

The Battalion Sports

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Aggies, Coogs looking for answers

Yeoman says Coogs need 'excitement'

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff

Picture this — Bill Yeoman is lying on a psychologist's couch spilling his guts about the 1983 Houston Cougars.

He tells his analyst about how the Coogs rolled up 354 yards in total offense against Oregon, and lost 15-14. Then, Yeoman would discuss Houston's ungodly amount of offense against Baylor last week — 485 yards — scratch his head and tell the psychologist, "but we got wiped out 42-21."

And before the analyst finished scribbling notes in his pad, Yeoman would go on to say that although the Cougars have the 7th leading rusher in the nation in Donald Jordan, and Houston is in the top 20 in offensive production, the Coogs sport a paltry record of 2-3 for the year.

Of course, Yeoman probably hasn't seen a shrink to discuss Houston's troubles on the field, but the veteran coach must be wondering why the Cougars' firepower hasn't yielded a better record.

But if Yeoman wants an answer to the Coogs' troubles, all he needs to do is grab the nearest stat sheet and look at the column that says, "fumbles." Houston has lost the ball 26 times, count 'em, 26.

Yeoman undoubtedly wants to eliminate those miscues when the Cougars enter Kyle Field to take on Texas A&M.

"There is nothing wrong with our runners," Yeoman says. "All we have to do is get the ball down there and stick it in. Then we'll be alright. We have just got to be a little bit more careful on the pitch."

But fumbles, Yeoman said, aren't the only troubles plaguing the Cougars.

"It's about time we take a soap bath and get a little lathered up," he said regarding the Cougars' enthusiasm on the field. "We're just going to have to have a lot more enthusiasm at the point of attack."

Yeoman also said he doesn't expect the Aggies to roll over after starting out with a 1-3 record.

"I'm sure A&M will get themselves back together," he said. Cougar fullback Dwayne Love agreed:

"We have to get Baylor behind us," Love said. "We'll try and play a more controlled game and get the ball in the end zone. They (A&M) will be fired up like Baylor was, but we'll try to have a different outcome."

Should the Houston defeat the Aggies, Yeoman said the Cougar defense will have a lot to do with the win.

"We're not honing in on the football and getting in the good licks," he said. "Nothing bothers me more than anything else, but if you don't play defense, you just can't play. There's no doubt in my mind our defensive line and linebackers are going to have to play harder."



staff photo by Dean Saito

The new kid on the block for the A&M offense is Kevin Murray, at right.

Head coach Jackie Sherrill named Murray as the starting quarterback for

the A&M-Houston game Saturday, and said he's sure Murray is prepared.

Ralph's for real, but Rockets still lose

by Dave Scott

Special to The Battalion

DALLAS — "He's for real, Ralph's for real," veteran guard Calvin Murphy barked out after rookie Ralph Sampson swished a 25-foot three-pointer to end the third quarter of the Houston-Dallas basketball game Thursday night.

Sampson, the No. 1 pick in last year's NBA draft, finished his professional debut with 24 points and six rebounds. It wasn't enough, however, to help the lowly Rockets overcome the Mavericks.

The Mavericks overcame early foul trouble to defeat Sampson and the Rockets, 122-111, on the strength of rookie Dale Ellis' 19 points. Mark Aguirre and Jay Vincent chipped in 18 points apiece, and Brad Davis had 17 points and six assists.

Sampson, who had the eyes of the media focused on him throughout the game and at a special post-game press conference, was soft-spoken but tough. When asked if the Rockets would be NBA contenders based on his arrival in Houston, Sampson said: "I'm not here to play God and win the thing myself, because I know that's impossible. It takes all 11 or 12 (players). I just want to be part of the team. I just expect to be part of the squad and play tough, hard basketball."

Sampson floated outside the lane for much of the game, despite his height advantage over Maverick centers Pat Cummings and Kurt Nimthius. The rookie from Virginia was called for goaltending four times, and managed two blocked shots. He was also charged for five turnovers, and had four assists.

Everyone, it seemed, had something good to say about Sampson. "He's pretty much a finesse player," Cummings said. "I really didn't know what to expect. He's a good athlete. "I was surprised that he came out to guard me... most centers won't come out that far."

Sampson's first bucket of his professional career came 3 minutes into the first quarter on a 15-foot jumper, pushing the Rockets to an early 7-0 lead. Dallas didn't score until the 3:03 mark when Vincent followed Sampson's first bucket with a 12-foot jumper in the lane.

Sampson, who wears a size 17 tennis shoe, lacks the muscle that is apparent on most NBA centers.

Evin Hayes said Dallas' centers were physical with Sampson

as a test. "Kareem (Abdul-Jabbar) went through the same things. He had to feel his way and felt some pushing from Wilt (Chamberlain) and (Willis) Reed.

"Ralph is a player that's so willing to learn. The next time they (the Mavericks) see him, he'll be a completely different player."

"I'm sure we'll try to open up our offense more than we did against Tech this week," he said. "It always seems we're facing first and 20 or something like that. When you're in a hole it's hard to be consistent."

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aggs. "I don't think that we'll try to change our defense that much to accommodate Houston," Bryant said. "I think we've seen a little bit of everything this year and I believe we'll be ready to play against their veer."

Sherrill says QB Murray has the tools

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff

Kevin Murray is feeling it right about now.

It's hard to describe, but every Aggie quarterback to ever get the nod as a starter has felt it — pressure.

It's always there and the only way Texas A&M quarterbacks have avoided pressure in the past is by stringing wins together. Needless to say, it's been a long time since a Texas A&M quarterback has not felt pressure.

And when Murray takes to the field Saturday at 2 p.m. to take on the Houston Cougars, the pressure will be square upon his shoulders. But Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill said he feels Murray has the utensils to lighten the load.

"He's got the speed and he can move back there," Sherrill said. "We've given him the game plan and he's responded well in practice this week. I think he'll be able to do a good job for us."

But Murray isn't the only Texas A&M player that needs to have a good day if the Aggies hope to win. Sophomore safety Domingo Bryant said the defense will have to put in another good effort.

"I don't think that we'll try to change our defense that much to accommodate Houston," Bryant said. "I think we've seen a little bit of everything this year and I believe we'll be ready to play against their veer."

"I'm sure we'll try to open up our offense more than we did against Tech this week," he said. "It always seems we're facing first and 20 or something like that. When you're in a hole it's hard to be consistent."

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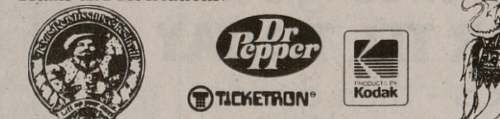


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