

Texas A&M

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staff photo by Dean Saito

Aggie linebacker Greg Berry is 'he's got,' according to Texas A&M a 'tough guy who gives everything' linebacker coach R.C. Slocum.

Good ol' boy

Aggie linebacker Berry just playing for fun

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

Greg Berry is an unlikely hero for the Texas A&M defense. He doesn't have a familiar name like University of Texas linebacker Jeff Leiding, he doesn't have the respect of his peers like Aggie linebacker Billy Cannon and he doesn't have raw athletic ability and speed like TCU's Ron Zell Brewer.

"He definitely doesn't have speed," his coach, R. C. Slocum says. But Berry has something Leiding, Cannon and Brewer don't have — 28 tackles in three games, for instance. But, more important, Berry has something coaches don't teach and few major-college players possess. "He's got a lot of desire," Slocum says of the Abilene native. "He's just a tough guy that al-

ways gives you everything he's got. He's the kind of player you love to have on your team because even though there are more talented guys around, Greg's a real hard-nosed player."

To say the least. Berry has the reputation among Texas A&M football observers as a Li'l Abner in a world of swanky athletic dormitories and plush locker rooms. Perhaps Berry was born 25 years too late. He'd just as soon practice in Junction under former Texas A&M coach Paul "Bear" Bryant and play on natural turf so he can get good and dirty. He dips snuff, nibbles on toothpicks and wears baseball caps with construction company emblems.

Berry's just a good ol' boy that has been playing football since

he was 9 years old and has loved every second of it.

"For as long as I can remember I've loved the game of football," Berry says. "I love being out there on the field. I'm not out here looking to be a pro I just like to play the game."

And even though Texas A&M has lost two of its first three games this season, Berry has played the game well. So well, in fact, that at the pace Berry's going, all-SWC honors are well within his reach.

But Berry has other things on his mind, like defeating Texas Tech in the Aggies' SWC opener in Lubbock Saturday.

"I'd rather us go to a bowl game than get individual honors," he says. "This is a big game for us because we can't afford to lose many more and expect to go to a bowl. And, coming from

Abilene, I'll have a lot of friends there.

"Getting publicity really isn't that important for me. And if I do get any publicity I hope it doesn't affect me because I really don't think I've been playing all that well. I owe all my tackles to our defensive linemen. They've been opening everything up for me."

Berry said another reason he's been having a good year is because of Texas A&M's new 3-4 defensive alignment.

"It fits our linebackers perfectly," he said. "And I like it because I'm so slow and it gives me a chance to get right in the middle of everything."

"The outside people are fast so they force things inside. That lets me make a lot of tackles."

And tackling people is what Berry loves to do.

Offensive problems have Holtz, Wacker bothered

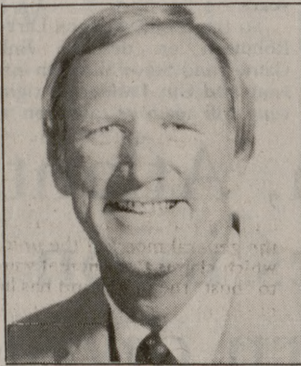
United Press International
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — After three football games, the only difference in Arkansas and Texas Christian appears to be the teams' records. Both have inexperience problems on defense and in the offensive line that have hampered their performance.

Both head coaches — Lou Holtz of 2-1 Arkansas and Jim Wacker of 0-2-1 TCU — told Arkansas media Wednesday that their ground attacks have suffered so far in 1983. The schools meet Saturday at 11:35 a.m. in a regionally televised game (CBS-TV) in Fort Worth.

"We've been throwing the ball pretty well," Wacker said from Fort Worth by telephone. "The problems we are having revolve around the running game. We have not been very physical in the offensive line."

Holtz said he was more encouraged about the offensive line's performance after reviewing films than he was in the immediate aftermath of Saturday's 13-10 loss to Mississippi.

"The offense was so deceiving," Holtz said. "We have eight or nine players play well and one or two who don't on each play. But it's not like it's a complete breakdown."



and the result is the same as if all 11 played badly — second and nine. You won't see any results until you get 11 (that play well).

Holtz said the line play will improve as the year goes on if the players don't lose confidence and start to worry. He predicted an excellent Razorback offensive line for 1984. "We've got an awful lot of good young offensive linemen," he said. "I am not down on our offensive line. I believe in them."

Wacker praised the Arkansas coaching staff at length, citing the numerous defensive looks and good preparation shown by the Razorbacks. Holtz disagreed. "That's garbage," he said.

