

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Defense 'has hands full'

Running attack anticipated

by Scott Griffin

Battalion Staff
Even if Oklahoma State's Heisman Trophy candidate Ernest Anderson doesn't play Saturday, Texas A&M defensive coordinator R. C. Slocum says the Aggie defense will have their hands full.

"They've got a great running attack," Slocum said Thursday. "They've got some good tailbacks — I've really been impressed with Jones."

The player Slocum speaks of is Shawn Jones, a 6-1, 220-pound junior who gained 160 yards on 32 carries last week against Cincinnati. Jones was never tackled for a loss in the Cincy game, and he scored the winning touchdown for the second time this year.

With his performance last week, Jones is now 13th on the OSU career rushing charts with 1,300 yards — even after sitting out last season because of a leg

injury.

In addition to Jones, the Cowboys have a power runner in fullback Kelly Cook, who registered his finest day ever against Cincinnati with 96 yards on only eight carries.

And then comes Anderson, who'll probably see action against the Aggies after sitting out the past two weeks with a groin pull. "Ernest was still sore this past weekend," OSU coach Jimmy Johnson said Thursday. "But we're hopeful he'll be okay for the A&M game."

Slocum said he thinks Anderson will play. If he does, A&M will have to combat the greatest single force on the OSU squad.

Last year, Anderson gained 1,877 yards — the fifth best total in NCAA history.

Anderson owns both the OSU and Big Eight Conference rushing records. He tied the Big-Eight mark for most 200-yard games in a season with four last year.

And Anderson rushed for over 1,000 yards after only five games last year — a feat matched by only three players in NCAA history.

Slocum is the first to admit that OSU has an exceptional offense.

"We're not gonna shut them down completely," Slocum said. "We just hope to keep them from making the big play. They're gonna get some yards, but we need to make them earn those yards. We're gonna have to hit 'em hard — we can't have them breaking tackles and getting loose."

"The thing we have to do is win the war of the trenches," Slocum said. "They're gonna get some yards, but we got to prevent the big gains."

As far as possible OSU offensive strategies, Slocum said the Cowboys will spend most of their time on the ground. "They have a great running attack which they sometimes supple-

ment with a pass," Slocum said. "They like to run the sweep and get their backs out in the open. Their running backs and tight ends will be the ones to watch."

And OSU coach Jimmy Johnson says they'll run their regular offense against the Aggies, even if Anderson doesn't play.

"We have two good tailbacks in Shawn Jones and Ken Zachary," Johnson said. "We're gonna have to run the same offense, regardless of who's in the game."

Johnson said he's been impressed with the Aggies this year. "A&M is a talented football team," he said. "They've got excellent people at the skill positions — we've been especially impressed with (Aggie QB John) Mazur."

Other aspects that impressed Johnson are the A&M offensive and defensive lines.



Texas A&M fullback Jimmy Hawkins (40) goes over the top for a touchdown against Arkansas State last week. The Aggies go up

against the Oklahoma State Cowboys Saturday. Game time has been moved to 2:50 p.m. for regional TV coverage.

Tennis teams to hit the road

by Kay Mallett

Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M men's and women's tennis teams are on the road this weekend to play their first tournaments of the year.

The men will be to Austin for a tournament at the University of Texas, while the women play at Lamar University.

Men's coach David Kent said he is looking forward to the tournament in Austin and hopes his team will gain experience, exposure, and knowledge of their weaknesses.

And he named the five excellent freshmen who could gain that valuable experience — Grant Connell, Dean Golfline, Jerry Perry, Mark Smith, and Marcel Voss.

"It'll take them a while to learn the nuts and bolts of college tennis. We'll see how they act under pressure," — Texas A&M men's tennis coach David Kent on the Aggies' season-opening tournament this weekend.

"It'll take them a while to learn the nuts and bolts of college tennis," he said. "We'll see how they act under pressure."

"We're approaching it very seriously this year. We have more talent than we've ever had."

Kent also hoping his freshmen will get positive exposure this weekend in Austin.

Last year was the first year since 1979 that the men's team wasn't ranked in the national top 20, and Kent hopes to regain that lost ranking. But he added that breaking the top 20 won't be an easy task.

"We're going to have to earn our way back into it," he said. But most of all, Kent hopes

that the tournament will serve as more than a learning experience. And he believes the team's morale could be the winning factor going into this weekend's tourney.

Traveling with the women's team to Lamar, will be coach Jan Cannon. The Lady Cardinal tournament will include 10 teams — three of which are from the Southwest Conference — Arkansas, Houston, and Texas A&M. Texas A&M's first scheduled opponent will be Houston Baptist University.

Cannon believes the key to this year's women's team is the depth of talent.

She added that the women's No. 1 player, sophomore Vanne Akagi, should be back in form this year.

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