

# Sports

## Holland plans to forget pressure and concentrate on taming LSU

By Danny Myers  
Sports Writer

The All-America honors. The pressure to repeat as Southwest Conference champions. The AP and UPI Top 20 rankings. Texas A&M's Johnny Holland is ready to put it all out of his mind and play football.

"What's most important to me, being a senior, is to get rid of all the distractions and play better football than I've ever played," Holland said.

"Being All-America is a great honor, but it creates a lot of obstacles for some people.

"I just want to play as hard as I can play," he said.

The season opener against Louisiana State University is going to be a little different than last year's opener, Holland said.

"The Alabama game last year taught us a lesson," he said. "It was a building block game for us even though we lost."

A&M really didn't know if they could play at the same level as Alabama until halftime, Holland said.

"Our players have a more positive attitude now. We know we can compete against anybody," he said.

"Last year, the guys got used to winning. Now, we won't accept losing," he said.

Offensively, A&M quarterback Kevin Murray has been very accurate and he's learned the offense better, Holland said.

Running back Keith Woodside is also doing well as he is developing more confidence in his running ability, he said.

Defensively, A&M has as much speed as it did last year, but has a little more strength, he said.

Holland weighs 227 pounds, five more than last year, but the added weight comes from building his strength over the summer.

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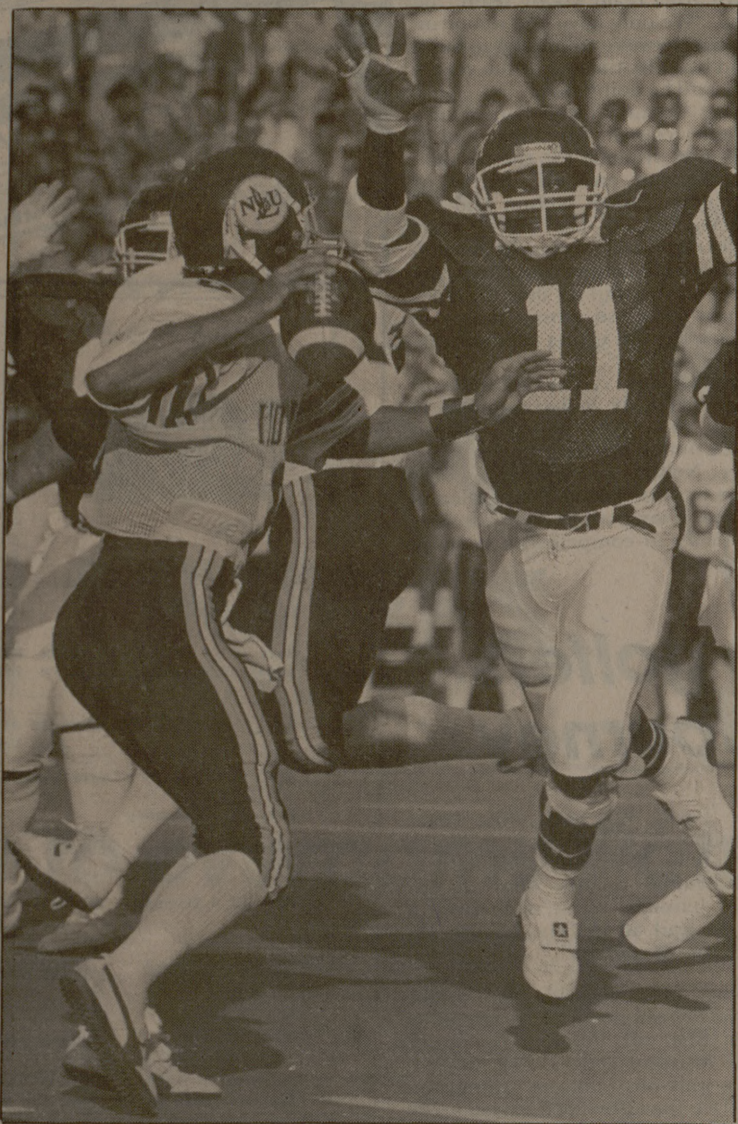


Photo by John Makely

Texas A&M linebacker Johnny Holland (No. 11) hopes to be in the face of a lot of opposing quarterbacks again this year. Holland, who accounted for 150 tackles in '85, was named a first-team All-American and will be a significant member of this year's defense.

## Ag tailback Woodside anxious to return home, add to offensive attack

By Ken Sury  
Sports Editor

Texas A&M running back Keith Woodside knows where he belongs in the Aggies' season opener at Louisiana State University Saturday.

His place could be in the endzone like he was in the Cotton Bowl — twice.

And it will feel somewhat like being home, as Woodside grew up about 1½ hours away from Tiger Stadium and Baton Rouge in Vidalia, La.

But his place definitely is on the field, lining up behind quarterback Kevin Murray and being part of A&M's balanced offensive attack.

"It's very suitable for me," Woodside said of the A&M offense. "(Anthony) Toney and (Roger) Vick were the workhorses last year, but the coaches have shown a lot of confidence in me. And that just makes me want to work that much harder."

Woodside worked hard in January's Cotton Bowl as he touched the ball six times for 120 yards and scored on a 22-yard run and 9-yard pass play in the Aggies' win.

Last season, Woodside carried the ball 47 times at a 7.5 yards per carry clip. In addition to being the team's third leading rusher with 357 yards, he also was the third leading receiver with 27 receptions for 281 yards.

But this season, Woodside said he believes he and Vick's contributions to the team will fit like pieces in a puzzle.

"We complement each other fantastically," Woodside said. "Vick is just a great back. Vick can hammer you inside, hammer you outside, he can catch, block — he can do everything."

"I'll be trying to use my speed to run wide and get outside. So we complement each other well."

Woodside, who said he's been to a



Photo by Tom Ownbey

A&M's Keith Woodside, who will return home to Louisiana for the season opener with LSU, cuts upfield during practice Wednesday.

couple of LSU games when he was younger, is excited about getting to play before a home crowd.

"For myself, personally, it's gonna be great to go back," he said. "I haven't played in Louisiana since my senior year in high school."

But what about facing that experienced Tiger defense, especially All-America Michael Brooks?

"Brooks is just like an outstanding running back," Woodside said. "He's

gonna make his presence felt sometime during the game. But (playing the LSU defense) will let us know where we stand as an offensive unit. It's a great way to test us right away."

And even having LSU's famed mascot, Mike the Bengal tiger, positioned in a cage outside the A&M locker room doesn't worry him.

"He'll just be roaring," Woodside said.

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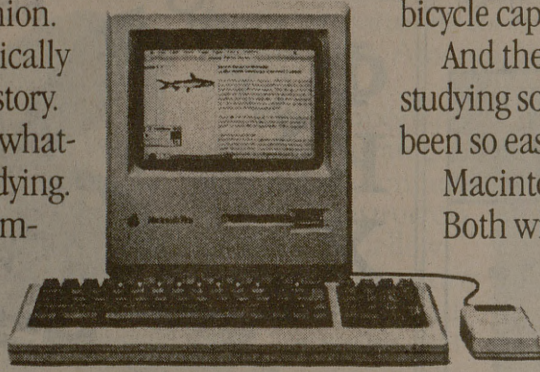
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