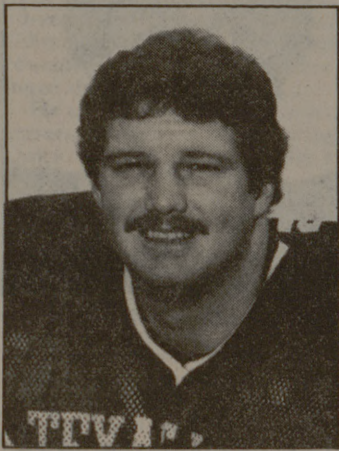


# The Battalion Sports

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## Aggie offensive front plans to be overpowering in '82

by John P. Lopez



Aggie OT Bryan Dausin

When Jackie Sherrill became the Aggies' head coach during the spring, he made it clear that his major objective was to improve the offensive line.

Sherrill, after spending five years with a fine line at Pittsboro, said Texas A&M's offensive front was too weak, too small and had terrible pass-blocking techniques.

Today, the starting front is between 10 and 20 pounds heavier per man and an average of 60 pounds stronger on the bench press. Naturally, Sherrill is relieved to hear those numbers.

Offensive coordinator and line coach Pat Ruel said the vast improvement in such a short time can be attributed to hard work and dedication this summer by the entire line.

"These guys (the line) really have a lot of character," Ruel said. "And you just can't lose with people like that. They were up here on their own working and trying to improve themselves all summer."

"One of our goals is to improve ourselves every day. And I think we've been doing that, but we're still not quite where we would like to be."

The offensive line, Ruel said, still needs to improve its pass blocking and concentrate on the

finer points of technique, but he said the front five are all hard workers and are willing to learn.

The biggest task facing the line was an adjustment to Sherrill's offense. Last year, the line relied on quickness and speed. This year, however, the line needed the extra size and strength because under Sherrill's offensive scheme, the linemen need to overpower their opponents.

"The thinking behind the offense is that the bigger the man, the more space he takes up which means there are fewer gaps to worry about," Ruel said.

"Naturally coaches are always

looking for players that have great size, but I think our players have good size the way they are now. I'm interested in strength, quickness and desire. Mostly desire. And this group is improving in that aspect.

"And our last scrimmage really excited me too, because our second team performed well. Coach Sherrill plans to use both the first and second team during a game, so we're pretty happy the second team is coming around."

Ruel also said, however, that the line is not without fault.

"In practice I have been stressing the fundamentals like quickness and footwork," he said, "but we've had a few problems here and there. Mostly we need to concentrate on the little things."

Although Ruel said the whole offensive line is improving, he singled out Greg Porter and Bryan Dausin as two of the most impressive players.

"Porter hustles all the time and tries to improve every day," he said. "And Dausin has really improved his overall technique."

Dausin, who gained 20 pounds and increased his bench press from 300 to 360 pounds since the spring, said the members of the line have been improving because of the confidence Ruel has instilled in them.

"Coach Ruel is the main factor," Dausin said. "His coaching abilities and attitude towards us really motivate us. He makes practice fun."

Dausin and several other Aggie linemen spent the summer in College Station "eating and lifting weights." The linemen worked on the weights four times a week, Dausin said.

"That's all we did was lift weights," he said. "We didn't do any running until about a month before fall practice so we all gained a little weight and got stronger."

The added strength and weight, Dausin said, already has proved beneficial.

"It helps us stop the charge of the defensive man and helps us control him easier," he said. "We're going to be running a lot of I-formation plays which means we'll need to hold our blocks longer, and I think the extra weight will make that easier for us."

The attitude of the line has also changed from last year, Dausin said.

"I think that physically and mentally this is the best offensive line at A&M since I've been here," he said. "We feel like we can line up against anyone. We want to be the best line in the conference and eventually be one of the best lines in the country."

The Aggie linemen have a good chance to prove how good they are Saturday when they face a large and strong Boston College defensive front. Dausin and Porter in particular will have a busy Saturday evening facing 6-foot-4-inch 285-pound BC tackle Junior Poles.



Before there was tradition, before there was the Twelfth Man, there was only Aggie Spirit. This is the story of Spirit as he goes on many journeys in an attempt to capture the Southwest Conference crown and bring it back to Aggieland.

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