

Sherrill: A&M must contain Flutie

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

Members of the Aggie football team's defensive unit face a monumental task in Saturday's season opener against Boston College in Kyle Field.

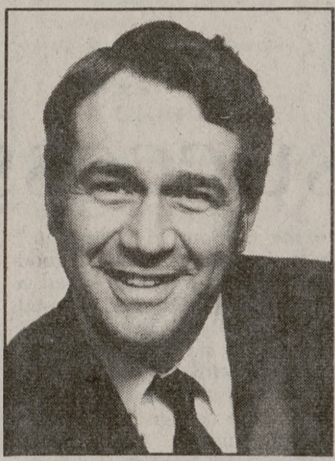
He's not so enormous in terms of size, but he's overwhelming in the aspects of ability, maturity and leadership. And Eagle sophomore quarterback Doug Flutie doesn't boast the records of Art Schlichter, Jim McMahon or Dan Marino.

After having played in only eight games during his college career, Flutie's name hasn't made national headlines. And outside of the 8,500 students enrolled in Boston College, it's not likely that many football fans have heard of the 5-10, 175-pounder from Natick, Mass.

But Sherrill and his staff know about Flutie. And they're not excited about the prospects of facing the talented sophomore and his upset-minded teammates Saturday at 6:10 p.m.

"Flutie will really scramble," Sherrill said Monday in Cain Hall during his first press conference of the 1982 season. "He's a really dangerous young man. You've got to hem him up, and I think we have people that can do that."

During a long-distance telephone hookup, second-year Boston College coach Jack Bicknell compared the leader of his offense to Aggie senior quarterback Gary Kubiak.



BC coach Jack Bicknell



Eagle DT Junior Poles

"I'm very impressed with Kubiak," Bicknell said. "They both throw the ball well. You might think that our kid would be a scrambler with his size, and he is. But he's not just a runner — he has a good arm, too."

"I know that Kubiak is a veteran ... and I think he's an outstanding athlete just like our quarterback. Our attack is built around (Flutie), but I'm not sure if Kubiak is the center of A&M's attack."

Just ask Sherrill, though. He'll tell you that the 6-1, 195-pound Kubiak will control, at times, nearly 80 percent of the Aggie offense, which features a strong-armed quarterback and a one-two-three running back punch in Johnny Hector, Ear-

nest Jackson and Thomas Sanders.

Bicknell coached the Eagles to a 13-12 upset victory over the Aggies in Chestnut Hill, Mass. The 43-year-old former college quarterback sees Kubiak, Hector and Jackson as a mighty talented offensive trio.

"In last year's game," he said, "I just held my breath every time Hector and Jackson got the ball. As I look at those three players, it looks like they're the best three players we'll go against this year."

Flutie, who became the Eagles' starter during the final quarter of their fourth game of the 1981 season, completed 105 of 192 passes for 1,652 yards

and 10 touchdowns.

Both coaches said the hot, humid College Station weather would be a factor in the game, but Bicknell said his players are trying to block that problem out of their minds.

On the other hand, Sherrill said he's planning to utilize a great deal of manpower, using as many as 60 players during the course of the game. In addition, he said, freshmen Tony Slaton, Jeff Nelson, Jimmie Hawkins, George Smith, Domingo Bryant, Gary Rogers and Randy Wylie will probably see action against the Eagles.

Led by 6-4, 280-pound tackle Junior Poles, the Boston College defense will feature a five-man front that averages 6-3, 245 pounds, while the Aggies' four-man front averages 6-4, 247 pounds. Sophomore tackle Ray Childress, junior tackle Keith Guthrie and senior middle line-backer Bobby Stroger will lead Texas A&M's 4-3 defense.

Bicknell said senior line-backer Steve DeOssie, 6-2, 245 pounds, and end Russ Joyner, 6-3, 223 pounds, play key roles in the Eagles' defense. One of Bicknell's main concerns about his squad is the kicking game, which features tight-end/punter Scott Nizolek and untested freshman place-kicker Kevin Snow.

Sherrill, after watching his

squad in a game-type scrimmage Saturday night, said the offense executed better than in its previous scrimmage last Wednesday night. Kubiak completed 16 of 19 passes for 203 yards, with split end Jimmy Teal on the receiving end of eight of those for 116 yards.

Sherrill said the Aggies have been lucky enough to escape from three- and two-a-day workouts without any injuries to key players.

Saturday's game, to be televised on WTBS-TV out of Atlanta, is expected to draw about 62,000 fans.

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Success

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"He is very driven, and he wants very badly to be successful. He's highly organized and motivated, he knows what he wants to get and how to get it. He's very goal-oriented."

Billick said: "I'm sure that Jackie will have a very positive winning effect on A&M football, the athletic program and the whole institution. I think he's very professional about the way he goes about his job."

"There's absolutely no doubt in my mind that, more than in terms of wins and losses, Sherrill is tops in public relations, image and prestige, and he will bring that to the A&M program."

And if the past is any determinant, Billick said, Sherrill has probably set high goals for the Aggies.

"I think in the long-term look," he said, "Jackie Sherrill won't settle for anything less than a national championship. I think he has some objective as far as wins for his first season, but I don't think he'll panic if he doesn't reach that. He probably

has a good estimate on how many wins he wants this season."

People associated with Sherrill while he was in high school still remember the former Biloxi High All-America, who played fullback during his junior and senior years. T.J. Smith, the defensive end and receiver coach at Biloxi High School during the early 1960s, said no one ever questioned Sherrill's versatility and athletic ability.

Smith said that by the time Sherrill transferred to Biloxi from Duncan, his talents had been molded into the form of a fine all-around player.

Smith described Sherrill as a "tremendous blocker" and "one heck of a high school football player." In addition, Smith said, Sherrill's contributions to the community made him a "model citizen in school."

Dr. Edward E. Bozik, assistant chancellor at Pittsburgh, will officially assume the school's athletic director post Wednesday. Bozik, who's been at Pitt for seven years, maintained a close relationship with Sherrill and the rest of the athletic depart-

ment personnel.

Bozik said Sherrill's determination in sustaining the excellence of Panther football helped him achieve the success he's enjoyed.

"The record obviously speaks for itself," Bozik said. "It's the best record of any coach we've ever had here at Pitt, and that's quite a tribute to him."

"He's a superb football coach and obviously we were sorry to lose him. He did more than coach. He's a superb recruiter and ... continued to build on the program of his predecessor (Majors) and ... left a fine program for his successor to build on."

Bozik said: "Jackie had the problem of rebuilding a program here and he did an excellent job of that. Coach Sherrill runs a tight ship, and there's no doubt about who's in charge. Jackie, indeed, establishes rules for the team and the coaches and insists on adherence to those rules."

"If history's a predictor, I think the past may be a prologue, and he may just bring a winning program to Texas A&M."

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