

Aggies hope to 'explode' in '84

United Press International

For years the Texas A&M Aggies have been sort of like a bomb with a faulty timer. There is the continual expectation that they will explode just about any time, but they have yet to do so.

And if that explosion does not come in 1984, the word "dud" might begin to creep into A&M-related discussions.

The Aggies certainly appear capable to make a run at the top spot in the Southwest Conference this season.

For what seems like the 100th year in a row A&M has recruited well. Although the Aggies were blasted in the final game of 1983 by the Texas Longhorns, they showed improvement during the second half of last season thanks to the development of quarterback Kevin Murray.

This is the third year at A&M for one of the most respected coaches in college football and the early-season Aggie schedule appears to be ideal for a club that needs some quick success to fuel its morale.

It has been 17 years since Texas A&M won the undisputed SWC title and made it to the Cotton Bowl. The natives are getting restless and few natives anywhere can get as restless as those from Aggieland.

"When you have players with experience and ability it can make a big difference," said Jackie Sherrill, the high-profile coach who in two years has posted a 10-11-1 record with the Aggies.

"I think we are starting to get to a point where we have both."

At the core of A&M's hopes is Murray, a player with both experience and talent. As a freshman he led the SWC in total offense even though the team as a whole finished sixth in that category.

He completed 55 percent of his passes and threw for a league-high 14 touchdowns.

"It is rare to find a quarterback to can do everything you need done," said Sherrill.

Not only is A&M young at quarterback, but is quite young at the running back spot as well. The Aggies leading ball carrier last year was Roger Vick, a freshman, and he gained a comparatively modest 425 yards.

The receiver corps is an experienced one and there is a decent amount of experience in the offensive line.

But through it all the defense is going to have to show continued improvement for the Aggies to threaten for the title.

In Sherrill's first game as A&M coach he watched in horror from the sidelines as Boston College quarterback Doug Flutie threw the ball all over the stadium. The Aggies' defense wound up being last in the league in 1982.

The defensive unit rebounded last year and finished third in the SWC. A&M was hit hard by graduation in the linebacker spot, but with Ray Childress returning at defensive end the Aggies have the type of person who can make game winning plays.

"Ray has a chance to receive a lot of recognition," said Sherrill. "And he deserves it. He can be as good as anyone in the country. I just wish he was a junior instead of a senior."

This year A&M plays all three of its intersectional games at home — against Texas-El Paso, Iowa State and Arkansas State. It appears to be a soft schedule, one that is perfect for the Aggies' situation.

After those three games there should be plenty of indications available as to whether the Aggies are ready to finally explode, or whether 1984 will be another false alarm.

