The Battalion Sports

September 17, 1982 'Page 15

Aggie trainer Bob Bitters cools down a tired Matt

Darwin during Texas A&M's loss to Boston College

two weeks ago. The Aggies' starting center and his

Aggies, Mavs set for Saturday's showdown

Sherrill's defensive changes stick; Smith, Bryant to start

by Frank L. Christlieb

Sports Editor George Smith knows the Texas Aggies have a good foot-ball team. And he's not ashamed to let people know how he feels about his team's character.

And Smith, Texas A&M's freshman fullback from Douglas, Ga., says he hasn't had much time to get nervous about Saturday's game with the University Texas-Arlington Movin' Mavs. He's trying to enter the game with a clear mind and concience

In other words, Smith says, forget about Boston College. "Good football teams are the ones that put things like that behind them, and I think we're definitely a good football team," Smith said after Thursday's onehour workout.

Smith should be nervous. It's not every day a first-year player gets thrust into a starting posi-tion in the Aggie backfield.

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But the prospect, of starting his first college football game hasn't given him the shakes. Smith's confidence about Saturday's game, which starts at 6 p.m. in Kyle Field, can prob-ably be traced to the Aggies' 38-16 loss to Boston College two weeks ago.

When starter Earnest Jackson weeks, Coach Jackie Sherrill tos-

Aggie coach Jackie Sherrill

has earned a chance to prove his ability as a starter behind quarterback Gary Kubiak and alongside tailback Johnny Hector. Although his left ankle, which

he sprains every so often, has given him problems since the Aggies' end-of-summer workouts, Smith says he couldn't be ready for Saturday's more game

But he's not going to make a commotion about his starting spot

In the Movin' Mavs, Texas A&M will face a team that stampeded past Sam Houston State 63-10 last weekend. It's hard to judge the strength of the UTA squad on the basis of its onesided victory over the lowly Bearkats, but Smith said the Aggies are aware of the Mavs' talents. "I feel like it doesn't matter

who you play, but anytime you score 63 points, you're doing something right," he said. "So we won't judge them by what they did last week ... and we won't take them lightly just because they played a bad team.'

And in turn, the Mavericks and Coach Bud Elliott don't regard the Aggies as pushovers just because they lost — and lost big — a game that everyone thought they'd win. Elliott, who has been coaching at UTA for nine years, said his players know about the offensive unit led by Kubiak and Co.

"We're extremely impressed with their offense," he said. "Kubiak reads defenses real well and throws the ball well, and we know that Hector is an extreme-

ly good running back. ^RWe feel that George Smith is a dandy, and overall, A&M has great outside speed. The offensive line is better than most peo-

See UTA page 17



photo by Donn Friedman

teammates will face the UTA Movin' Mays Saturday at 6 p.m. in Kyle Field.



