

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

Friday, September 16, 1983/The Battalion/Page 15

## Texas A&M vs. Arkansas State

# Tribe armed with run-oriented offense

by Joe Tindel Jr.

**Battalion Staff**  
The Texas Aggies probably will get their first relief in some time from explosive passing attacks this weekend.  
When the Arkansas State Indians come to town Saturday, the type of offense Texas A&M will face could bring back memories of the Emory Ballard style of play.  
Ballard, the Aggies' head coach from 1971 to mid-season of 1978, was the inventor of the once-popular wishbone offense. Only the die-hards use it now, or the people who can still use it effectively.  
And according to Arkansas State coach Larry Laceywell, the "bone" will return to Kyle field, as the Indians pack an offensive arsenal that relies on the breakaway potential of the wishbone triple option.  
That means the Aggies' secondary should be able to approach the game at eye-level, since the wishbone is almost exclusively a run-oriented attack. That also means the big battles should be at the line of scrimmage.  
The Indian offense is guided by 80, 180-pound senior quarterback Tim Langford, who has scored four touchdowns rushing in Arkansas State's first two games of

the season. Langford's TD runs in the first game of the season, a 31-0 shellacking of Tennessee-Martin, were 50 and 52 yards.

Joining Langford in the backfield are 5-11, 205-pound senior Duane Pittman at fullback, 5-9, 175-pound junior Keith Weaver at left halfback and 5-10, 180-pound senior Erven Beasley at right halfback.

Beasley rushed for 124 yards against Tennessee-Martin, and Pittman ran for 101 yards.

The Indians, from the Southland Conference, are 2-0 on the season, with the second victory a 27-14 decision over Tennessee-Chattanooga. Arkansas State trailed 14-13 at the beginning of the fourth quarter in that game, and rallied for 14 points on Langford's touchdowns.

Defensively, the Indians will have to rely on quickness to stop the Aggies and quarterback John Mazur, who completed 20 of 33 passes for 243 yards and two touchdowns in the 19-17 loss to California.

The Aggies offensive line, dubbed "The Pack," was perfect in protecting Mazur two weeks ago, and this week will enjoy an overwhelming size advantage over the Indians' defense.

The Aggie backfield, as a matter of fact, will be as big or bigger

than many of the Indians' front seven (three linemen, four linebackers). The injury of freshman tailback Keith Woodside has "forced" the Aggies to go with 225-pound Bryan freshman Rod Bernstine at that position.

Joining Bernstine will be 6-0, 226-pound sophomore George Smith.

But Aggie offensive line coach Pat "Golden" Ruel said the size advantage won't necessarily mean more emphasis on the running game.

"It'll all be determined by how Arkansas State wants to play us," Ruel said. "We will also hope we can force them into playing a certain way."

"They're very quick, and they've got very good team speed on defense. They are not as physical up front, and they're just not as big as a lot of teams we've faced. But what they give up in size they make up with speed."

Nevertheless, Ruel said polishing the running game is a primary goal for the Aggies if they are to make a good showing this season. So it's possible that big size advantage may be put to use on the ground if the Indians loosen up in fear of Mazur.

"I think we're going to have to

learn how to run the football a little bit more effectively in order for us to be competitive with the top teams in the league," Ruel said. "I think we've got the people up front that can get the job done. It's just a matter of whether or not they're polished enough."

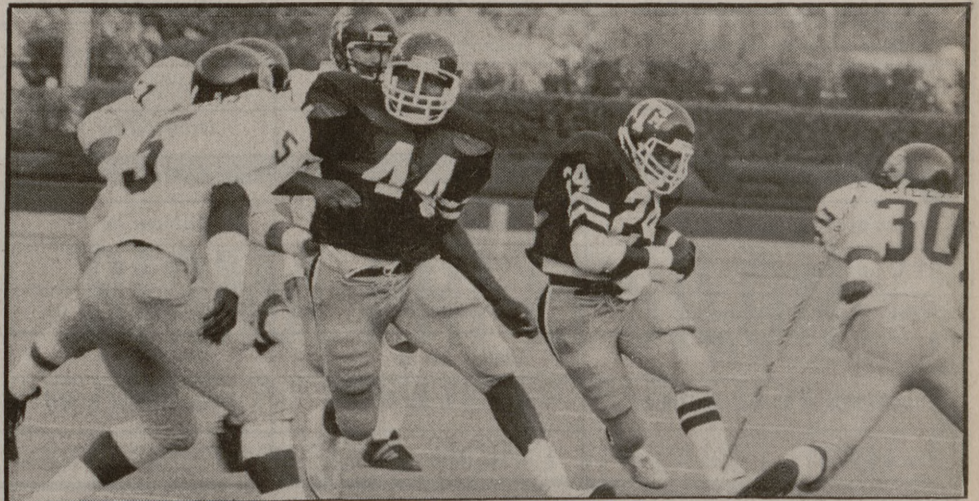
And Ruel said he's looking for more polish this weekend.

