

Texas A&M

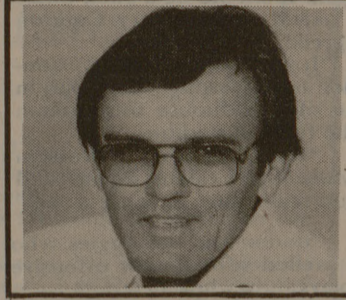
# The Battalion Sports

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## The Connection

If Murray dials long distance, it's usually to speedy Nelson

by John P. Lopez



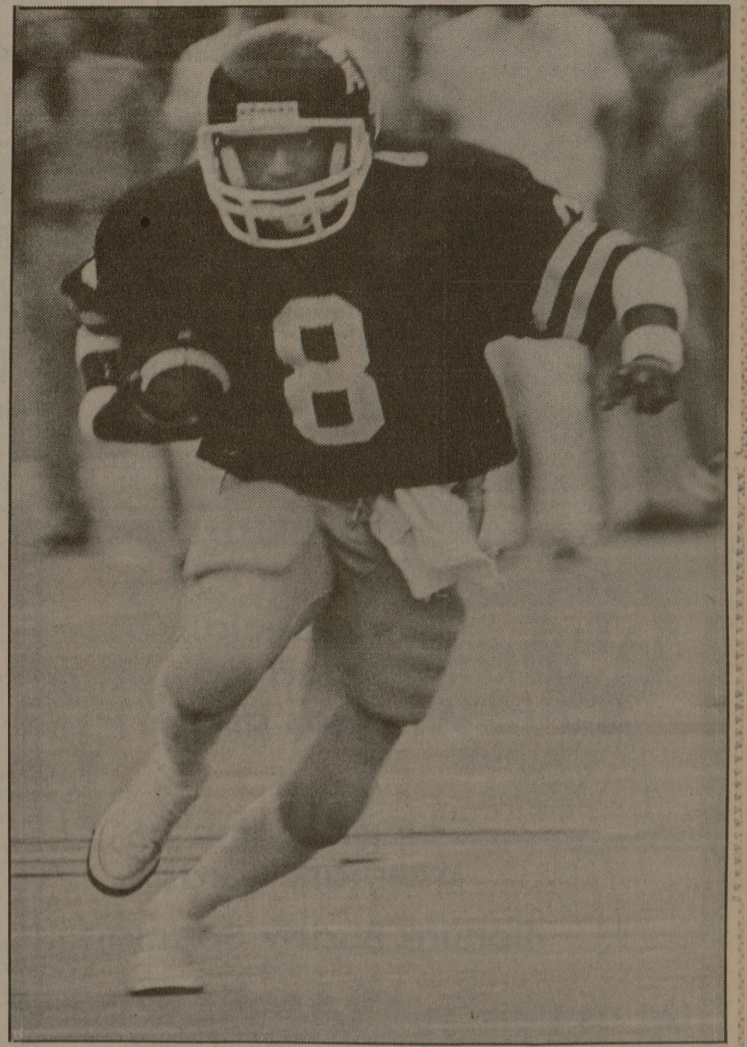
*'He's got excellent speed and responds well to pressure. You can't deny that he makes a lot of good things happen when he's in there.'* — Texas A&M wide receiver coach Jerry Pettibone on Jeff Nelson.

and responds well to pressure. You can't deny that he makes a lot of good things happen when he's in there."

But Nelson, like Murray and the entire Aggie team is young. He doesn't have the field experience of most SWC receivers and could be intimidated by large crowds — both the kind that watch and the kind that defend. Not so, says Pettibone.

"He's hungry and keeps getting better and better," Pettibone said. "He's the one that excites the crowd and the other guys on the team. He's a very motivated guy."

And that motivation, Pettibone said, is helping Murray gain confidence too. "He puts more and more confidence in Kevin (Murray) everyday," Pettibone said. "It helps Kevin when he knows that Jeff has that excellent speed."



Dean Saito, Battalion staff

Jeff Nelson, shown here against Houston, is one reason the Aggies have improved over the course of this season, coaches say.

ter for the Aggies. And he's a shrimpy specimen of an athlete at a mere 5-10, 160 water-logged pounds.

But dynamite, you remember, comes in small packages and so does the explosive 4.45 40-yard speed of Nelson.

"He's gifted," Texas A&M receiver coach Jerry Pettibone said of Nelson.

But Nelson is the one that has been handing out the presents

to an Aggie offensive unit that sputtered through its first four games.

The former kickoff returner splits time with starter Jimmie Williams, but Nelson has been on the end of 14 Murray passes — three for touchdowns.

Perhaps his most impressive statistic, however, is a yards-per-reception average of more than 16 yards. And that's not counting an 88-yard touchdown grab

that was called back in the Aggies' 13-13 tie with Baylor.

The Texas A&M coaching staff, no doubt, knows that it can't keep an athlete with the kind of speed and talent as Nelson's on the bench for long. His 13-yard average on reverses this year is proof.

"That's right," Pettibone said. "We try to get him in there as much as we can to utilize his talents. He's got excellent speed

## Earl tells Oilers he wants trade

"I have nothing against Chuck Studley. God knows I respect him. I think he's doing a good job. I'm just one individual in America who wants to get a new address," Campbell said.

Oiler General Manager Ladd Herzog had no comment on Campbell's statements. The Oilers, since acquiring the National Football League's No. 1 draft pick in 1978, have refused to

comment on any possibility of a Campbell trade.

When asked what he would do if the team refused to trade him, Campbell said: "I think I'll have to go write a new son."

Campbell's six-year contract, which expires after the 1984 season, reportedly earns him an annual \$300,000 in cash and \$100,000 in deferred payment. Campbell's comments fol-

lowed a strong statement Sunday in which he blasted coach Chuck Studley for removing him from the game when the Cincinnati Bengals led 41-0 in the third quarter en route to a 55-14 win.

"I wouldn't treat my dog this badly," Campbell said later.

"I'm bothered because I have some personal goals, personal desires," said Campbell, whose

contract contains incentive clauses.

Studley said he pulled Campbell to save his star running back from the possibility of injury with the game out of reach.

Campbell said he demanded a reason during the game and said he was not told why he was taken out. But after the game, he did not go to Studley to press his request.

## Braves' Murphy wins National League MVP

one first place vote and 182 points. Rounding out the top 10 vote-getters, in order, were outfielder Tim Raines of Montreal (83 points), outfielder Jose Cruz of Houston (76), shortstop Dickie Thon of Houston (67), third baseman Bill Madlock of Pittsburgh (45), relief pitcher Al Holland of Philadelphia (42) and catcher Terry Kennedy of San Diego (37).

Each writer votes for 10 play-

ers and points are awarded on a 14, 9, 8, 7, etc. basis.

Murphy's victory was even more one-sided than it was a year ago when he beat out St. Louis outfielder Lonnie Smith for the award. Murphy amassed 283 points last year and beat Smith by 65 points.

Besides his 21 first place votes, Murphy was named second on two ballots and fifth on another. Murphy, Dawson, Schmidt and Guerrero were the

only players to be named on all 24 ballots.

A quadruple threat star who can beat you with his bat, glove, throwing arm or running speed, Murphy led the league in RBI and slugging percentage (.540),

was second in home runs and runs scored (131) and finished third in on-base percentage. He also stole 30 bases, making him only the sixth player in major league history to accumulate at least 30 homers and 30 stolen bases in a season.

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