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Davis coaches QBs — no matter who it is

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff

Many Southwest Conference teams have been looking at the Texas A&M football team lately to see what the Ags would do and if the team could come back from the changes, setbacks and injuries of the past few weeks.

Greg Davis, A&M quarterback coach, has seen the most changes on the team as far as leadership is concerned. The quarterback spot is the

"leader" position of the team, he said, and stressed the Aggies must have confidence and be comfortable with their quarterback.

"David Beal is a good leader and has a great rapport with all of his receivers," said Davis. "The team is comfortable with him at the controls."

Beal worked hard with all his receivers throughout the summer and two-a-day workouts getting ready for the season. Beal also does a good job moving the team, he said.

"It is unfortunate that we lost David against Houston but we had an excellent performance from Mike Mosley," the coach said. For the number of snaps that Mosley took last week, he did a very good job, he said.

"We will run the same basic type of offense throughout the season regardless of who is quarterback," he said, adding the way the game goes will dictate the plays the offense will run.

"I like to throw on first down to keep the defense off-balance," Davis said. An offense will move the ball on a defense that is off-balance.

"A lot of factors go into good plays to keep the defense guessing," he said. The line has to give the quarterback time to work and throw, the receivers have to run tight routes and the ball must be thrown on target.

The Baylor defense always presents a lot of problems for the Aggie offense. The linebackers and tackles are very good at what the Baylor coaches want them to do, he said.

The coach emphasized Mike Singletary as one of the best linebackers in the country. The other two are good, he said, they pursue well and cut the runners down before they can really get going.

The tackles are excellent pass

rushers and slant a lot trying to keep the offense guessing as to where they are going, Davis said.

Davis said the Aggie offense has to be more disciplined than the defense. The offensive players must know where they are going and who to hit when they get there. It is a key to winning this game.

"The success of the Tech game brought the team together," he said. "There is a quiet confidence on offense and strong determination on defense." The team simply needs to overcome the problems and obstacles they had against Houston to succeed.

"We sustained a couple of long drives, one in the fourth quarter that helped us win the Tech game. We had a good game against Houston but mistakes cost us. All we can do now is work harder on execution and try to improve."

"The longer we can keep our defense off the field, the better chance we have of winning the game."

He said the success of the Aggie offense that outgained Houston 361 yards to 317, was partly due to Beal's inspiration, which helped the other players to do their job. He earned the right to start and instilled confidence into the offense that they can move the ball against anyone.

Mosley came in and took advantage of the situation to move the team well Saturday, Davis added. He took charge and became the leader under adverse conditions.

"Mike was impressive in the game especially under the circumstances," he said. Mosley is listed as the starter against Baylor but if he cannot go, sophomore Gary Kubiak will play.

"Mike is excited at being returned

to quarterback and is working hard to get ready for Baylor."

Davis said he thinks Mosley will be ready to play despite the injuries he suffered during the Houston game.

"He had a hard time breathing when he was hit," he said. "It was a shot square in the chest." Mosley's left thumb is heavily wrapped for workouts this week but he is working out, he said.

The attitude of the team is a great improvement over three weeks ago. It is a working attitude, he said; the players thought they should have won against Houston and are willing to work to prepare for the Bears.

Davis said part of the new attitude also comes from Mosley. He was moved from quarterback to free safety last week but came in during the game Saturday and played wherever he was needed. Mosley played in the defensive secondary, returned kick-offs and returned to quarterback.

"We needed him in the secondary last week," his on-again, off-again former coach said. "But (he) was ready when David went down." He accepted the move to safety before the game and moved right in to move the offense when the Ags had to have him.

And having two good quarterbacks help, as evidenced during the Houston game when Beal injured his wrist.

Davis said he could not compare the two quarterbacks because the styles are different. Mosley relies on his speed to get him out of trouble, he said, where Beal, who is not as fast as Mosley, has to duck under into the defense to find a hole.

"Mike is the best running passer I



Greg Davis

have ever seen," he said. "The better drop-back passer and secondary receivers better."

Davis can understand the problems related with the quarterback position. He was quarterback at Neches-Groves High School and went on to become all-conference quarterback at McNeese State University.

"A good coach will coach a player given the time to learn," he said. "But I am most at ease with quarterbacks." The former quarterback said he knows how hard it is to think and it helps promote rapport with them.

The coach said the team has to wait and see if Beal can return to the team or not. Beal is out for the Baylor game but could return, he said.

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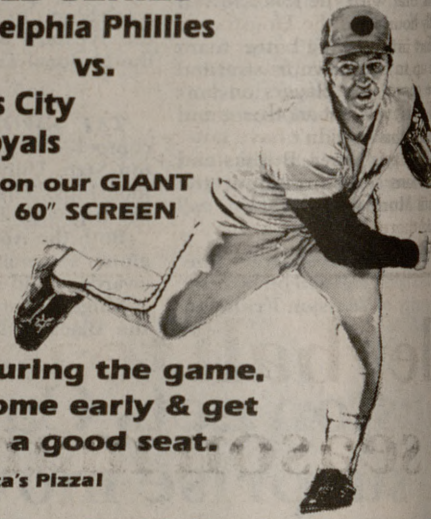
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