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A&M's best may be yet to come

Aggies will feature 'youthful experience' in '86

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The biggest Aggie joke for years was the Texas A&M football team. The Aggies could be counted on to lose — and to lose him on the griding.

big — on the gridiron.
So when the 1985 season rolled around, A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill began talking about his youthful team and opponents smirked knowing they had another easy win.

But now that the ballots are in and counted, it's Sherrill and his Aggies who are doing all the

laughing.
The 1985 Aggies finished No.
6 in the Associated Press college football poll, recording an 11-2 mark and a 36-16 victory over Auburn in the 50th Cotton Bowl

And looking ahead to next year, everyone in the Southwest Conference is now crying when thinking about playing the Ag-

gies.

Sherrill does have a young team, and now that they've learned how to win, look out.

Four sophomores and two juniors started for the A&M offense. Defensively, the Ags started six juniors and two sophomores.

A&M loses only two senior starters from the defense that did what no other unit could — stop Auburn's Heisman Trophy tailback, Bo Jackson.

Gone are left cornerback Darrell Austin and strong safety Domingo Bryant. Austin's backup, Wayne Asberry has also used up his eligibility as has punt returner and reserve free safety Jimmie Hawkins.

Look for Jared Marks to challenge for Bryant's vacated position. Alex Morris, who backed upright cornerback James Flowers, might be moved to the left side and may be used to replace Hawkins as the Ags' return man.

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Offensively, there are more holes to fill as five senior starters— A&M's all-time leading receiver, Jeff Nelson, fullback Anthony Toney and linemen Doug Williams, Randy Wylie and Randy Dausin—leave.

Randy Dausin — leave.

Roger Vick, who shared starting duties with Toney this past year, will have the fullback position all to himself for '86. Calvin Whitfield will replace Dausin at right guard, Trace McGuire will replace Wylie at left guard and Frank Case looks like Williams' replacement.

As for flanker, freshman speedster Rod Harris might challenge Nelson's record before he finishes.

"I see the holes being filled in

"I see the holes being filled in spring training," Williams said. "There are people coming up to fill those slots. This team ought to be back (in the Cotton Bowl) next year, only this time with a flawless record. The year 1986 should be real, real good for Texas A&M football."

Most experts are predicting A&M to reap the benefits of the national exposure of a Cotton Bowl victory and No. 6 ranking.

One report says the Aggies will have the best recruiting class in Sherrill's tenure at A&M. Scary, considering that one of his recruiting classes was ranked as the third best in the nation.

"If you think we're good this year, just wait until next season," said A&M quarterback Kevin Murray after the Cotton Bowl. "We're going to be great."

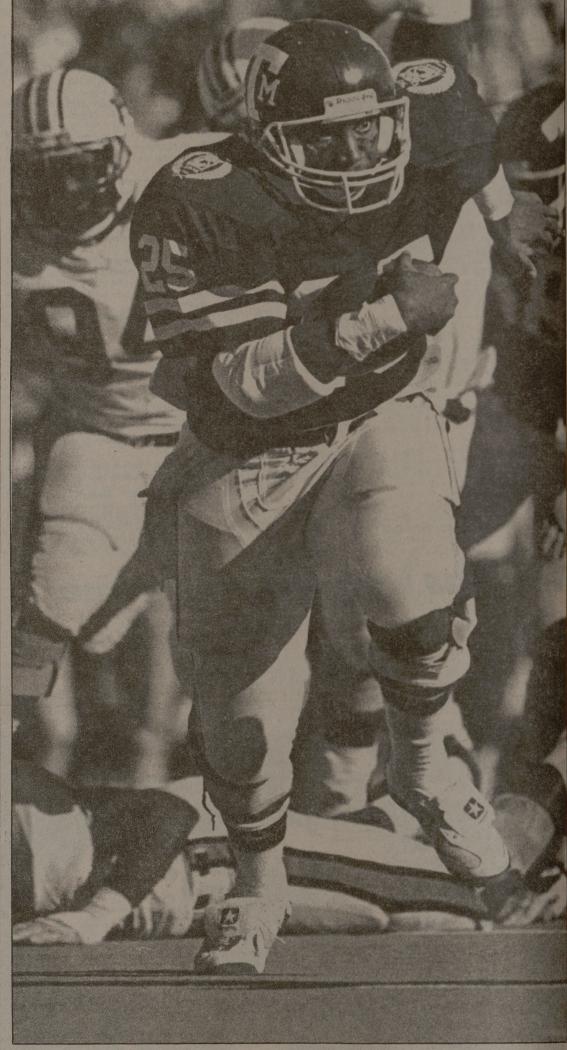


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

ounds, w Dallas

A&M fullback Anthoney Toney (25) is one of five offensive starters the Aggies will lose for the '86

season. However, A&M, which finished 11-2 this past season, loses only two starters on defense.

Check it out!

IFC Rush Smoker

IFC Representatives from the following fraternities will be on hand to answer questions on rush and fraternity life.

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Sigma Chi Tau Kappa Epsilon Phi Gamma Delta Phi Delta Theta Phi Kappa Sigma Phi Kappa Tau

Wednesday, January 22 5:00-6:30 p.m. 301 Rudder Tower The Greek System: a Growing Tradition at A&M