

# The Battalion Sports

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staff photo by Dean Saito

Texas A&M fullback George Smith, shown here against Houston, says youth has been

the Aggies' main problem this season. 'The future here looks great,' Smith said Tuesday.

## Aggie FB Smith sees bright future ahead

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff

Texas A&M fullback George Smith is always ready to talk about his career goals — just ask him how things are going and the Douglass, Ga., native will be happy to tell you.

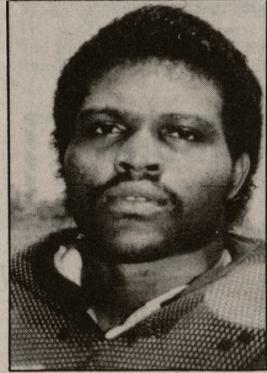
"Well, I feel like I'm moving along at a good pace," Smith said. "I still have a ways to go, but I think I keep getting better every day, and I'm gaining confidence in myself. I feel like I did a good job on my history and political science, but we'll have to see when midterms come out."

History? Political Science? Midterms?

Yes, Smith wasn't talking about his career plans in football or the Aggies' chances of pulling out a winning season this year — those are the least of his worries.

No, Smith was talking about his dream of getting a college degree, going to law school and becoming an FBI agent. But if you want to talk football, the 6-0, 230-pound fullback is as good a source as any. After all, he is averaging five yards a carry and is coming off what Aggies' coach Jackie Sherrill calls his two best games ever at Texas A&M.

"I'm not worried about the football program here at A&M," Smith said. "A lot of people are



George Smith

saying we're going to have another losing year, but I don't believe that. You can just look at the guys this year and you can see that Coach Sherrill is building a program here like nowhere else in the country. The future here looks great. And that includes the rest of the season.

"We're all confident about playing Rice Saturday and going on to beat SMU and Arkansas. I don't see any reason why we shouldn't be 6-3-1 going into the Texas game."

Smith is confident — to say the least — but skeptics would ask why the Aggies are just now starting to play the kind of foot-

ball they are capable of playing. "We're all so young, and we're all still learning," Smith said. "And we're playing the same guys every week for the first time all year. It's the kind of situation where everybody is finally getting to feel good about each other and is playing better as a team. And the season is a long way from being over."

Regardless of how everybody on the Aggies, A&M cannot afford to lose many more games and still expect a bowl bid. Again, the ever-confident Smith has an answer.

"I feel like I'm becoming a more complete fullback," he continued, "but more important, I'm becoming a team fullback. I'll block on every down if that's what it takes to have a winning season, and I feel that's the way everybody on this team feels."

"You never know," he said, "with a break here and a break there, we just might go to the Cotton Bowl if SMU and Texas lose a game and we win the rest of ours. But the key is us winning the rest of our games — and we can do it."

And if Smith's confidence carries over to the playing field, who wants to argue with a confident, determined future FBI agent?

## Arkansas QB Taylor doubtful for Razorback-Cougar contest

United Press International  
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Houston coach Bill Yeoman does not believe it, but the University of Arkansas football team is likely to have a new quarterback when it faces the Razorbacks Saturday at Fayetteville. Razorback coach Lou Holtz said Wednesday.

In a telephone news conference linking Fayetteville, Houston and Little Rock, Holtz said a knee injury was likely to keep Brad Taylor out of the starting lineup and might prevent him from playing at all. "When a guy (Taylor) comes on Tuesday and can't take a hit," Holtz said, "it's extremely doubtful he'll play. If he's not speed, he will not play." The decision on starting Taylor would be made after Wednesday's practice, Holtz said, and a decision on playing Danville product at all would be made on Thursday. Holtz said the Razorback game would feature more open plays if senior walk-on Scott were forced to make his

first career start at quarterback against Houston.

Yeoman said he expected to see Taylor under center for the Razorbacks in the 2 p.m. game. "We're planning on him (Taylor) playing," Yeoman said. "That's what we've been preparing for."

Yeoman said he was impressed with the way Reed ran the option against Texas last week after Taylor was injured. "Reed has excellent quickness and runs the option well," Yeoman said. "But we've run enough against the option that we shouldn't have big problems."

Houston is in the top 10 nationally in total offense, but the Cougars have stumbled to a 2-4 start. Yeoman said turnovers have been a major reason.

"I'm told we've had 26 drives of 50 yards or more," Yeoman said, "and only 11 of those got points on the board. We've lost a lot of fumbles inside the opponents' 20-yard line."

Yeoman said the Cougars have cut back on the turnovers

*"Nobody has stopped them (the Cougars), but they have had a plague of turnovers. We cannot count on turnovers. They've made a lot of turnovers in past years but they never seem to make very many against Arkansas." — Razorback coach Lou Holtz on Saturday's Arkansas-Houston contest*

in recent games and hope to continue the process.

The Cougar defense is giving up more than 27 points per game, a school record if extended over a full season. Yeoman attributed the problem to not "tackling guys before they get to the end zone."

Holtz said the Cougars have shown a tendency to give up big plays defensively and have also been hurt by turnovers and the resulting field position problems.

"When they've turned the

ball over deep in their own territory," Holtz said, "it's put their defense in a bind."

"Nobody has stopped them," Holtz said, "but they have had a plague of turnovers. We cannot count on turnovers. They've made a lot of turnovers in past years but they never seem to make very many against Arkansas."

Houston had an open date a week ago. Yeoman said the Cougars used the free week to give more work to some of their young players, including sophomore quarterback Quince Harris.

Holtz compared the three Cougar quarterbacks — Harris, freshman Gerald Landry and senior Lionel Wilson — to Yeoman's long line of talented quarterbacks including Danny Davis and Delrick Brown.

"Their quarterbacks are all out of the same mold," Holtz said, "except Wilson, who is bigger."

Holtz said the Cougars are an "explosive offensive football team with tremendous speed at the skill positions." He also worried about the ability of Houston defenders T.J. Turner, DeWayne Calloway and Simon Fletcher.

"Their defense is big and strong," Holtz said. "I'm impressed with the way their linebackers play, and the secondary has good speed."

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## Bethea's injury may be the end

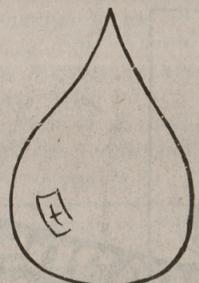
United Press International  
HOUSTON — Defensive end Ron Bethea was placed on the Houston Oilers injured reserve Wednesday due to a muscle injury, leading to speculation his 16-year pro's career is at an end.

Bethea, 37, who played all 16 seasons with the Oilers, suffered a hip flexor muscle injury two weeks ago and re-injured it Sunday in a game. A team spokesman said the injury was severe.

Bethea could be recalled by the Oilers in a minimum of four weeks, but people close to the team said the injury probably means an end to his playing days.

Bethea's jersey is to be retired at the end of this season. He is a seven-time Pro Bowl participant and holds many Oilers records, including most seasons and most games played, 210.

The Oilers did not immediately replace him on the roster



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