



Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M quarterback Craig Stump (above) on the '85 spring training attitude — "One of the biggest differences between this year and last year, is that we go out and work

hard without the coaches having to tell us to. Last year, the coaches had to stay on us." Stump and Kevin Murray are vying for Aggies' No. 1 quarterback slot this spring.

New A&M Offense

(continued from page 13)

ball, but who will protect the thrower.

Matt Darwin will no longer be around to anchor the Aggie line at center, and, during scrimmages last week, his absence showed. Quarterbacks were repeatedly hurried to get rid of the ball, even against the second team defense.

"When you run this kind of offense," Amedee said, "you're going to get blitzed a lot. We're having to learn to re-align for the different pass rush. We have the personnel to handle it, but we just broke down mentally last week."

"When we start running this offense properly, we'll be wanting people to blitz us because we will be able to burn the secondaries."

A&M's pass protection will be beefed up a little with the addition of Marshall Land, a 6-foot-8, 380-pound transfer from Sacramento Junior College. Amedee said Land has had a good spring and should start scrimmaging again this week after recovering from a minor ankle injury last week.

"He's not going to win any 40-yard dashes," Amedee joked, "but he's surprisingly agile. He can cover his territory and when he snicks you, you know it."

One place the Aggies will probably miss is at quarterback.

Kevin Murray is ahead of schedule on his recovery from the ankle injury that ended his season after three games last year. Not expected to play at all in training camp, Murray led the offense on two touch-down drives in a scrimmage last Thursday — a 79-yard drive in just six plays.

"Of course we're not hitting him very hard yet," Amedee said, "but the scrimmage was a big confidence boost for Kevin (Murray). We're extremely pleased he's coming along so fast."

After starting the remaining eight games for A&M after Murray's injury, Craig Stump said he feels more comfortable working out this spring than last spring.

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Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M's new offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee (left) goes over some of his new offensive plays with Aggie quarterback Craig Stump (9) during spring drills. Amedee has implemented a 'run-and-shoot' style offense for the Ags in '85.

ing to tell us to. Last year, the coaches had to stay on us.

Stump, like everyone else in spring camp, is optimistic about A&M's chances of a trip to the Cotton Bowl.

Last year, we were 6-5, when we could have easily been 9-2," Stump said. "We just made too many mistakes in key situations. This year, we've got the big four (Arkansas, Texas, SMU, and Houston) all at home, so I think we've got a good shot at winning the (Southwest) Conference."

Amedee said that, although Stump doesn't have as strong of an arm as Murray, he fits in well with the new offensive strategy because ball placement and timing are more

important than a rifle arm.

Stump is the kind of player that won't lose any games for you," Amedee said.

Both quarterbacks contribute different things to the team, Amedee said. The team has not chosen one over the other, and neither have the coaches at this point.

People are still thinking in terms of Danny White and Gary Hogeboom when they talk about Kevin and Craig," Amedee said, "and that's just not the case. Both of them know where they stand right now, and, although we won't be going to any kind of shuttle system, they both know they'll be needed on this team whether they start or whether they come off the bench."

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