"They're sitting down there so excited about playing the University of Arkansas, it's amazing."

Holtz said all he wanted this week was "a game ball", meaning an Arkansas victory.

Wacker said he wished Arkansas had beaten Ole Miss. "We play Ole Miss later, so that would have made our chances better. Obviously Arkansas was counting on winning its first four games going into the Texas game (Oct. 15). We're not going to catch them sleeping Saturday now."

The TCU line, on both sides of the ball, is not big, experienced or strong, Wacker said.

The Frog coach said defensive end Ron Zell Brewer and cornerback John Thomas were likely to miss the Arkansas game with injuries. He also praised the play of linebackers Kyle Clifton and Gary Spann.

"We're getting great play out of our linebackers and secondary," he said. "The line is giving great effort but they are very young."

He said the Frog offensive line would need "great concentration and intensity" against the multiple Razorback defenses. "or we'll be in trouble."

Utah Jazz keeps five for camp

United Press International
SALT LAKE CITY — The Utah Jazz have invited five rookies and free agents, including first-round draft pick Thurl Bailey of 1983 NCAA champion North Carolina State, to attend the club's veterans camp.

The Jazz cut 11 other players Wednesday at the end of their rookie-free agent camp. The players invited back were Bailey, No. 3 draft pick Bob Hansen of Iowa, fourth-round pick Doug Arnold of TCU, and free agents Tom Boswell and U.S. Reed.

"This was a good, physical camp," said Jazz coach Frank Layden. "We had planned to keep only four players, but we ended up inviting five back for the veterans camp."

The players cut: free agents Zam Fredrick, Ralph McPherson, Sam Smith and Jay Triano, and rookies Matt Clark of Oklahoma State, Fred Gilliam of Clemson, Gerald Kazanowski of Victoria (B.C.) College, Terry Lewis of Mississippi State, Mike McCombs of Santa Fe College, Odell Mosteller of Auburn and Ron Webb of Oklahoma Christian.

The veterans camp begins Friday and runs through Oct. 6 when the Jazz play their first pre-season game, at Seattle.

The 6-foot-11 Bailey had signed a long-term contract with the Jazz on Sept. 23. Layden said the rookie power forward-center will give Utah "needed rebounds and scoring, and he's also an excellent shot blocker."

Bailey led N.C. State to this year's national collegiate title, averaging a team-high 16.7

points and 7.7 rebounds per game. He also has an excellent outside shot, hitting 10 of 15 3-point attempts for the Wolf Pack.

"I thought I was in great shape when I came here," said Bailey. "But the altitude really took it out of me."

The 6-7 Boswell played five years in the NBA before being

cut by the Jazz at the end of the 1979-80 season. He was later given another chance by Layden, if the forward would spend the 1982-83 season in the Continental Basketball League. He averaged 14.7 points and nine rebounds per game for the Billings, Mont., team.

Reed was drafted by Kansas City in the summer of 1981, out

of Arkansas. He was cut by the Kings and spent the next season in the CBA at Billings. Reed was injured in a tryout camp last year and spent the winter recuperating.

The 6-8 Arnold averaged 15.6 points and 9.3 rebounds for TCU last year, and the 6-6 Hansen 15.2 points and 5.4 rebounds for Iowa.

Olympia winner misses ceremony

United Press International
HOUSTON — Track star Carl Lewis, selected as the 1984 recipient of the Olympia Award, failed Wednesday to show up for the award ceremony.

"We don't know what happened to him," said Tom Tellez, Lewis' track coach at the University of Houston. "But he was very much aware of the significance of the award."

Lewis, 23, the winner of three gold medals in the recent Track and Field World Championships in Helsinki, hopes to compete in four events in the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles — including the 100 and 200 meter dashes, the long jump and 4x100 relay. He could become the first person to win four track related gold medals since Jesse Owens won four in the 1936 Olympics.

The Olympia Award, presented by the Southland Corp. and sanctioned by the U.S. Olympic Committee, recognizes the achievements of athletes in 31 Olympic sports. Recent winners include Mary Decker, Greg Louganis, Tracy Caulkins, Ralph Sampson, Evelyn Ashfor and Phil Mahre.

It is voted on by a panel of former world and Olympic greats.

The award is a two-handled, clay vase, similar to the ones given to amateur athletes 2,500 years ago in Greece.

"Something might have happened to Carl, we don't know," said Southland spokesman Don

Smith. "But in the brief history of the Olympia Award, this is the first time an athlete has failed to appear to accept the award. I'm sure there is a reason for it."

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