

Ags show optimism in workouts

By TRAVIS TINGLE
Sports Editor

Optimism. Everybody involved with the 1984-85 edition of the Texas A&M football team has that simple eight-letter word written all over their faces.

And why not? The Aggies have earned every right to feel excited about the upcoming football season. After Kevin Murray became Texas A&M's starting quarterback in the fifth game last season against the University of Houston, the Aggs went 4-2 and proved they'd come of age in Head Coach Jackie Sherrill's second year.

If it weren't for a safety against the University of California to close the game, the Aggies might have salvaged a 17-17 tie.

If it weren't for a gusty 40 mph wind that infested Kyle Field, an early 13-0 lead over the Univer-

sity of Texas might not have become a 45-13 nightmare.

If it weren't for a questionable goal-line stand by Southern Methodist University in the closing minutes, a 10-7 loss could have easily become a 14-10 upset of the 1982 Southwest Conference champions.

But it's evident from watching the first few workouts the Aggies have put those disappointments from last year behind them.

So far it's been business as usual for the Aggs as they continue preparations for their season home opener against the University of Texas at El Paso on Sept. 1.

Texas A&M Defensive Coordinator R.C. Slocum said the varsity players returning from last season reported back over the weekend in fantastic shape.

"Our guys look like they've worked hard this summer," Slocum said. "We've had a number of guys

here this summer and the guys that have been off and went home look like they all worked on the weights and came back in excellent condition.

"That's one of the first things you look for because I think it's indicative of the attitude of a football team — how they report back in and in what kind of physical condition."

To Slocum, the summer weight program appears to be paying off, but he said no one forces the players to lift weights while they're home for the summer.

"You always have those (weight) programs and everybody has them, but some years players go home and participate and some years they don't," he said. "They're on their own."

Apparently no Aggie player had too much time to spend basking in the sun.

"This summer, I would say that,

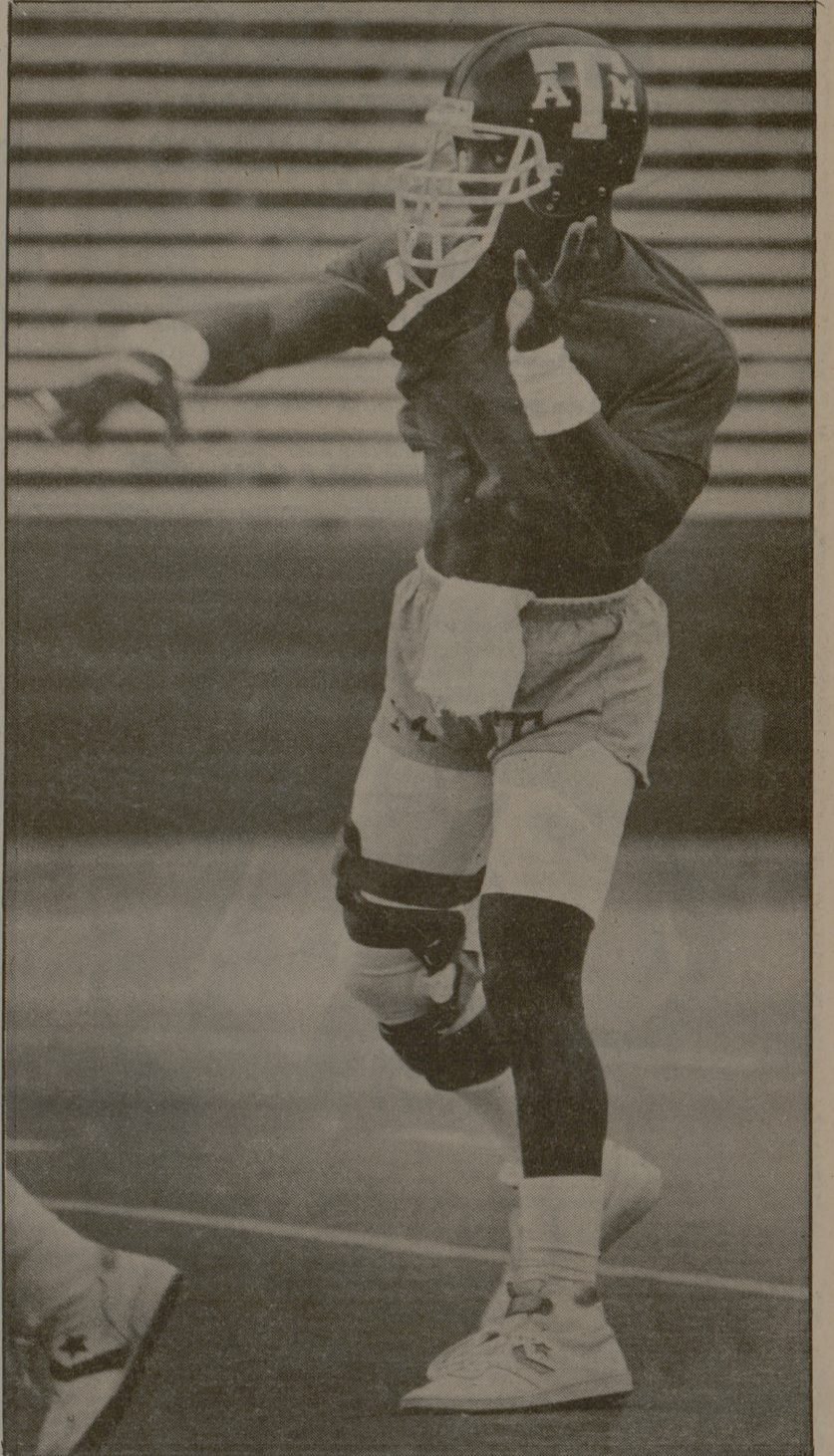
to a man, all of our guys came back and appeared to be in better condition than when they left," he said. "Just by looking at them, you could tell they've been working out."

