

Sports

A&M freshmen say workouts OK — so far



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

A&M freshman quarterback Lance Pavlas of Tomball listens to advice from receivers coach George Pugh during workouts Tuesday.

By Tom Tagliabue
Sports Writer

Fifty-seven eager athletes walked onto Kyle Field Friday with the hopes of earning a place on the 1986 Southwest Conference champion Texas A&M football team. Since then, in addition to practicing in the blistering summertime heat, the hopefuls have been getting acquainted to the collegiate environment and the A&M system that led the team to the Cotton Bowl.

But while the first four workouts by the 22 freshman recruits and 35 walk-ons have been described as intense, several of the rookies said the practices were also easier than expected.

Freshman Albert Jones, a 6-foot-4-inch offensive lineman from Missouri City, said the A&M coaches have been patient with the new recruits in their first workouts.

"I expected (the workouts) to be harder and have more running," Jones said. "The coaches have been good to us. They expect us to learn the whole offense. The coaches make it easy for you."

Linebacker/tight end Jody Adamek of Santa Fe, Texas, said he was surprised by the intensity of the workouts.

"During the workouts themselves, everything is intense," Adamek said. "It's one-two-three. It's real quick."

Adamek said the Aggie defense is a complicated system to learn, but there is a lot of repetition to help learn the defense.

"(The first workouts) are more of a learning process where they set you up an offense, they'll call a defense for you and see how you react to it. It's repetition just for you to try to get it down."

While the first workouts were considered easier than expected, receivers coach George Pugh said when the varsity athletes report, the practices will get much tougher.

"Basically, (the freshman) need to learn our system and get into condition for when the varsity guys come in," Pugh said. "They're not used to



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Defensive end Terry Price of Plano slams into the practice sleds during Tuesday's freshman

workouts on Kyle Field while A&M defensive line coach Paul Register evaluates his technique.

the very disciplined schedule that we're going to have.

"Right now we're not trying to condition our kids or anything like that. When the varsity guys get here, we'll get them in condition. We're not interested in trying to see how tough you are. Once you learn our system, you'll be able to compete for a position. It's going to get tough in due time."

Pugh said the new players have caught on to the Aggie system very well and seem to be enjoying themselves.

"Generally, during the first couple of days, we just try to see how much they can pick up because they're coming into something totally different," Pugh said. "The group we have here is as good as any group we've had here at A&M. I'm sure there will be two or three who can add depth to certain positions."

One of the new players who could add depth may be Jones, who said he wants to be a starter now, although he knows that dream probably won't happen in 1986.

"I was more concerned about the offense, being part of the team, being on the traveling squad," Jones said. "I was nervous about getting work."

Jones, Adamek and tight end/linebacker Dennis Ransom all said they were eager to get on the field with the varsity because they could learn so much from just watching them.

"I have respect for them," Ransom said. "You can learn just from watching the films of them."

Pugh said the extra four days the freshman get by themselves helps the recruits better adjust to their new setting as well as allowing them to concentrate solely on football.

"The thing the kids are faced with

is they are coming into a totally new environment and their eyes are very, very big," Pugh said. "They're trying to learn all they can about you as their coach, who their roommate is, who their adviser is, who Coach (Jackie) Sherrill is and what kind of guy he really is. So you have some distractions."

Aggie Notes . . . Three freshman recruits were lost to Proposition 48, the NCAA's new academic rule. Wide receiver Percy Waddle of Columbus, running back James Marcus of Grand Prairie and quarterback Felton Ransby of Decatur, Ga., They did not meet the entrance requirements set forth in the new rule.

The Aggies lost four members from last year's squad. Running back Harry Johnson and wide receiver Lawrence Mitchell were both lost to poor grades. Quarterback Paul Gaspar and linebacker Troy Neel left the program for personal reasons.

Returners begin reporting

Returning squad members from the 1986 Southwest Conference champion Texas A&M football team began reporting to A&M Tuesday in preparation for two-a-day workouts, which are scheduled to begin Thursday.

Practice sessions will be closed to the public, although the public

will get a chance to meet and get pictures with Aggie football players today at 2 p.m. during Picture Day at Kyle Field.

The Aggies open their season on the road against Louisiana State University Sept. 13 in Baton Rouge, La.

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