"The offensive line, I don't feel, performed as well as they can in the first game," Ruel said. "We worked hard in the last two weeks to get a little better and to improve. I saw some improvement."

"I'm hoping we can take advantage of our big people up front on the line of scrimmage and attack them with our running game a little bit. We should have somewhat of an advantage in that area."

The meeting between Texas A&M and Arkansas State is the first ever in football.

Kickoff time is 6 p.m. in Kyle Field.



staff photo by John Makely

Aggie tailback back Joey Harris (24) follows the path of running back George Smith (44) during Texas A&M's 19-17 loss to

Cal two weeks ago. Smith, who will start in the backfield Saturday, and the Aggies hope for better results when Arkansas State hits town.

## Women clip UH in cross country

by Scott Griffin

**Battalion Staff**  
The Texas A&M women's cross country team won their first meet of the year Wednesday, defeating Houston by 15 points while the men's team finished second in their division.

Point totals in the meet were calculated by adding up the placings of the runners, with the lowest team score winning.

In the women's field, Texas A&M totaled 24 points and their five entries all finished in the top ten.

Marilee Matheny, redshirted last year because of hip injuries, finished first in the 5000-meter run for the Aggies. Matheny, a junior, was the team's top runner two years ago. Last year's top runner, Suzanne Sheffield, finished second.

In the men's division, Houston finished first with 25 points. A&M was a distant second with 45.

Houston runner Anthony Smith won the men's five-mile event with a time of 25:26.

The A&M totals are as follows:  
Women's division  
— Marilee Matheny, 1st, 17:49.  
— Suzanne Sheffield, 2nd, 17:56.

Men's division  
— Patti Mileski, 4th, 18:14.  
— Mary Mileski, 7th, 18:31.  
— Esther Dedrick, 10th, 18:48.

Men's division  
— Aaron Ramirez, 4th, 25:41.  
— Huey Treat, 6th, 25:55.  
— Vince Stark, 7th, 26:18.  
— Andy Elliott, 8th, 26:19.  
— David Ellis, 23rd, 27:55.

## SWC slate

### UT, Auburn hope to juggle polls

**United Press International**  
The Texas Longhorns are ranked No. 3 in the country and have yet to play a down of football this year.

The Auburn Tigers are ranked No. 4 and have been touted throughout the summer as the team that will sweep the South and perhaps every-place else before the season is through.

And just about lunchtime Saturday those two teams will meet as part of an important, early-season double header that will weed out the challengers to powerful Nebraska as the No. 1 club in the land.

The second half of the big-league twin bill, both games of which will be televised to a majority of the country, will have No. 6 Ohio State facing No. 2 Oklahoma in Norman.

If Oklahoma and Texas should win their encounters Saturday, it would set up their Oct. 8 collision in Dallas as something even larger than it normally is, which is large enough.

The Longhorns, however, will quite possibly have their

problems in Auburn. It's bad enough that they are on the road against a team that has already played a game (Auburn whipped Southern Mississippi last week, 24-3). But Texas has had its share of injury woes during the preseason.

Quarterback Todd Dodge separated a shoulder, tight end Bobby Micho and flanker Ronnie Mullins are coming back from arthroscopic knee surgeries and star linebacker Jeff Leiding ripped up a leg while rafting last week.

With Dodge out of the game, coach Fred Akers delayed the announcement as to who would start the contest at quarterback — either Rob Moerschell or Rick McIvor.

The Texas opener easily highlights the schedule of Southwest Conference teams, most of whom have been hit by some disappointments this year.

Every other SWC team in action will be playing in the evening, with Texas A&M returning to play following a week's layoff. The Aggies, who suffered a bizarre defeat at the hands of

California to start the year, will host Arkansas State.

Houston is expected to get back in the win column against Lamar in the Astrodome, Arkansas goes after its second straight victory in Little Rock against New Mexico and Baylor — fresh from one of its bigger intersectional victories in recent memory — plays Texas-El Paso in the Sun Bowl.

TCU, meanwhile, will travel to Kansas State in search of its first win under Jim Wacker and the Rice Owls will be at home against the LSU Tigers. Rice has lost 14 consecutive games and that streak is expected to continue against the Tigers.

"The best thing we can do to break the jinx is to block, tackle and execute," said Rice coach Ray Alborn. "There are no gimmicks. We just have to play with the intensity we need to win."

Southern Methodist, which has had two lackluster wins to run its unbeaten streak to 18 games, and Texas Tech, which fell in its opener to the Air Force, will have the weekend off.

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