

Texas A&M

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Kip Corrington

A&M Consolidated's QB to stay close to home

by Joe Tindel Jr.

Battalion Staff
With college football recruiting well under way, names like Craig Stump, Jeff Atkins, Edwin Simmons and Rod Bernstine are making print often. But the name which is probably most important to permanent residents of College Station doesn't appear in all the recruiting stories that make the papers statewide. Next fall, supporters of A&M Consolidated High

Aggie recruiting

school can be proud of the delegate their school has sent to college football.

That delegate is Kip Corrington, whose noteworthy performances as a quarterback and defensive back for the Tigers over the past few years have attracted the attention of four southwest Conference schools, including Texas A&M. To the chagrin of recruiters from Texas, TCU and Rice, Corrington has decided to stay close to home. In all probability, the top product of Coach Powell Ferguson's Tigers will come an Aggie when fall workouts begin.

"Kip will just fit right in," said Ferguson, whose team relied heavily on Corrington's sprint-passes and pass defense last season. "He'll play quite a bit for Aggies."

Corrington has excelled as a baseball player and is currently a top rebounder on the Tiger's 23-3 basketball squad that ranked third in the state.

And as the starting quarterback for Consolidated last season, Corrington completed 59 of 114 passes for 720 yards and five touchdowns. His ability to execute the sprint-out type passes used with the run-pass option especially attracted the attention of recruiters from TCU, who have been looking for a quarterback who can run their "veer" type offense, Ferguson said.

But Corrington's high school mentor said the way Aggie head coach Jackie Sherrill handled Corrington's recruiting with patience was probably a factor behind Corrington's decision.

Although Ferguson said the other schools might have been rushing Corrington a little for a decision, the schoolboy standout said he didn't really feel pushed by the Aggies.

"They (Corrington's high school coaches) gave me a little advice," Corrington said, "but I didn't have any problems with anything. I guess I was lucky."

"I got a lot of calls and a lot of people coming to see me, but I didn't get any pressure."

Corrington visited the other three schools to be sure he was making the right choice, but he said he was impressed with Texas A&M's coaching staff and facilities. And, Corrington said, he doesn't have any qualms about the competition he'll face with the Aggies.

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it," he said. "They're going to be bigger and faster for sure, but I don't know really what it'll be like. I guess I'll find out."

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"You really have to choose the best school for you — where you'll be happy, and you're just going to have to work hard no matter where you go." — Kip Corrington said.

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Ferguson said he thinks Corrington most likely will play in the Aggies' defensive secondary, where he enjoys handing out punishment to receivers and other ball carriers. Ferguson labeled Corrington as a "Clark Kent" type who seems peaceful enough — until he gets in the secondary.

But Corrington said he'll probably try out for the quarter-

back position despite his relative unfamiliarity with the Aggies' straight drop-back passing offense and the audible system.

"I don't know much about it yet," Corrington said. "I'm going to start learning pretty soon. I think I can pick it up. It's a lot of work, but I think I can do it."

Corrington is one of two of Ferguson's products who may step on Kyle Field next fall in Aggie uniforms. The other is Joey Harris, a running back who played on Ferguson's Montgomery High School team before playing at Wharton Junior College. Ferguson said he considers Corrington and Harris to be the best players he's coached.

AGGIE FACTS: Corrington may have his hands full if he decides to try out for quarterback for Texas A&M. The Aggies already have a verbal commitment from Port Arthur Jefferson quarterback **Craig Stump**, an all-state selection and blue-chip recruit. Texas A&M is also rumored to be in the chase for Eastland's **Jay Hess**, another prize quarterback recruit. The starting job for the 1983 season is expected to be a battle between **John Elkins** and USC transfer **John Mazur**.

Several other local high school products may have decided on Texas A&M in the recruiting battle also. Bryan High School's **Rod Bernstine**, **Todd Howard** and **Jimmy Flowers**, who at one time were rumored to be heading to Colorado University, may be thinking about coming to Texas A&M, several newspapers have reported.



photo by Peter Rocha

A&M Consolidated's Kip Corrington turns upfield with the ball during a game in Kyle Field in the fall. The

senior quarterback, who was recruited by three other SWC schools, has decided to attend Texas A&M.

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