So what does Coach Slocum think about the first few days of fall workouts?

"The guys are running hard, look like they're in good shape and making practice good," he said. "When you're in shape, you get a lot more talking in. These guys aren't just trying to survive out there, but they're also getting themselves to learn. I've been very pleased with that."

The Aggies will continue closed two-a-day practices the rest of the week, once in the morning and then again at night.

Thursday, the Aggs will work out in full-pads and that's when Slocum, Sherrill and the rest of the coaching staff will begin to examine the team more closely.



Pictured at left, Texas A&M Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill watches over his defensive players' drills intently during the second of two Aggie practices at Kyle Field Tuesday.

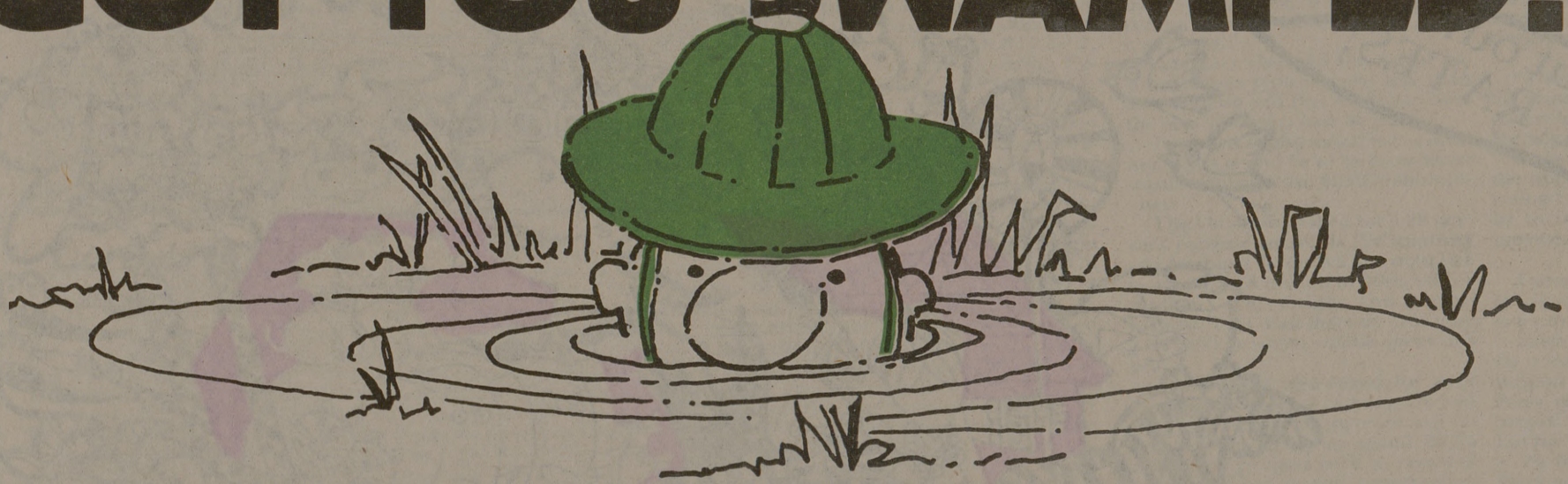
At right, Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray fires the ball down field during passing drills. Murray will continue to wear a brace on his right knee to avoid its reinjury during fall workouts.

The Aggies will continue two-a-day practices this week in preparation for the home opener against UTEP Sept. 1.

Photos by PETER ROCHA

New efficiencies now only \$295.

APARTMENT HUNTING GOT YOU SWAMPED?



If you're bogged down in your apartment search, don't lose hope. Help is on the way!

This summer, there's Treehouse Village, a brand new community of one- and two-bedroom apartments, including the popular two-bedroom roommate floor plan. Within walking distance to the A&M campus, Treehouse Village offers convenience

and a wild assortment of features - including fireplaces, ceiling fans and dry bars. And to soothe the savage in you after a beastly day of classes, relax in Treehouse Village's pool, heated Jacuzzi, party pavilion or on the private jogging trail.

Don't settle for less. Hold out for Treehouse Village Apartments, your oasis in the apartment jungle.



LEASE NOW FOR FALL 1984.

Treehouse Village Apartments. From \$295. For information, visit the Treehouse Village Apartments Leasing Office at 800 Marion Pugh Blvd. at Luther Street 409/764-8892

Professionally managed by Callaway Properties.