly and had a winning program."

Brothers played on the at Seguin as Texas kicker. When he went to Texas, Brothers as Seguin's punter his senior year. "During the season, he admits that he cannot keep up with the pace of the game."

"It's one thing to be ready each week but you prepared mentally as well. Brothers has had his share of the past two months done his homework and this week's exam — the SWC opener against Texas Tech — was a challenge for him. "We're still playing the big game that is what separates the Super Bowls, Dallas coach Tom Landry pointed out the obvious Monday. "His club needs to get with it. "We're trying awfully hard right now," Landry said. "What's happened did not happen because of a lack of effort. "But we must recognize we are in for a battle. And if we don't it's going to be a long winter. "Washington's 9-5 win over Dallas Monday night put Landry in a somewhat gloomy mood Tuesday, but he was far from despondent. "The game against the Redskins was an electric experience," Landry said. "The fans were alive, the team was playing hard, the game was exciting. "That fourth down play was a touchdown, but Hill Scott on the break and he hit him down a step. Roger Staubach threw the ball. That's what happens when you have the momentum going."

Landry said he was worried about Dallas' meeting with the New York team that moved the ball to Cowboys when they played last week ago. "To try to get the team up mentally is going to be a challenge this week," he said. "We've slumped awfully low at the moment. We have bounced back in our toughest games coming based on my experience Monday night games."

"This wasn't one of Roger's performances," Landry said. "He was trying hard to deal with the situation, but he made some early. And we didn't make plays around the goal line."

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Cowboys need special

United Press International

DALLAS — Having dropped an important game that was more entertaining to the fans than most Super Bowls, Dallas coach Tom Landry pointed out the obvious Monday.

"His club needs to get with it. "We're trying awfully hard right now," Landry said. "What's happened did not happen because of a lack of effort. "But we must recognize we are in for a battle. And if we don't it's going to be a long winter. "Washington's 9-5 win over Dallas Monday night put Landry in a somewhat gloomy mood Tuesday, but he was far from despondent. "The game against the Redskins was an electric experience," Landry said. "The fans were alive, the team was playing hard, the game was exciting. "That fourth down play was a touchdown, but Hill Scott on the break and he hit him down a step. Roger Staubach threw the ball. That's what happens when you have the momentum going."

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