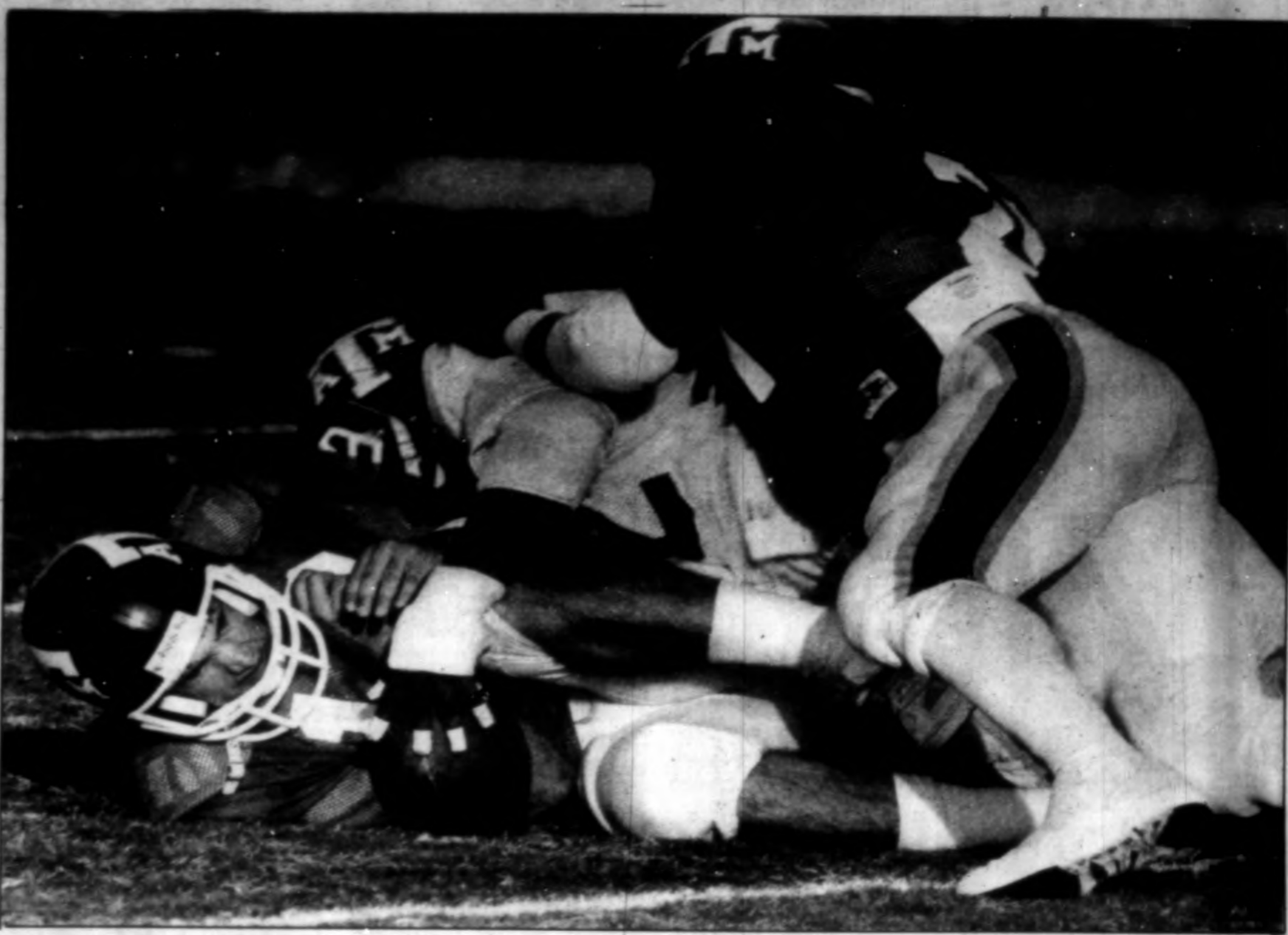


Photo by PETER ROCHA

Aggie Full-Contact Workouts

Texas A&M reserve quarterback John Mazur and two unidentified Aggies scramble to recover a fumble during fall workouts Monday evening on the grass practice surface be-

side Kyle Field. Beginning last Thursday, the Aggies began practicing in full-gear in preparation for the home-opener against the University of Texas at El Paso.



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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IM-REC SPORTS NOTES FOR NEW UNIVERSITY MEMBERS!

The Intramural-Recreational Sports Department facilities are open to all students, faculty, staff, spouses and their dependents. If you are a new faculty or staff member then you will need to come by the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office in 159 East Kyle to obtain your Recreation ID. For your added convenience our office remains open until 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

- A few things to remember about the IM-REC Sports program:
1. You are required to show a current TAMU student or recreation ID upon entering all recreational facilities.
 2. We have sports equipment available for free check-out or rental including tennis and racquetball racquets, which are available for 50¢ an hour.
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 4. If we can be of service to you please feel free to drop by the IM-REC Sports Office, 159 East Kyle, or phone 845-7826.



Check out the Intramural Table Tennis Singles action this semester! Entries for this sport open Monday, August 27.



16" Softball Season also gets off to a swinging start next week with entries opening bright and early on Monday, August 27.