

Jeff Graunke:
Above the rim

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Teal plans to humble Bears

By JEFF GRAUNKE
Sports Writer

Everyone knows it's hard to be humble when you're an Aggie. Just ask Texas A&M split end Jimmy Teal.

"I feel like I'm the best receiver in the conference," Teal said.

Teal is A&M's leading receiver, averaging over 16.1 yards a catch. He also led the team in '83 with a 17.8 average.

"When I come to the line, I have the play in the back of my head," Teal said. "I glance up to see what coverage they're (opposing defense) in. After I read the coverage, my mind concentrates on how I'm going to run my route."

Teal isn't easily intimidated by some of the Southwest Conference's hard-hitting secondaries.

"I try to vary my routes to keep the DB (defensive back) from catching on. I respect all of the DB's the same, but when I'm playing I don't give or show them respect," he said.

The Aggies are coming off of two SWC losses in a row. A&M hopes to end that record Saturday, against the Baylor Bears.

"Of course I'm unhappy," Teal said. "We've opened the conference and we're 0-2. I've got to be unhappy with that."

Teal said the Aggies plan to throw more against Baylor because its secondary is rated near the bottom of the conference.

"I'll probably be running a lot of down the field stop routes and short routes," he said. "We can throw the ball. We'll probably throw the ball 30 times or more (against Baylor)."

During last week's 9-7 loss to Houston, Teal said he saw some good offensive signs in Aggies.

"I think we did what it's going to take for us to come together," Teal said. "After the Houston game, everybody felt like we played hard. We had a few busted assignments, but overall everybody played together



A&M's Jimmy Teal

and nobody really gave up when the clock was running down.

"The team as a whole says, 'Hey, look, we can play. We played a good game, even though we lost.' We know we can play and we're going with that same attitude against Baylor."

"We're just going to go out and do the same things we did against Houston — just play. I feel we're going to win if we do that. We've lost two in a row. We need something to get us going."

Teal said a lack of consistency and missed assignments are the Aggies' No. 1 concerns.

"I've been playing. I guess you could call it, consistently," he said. "It could be better."

Baylor comes to Kyle Field after losing to SMU in the last few minutes of the game last Saturday, 24-20. Teal saw the films and knows why the Bears lost.

"They relaxed too much," Teal said. "They started letting them (SMU) throw the ball. They should

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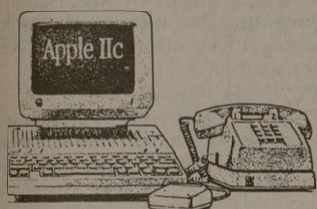


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M split end Jimmy Teal (23) leads the Aggies in receiving so far in '84, averaging 16.1 yards a catch. Pictured

above, Teal leaps high in the air for a touchdown pass reception in A&M's 22-21 victory over Arkansas State.

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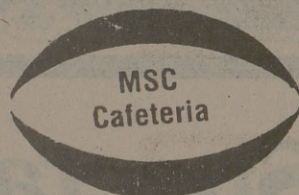


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