



Photo by JOHN MAKELEY

Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray (above) and the rest of the Aggie football team will try not to let the an "in-house" investigation involving Murray distract them against NLU Saturday.

## Aggies won't be distracted or take Indians for granted

By PETE HERNDON  
Sports Writer

It's not the biggest football news on campus, but Texas A&M quarterback Craig Stump said the Aggies cannot afford to take Northeast Louisiana for granted in Saturday's home opener.

The big football news on campus is that A&M has begun an "in-house" investigation to look into charges by Dallas television station WFAA that quarterback Kevin Murray received a car and cash from Aggie alumnus Rod Dockery.

So it's easy to see why the Aggies and Stump, who will share playing time with Murray against NLU, could be distracted from preparing for the Indians.

"Hopefully it (the Murray situation) won't have any effect (on us)," Stump said. "(A&M Head) Coach (Jackie) Sherrill said it won't have any effect on our performance Saturday and we've got to believe him."

Sherrill told reporters Wednesday that the Aggies can't afford to look past NLU.

"I was worried about playing Northeast Louisiana anyway," Sherrill said. "Because the time to get mentally ready to play, after we played Alabama, . . . (is so short). This is a tough week by itself. But again, if we have the right young people (players), they'll be able to work it out and play."

A team meeting was held Wednesday afternoon, so that Sherrill could discuss the Murray matter.

"After the team meeting the players came out with the attitude that we've got to go about our business,"



A&M QB Craig Stump

said A&M Offensive Coordinator Lynn Amedee, "and let Coach Sherrill take care of the rest."

Stump said "getting down to (football) business" needs to be the Aggies' main concern.

After a strong showings in the 23-10 loss to Alabama, both A&M quarterbacks, Stump and Murray, will be the center of attention again Saturday. They will not only be the focus of fans, but for the Indians' defense as well.

"The biggest problem we're going to have with the NLU defense is the way they blitz," Stump said. "Sometimes they'll leave a receiver totally open and blitz eight or nine guys, challenging you to complete the ball."

"And if they see that it's bothering you, of course, they're going to keep doing it. So it's going to be our job to burn them and make them back off."

Amedee, who's first coaching job

was at NLU, said it's not going to be easy, however, to make the Indians "back off."

"When I was there (at NLU) they were very scrappy," Amedee said. "They always got the most they could out of the talent they had. And they're still that way."

Amedee said the Aggies will use both quarterbacks Saturday, even though he said Murray and Stump are not overjoyed with the arrangement.

"Nobody is happy sitting on the bench, if they're a competitor," Amedee said. "But they (Stump and Murray) understand the situation. It's the fans that don't understand and that's the hard part."

"Nobody thinks anything of it when a team plays eight or nine linemen, but when a team plays more than one quarterback, all of a sudden it's a controversy."

"As a coach, you don't really like to compare what you did as a player with what is going on now, but when I was (a quarterback) at LSU I was the seventh all-time offensive leader and MVP of a Cotton Bowl and I never started a game," Amedee said. "It's not starting (the game) that's the important thing — winning is."

Winning the NLU game takes on a little more significance to Stump, since the A&M lost to 'Bama.

"I think we'll bounce back," Stump said. "It's hard for any team to lose a big game they think they should have won. We had a pretty flat practice on Monday. I know you're supposed to think about the next team, but it's hard on a Monday."

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