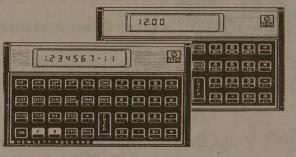


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#### **Sports**

## Sherrill says Ags in good shape

By Ken Sury

The weather was great Monday.

And inside the Texas A&M Physiology Research and Conditioning Lab was just fine as the Southwest Conference press tour made its annual stop at A&M.

But weather — good weather — had A&M Football Coach Jackie Sherrill pleased as he began his dis-

"The weather has cooperated very well," Sherrill said, "meaning that we haven't had a lot of those 100(degree)-plus days. . . . So what that allowed us to do is hit more, practice longer and go through a period of conditioning.

'There's only so much conditioning you can do at 100-plus degree

temperatures every day and the body gets fatigued." Sherrill said the players returned in good condition, and added that the two-a-day workouts and scrim-mages which the team completed last week went well.

"The players are kind of fitting together right now," he said. "We're trying to fill the gaps, fill the holes. From now on, we're trying to improve on the things we've done well and eliminate some of the things we've not done well.'

The Aggies did lose one player during two-a-days. Layne Polocheck, who was to be the Aggies' backup noseguard, hurt his knee on an inside drill last week and had to undergo reconstruction surgery. Polocheck will be lost for the year.

To make up for the loss of Polocheck, Sherrill said sophomore O'N-eill Gilbert was moved from defensive end to noseguard to back up Sammy O'Brient.

Sherrill said the front defensive seven will be a strong spot for A&M this fall, especially at the linebacker or any team could dominate the

A&M Football Coach Jackie Sherrill discusses his team's outlook at Monday's SWC press tour

conference. The Aggies are busy preparing for their season opening game against LSU Sept. 13.

positions, but a young secondary will

Offensively, Sherrill said the Aggies have good experience at the skill positions (quarterback, running backs and receivers), although they could use one or two more receivers and running backs. The biggest worry at the time on the offensive line is finding a replacement for

SWC, Sherrill replied, "Not this conference. Those days are gone. There's too many good players."

Sherrill said the wealth of talent throughout the SWC will keep the

Aggies from taking any team too lightly. With a lot of teams gunning for the Aggies and a tougher sched-ule this year, Sherrill said it will be tough to repeat as SWC champions.

And even with the talk of a possi-ble national championship, Sherrill said his players are not the type to let that hype go to their heads. doesn't matter what happened

"The players are going to hard. They know what sam they have to make — know they have to have to pay (to again

Aggie Notes . . . The A&Min office said that their allotmen student and general public to for the Sept. 13 game at LSU

## A&M offensive machine gears for '86

By Homer Jacobs

Kevin Murray looked intense. You could almost see LSU game

films rolling in the whites of his eyes. Talk of a national championship or Heisman hype didn't figure in Murray's mind. It was "Taking Care of Business," Act II.

Murray's attitude was typical to that of the Texas A&M offensive players who spoke to media rep-resentatives at the annual Southwest Conference press tour Monday.

Pledging to take the season one snap at a time, the Aggie offensive arsenal expects to be even more potent than last year's SWC record-setA&M Football Coach Jackie Sher-rill said the Aggie players in the skilled positions could line up and

play today — especially Murray.

"Kevin Murray is throwing the ball better now than ever before,"
Sherrill said. According to Sherrill and Aggie

players, Murray has gotten stronger

and even put more 'zip' on the ball.

A&M Offensive Coordinator
Lynn Amedee said Murray's greatest
progression as a quarterback has
come in his ability to read different defenses. "In two-a-days, he (Murray) threw

the ball as well as I've seen anyone throw in a long time," Amedee said. Amedee and Sherrill have worked

with the likes of Dan Marino, Matt Cavanaugh, David Woodley and Archie Manning in previous coaching Sherrill said if the Aggie offensive

machine is to crank up and cruise to Dallas again in January, the team needs a little help from its bulldozer — Marshall Land.

The senior right tackle that weighs in at about 350 pounds has seen only limited action (17 snaps), so he's the real question mark in an offensive line that lost three starters from the 1985 squad.

With an inexperienced Land and backup in Frank Case, the Aggies are hoping a solid inside tandem of Matt Wilson at center, Trace Mc-

Guire at left guard and Jeny for not at right guard will lead to su for the offensive unit, Junior I Cheek will occupy the left tackles

Last year A&M had a full stable running backs as the two p terhorses in Roger Vick and thony Toney chewed up most of rushing yardage.

With Toney gone, look for at oughbred to join Vick.

Keith Woodside, coming of impressive Cotton Bowl p mance, will be the Aggies'

See A&M offense, page?

#### Aggie defense boasts 'magnificent?'

By Danny Myers

The Texas A&M defense was the

stingiest in the Southwest Conference in 1985, and it plans to be even less generous in 1986.

Right outside linebacker Todd Howard said the Aggies have a goal of giving up an average of only 250 yards per game, compared to their league-leading 281.9 yards per game last season.

"Our front seven is probably one of the best in the nation," consensus All-America linebacker Johnny Holland said at the SWC press tour conference Monday. The down linemen are stronger

than they were last year and the line-

backers are playing more intelligent, The top six tacklers on the '85

squad — linebackers Larry Kelm, Holland, Howard, defensive ends Jay Muller, Rod Saddler and year he's going to stand up offensive noseguard Sammy O'Brient — re- guards and offensive linemen." turn to the defensive line.

Head Coach Jackie Sherrill had nothing but praise for his front seven, which now includes left out-side linebacker John Roper, who had seven tackles in the Cotton

A lot of praise went out to Hol-

land.
"I think Johnny (Holland) has been the best linebacker in the league for the last two years," he

his size. He's bigger now than he's ever been. For the last two years, when Holland hit somebody stopped them," Sherrill said. "This

Kelm, who broke his arm in spring training earlier this year, is back to full strength, Sherrill said, while Howard and Roper have had impressive practices.

Sherrill said he expects solid play

from O'Brient, who was the most improved player during spring training this year in addition to good twoa-day practices.

All-America pick by Playboy, said

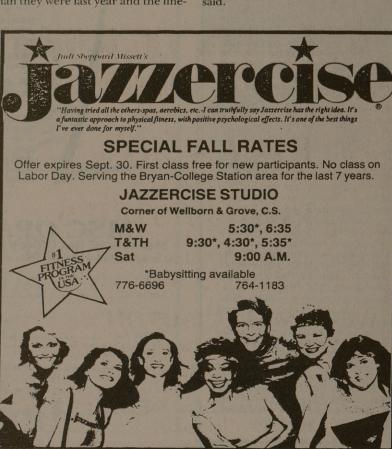
he's much stronger than he wa Sherrill also said he expects?

olay from Muller, who had a se high 19 tackles against Arkansa The weakness of the A&N

fense is its lack of depth at the ondary positions, Sherrill said.
Kip Corrington, the most of enced player in the secondary, play in recent scrimmages because strained hamstrings.

Alex Morris, who saw limited backing up Domingo Bryantlass son, has excellent speed (4.4 in

See A&M defense, page?



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