

Sports

Aggies wish for favorable script

By Ken Sury
Sports Editor

Imagine this: A small Division 1-AA football team walks into the den of a national powerhouse that is hungry to win after being humiliated in an important game.

The little school's plan: Merely to escape alive.

But through sheer blood-and-guts determination, this team of scrappy players knocks off the highly touted powerhouse for a major upset.

The Aggies hope that's not in the script this Saturday when they face North Texas State in their 1986 home opener at 6 p.m. in Kyle Field.

Texas A&M is hungry to win and prove it belongs among the nation's elite football teams after suffering an embarrassing 35-17 loss at the hands of Louisiana State University. The defeat dropped A&M from seventh to 16th in The Associated Press poll.

But unless the entire team succumbs to some rare tropical disease before Saturday, the Aggies should find little trouble with North Texas State.

The Eagles, or the Mean Green — whichever you prefer — seem to be the type of team that could give a Division 1 team fits, however. Twenty-eight starters return from last year, including seven senior defensive players. The defense was strong in NTSU's 7-0 season opening win over Southwest Texas State because the Eagles held SWTSU to 255 total yards.

The Eagles use a wishbone offense, something seen seldom by Southwest Conference teams, which are opting for more pro-style, pass-oriented offenses. Both quarterbacks, Bron Beal and Gene Pool, are sophomores who alternated at the position in the opener until Pool was sidelined with an ankle injury in the second quarter. He is probable for the game.

Experienced defense and youth at quarterback. Hmmm, sounds like LSU.

But NTSU Head Coach Corky Nelson already seems to concede the game to A&M, at least he did that

Sports Analysis

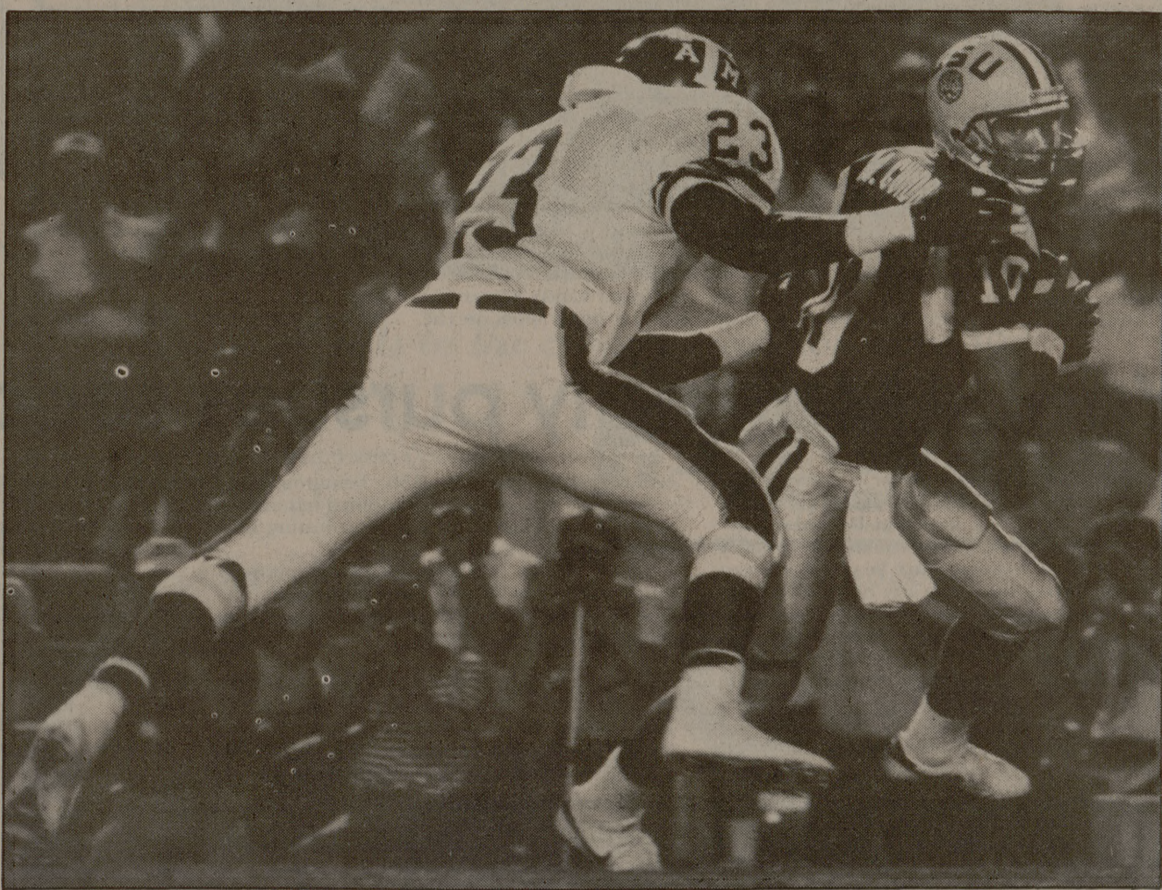


Photo by Greg Bailey

A&M linebacker Aaron Wallace gets ready to sack LSU quarterback Mickey Guidry during last Saturday's 35-17 loss to the Tigers. A&M takes on North Texas State here Saturday at 6 p.m.

orally in an interview at the beginning of the week.

Sounding just as humble as Ozzie and Harriet always did, Nelson said he compared the game to a David and Goliath confrontation — minus the slingshot.

Of course, Nelson may just be trying to get the Aggies overconfident in the hope of pulling an upset.

But A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill, who has been stressing a one-game-at-a-time approach, is staying low-key about the game. Sherrill said the team was embar-

assed about the loss to the Tigers, but would be able to correct the mistakes which cost it the opener — namely the weak play of the defense.

Outside linebacker John Roper will not start, Sherrill said, because of a sprained ankle suffered in the LSU game. He said senior Steve Bullitt will fill in at the spot, although Roper was participating in running drills.

Nelson said he expected A&M to be "mad as hell" about losing to LSU and take it out on the Eagles.

That's definitely in A&M's script.

Aggie Notes . . . Roger Vick's 63 yards rushing against LSU moved him into eighth place past Earnest Jackson on the A&M all-time running list. Vick now has 1,574 yards, 162 behind Larry Stegent (1967-69) who holds seventh place.

Wide receiver Shea Walker's five catches put him into 10th place on the A&M career reception list with 63. Another five would move him past Tommy Maxwell (65) and Johnny Hector (67).

Fall season begins for women's tennis

By Loyd Brumfield
Assistant Sports Editor

After three weeks of intense workouts and intrasquad matches, the Texas A&M women's tennis team is ready to face competition from other schools.

It begins today at 1 p.m. when second-seeded Gaye Lynne Gensler of A&M takes on unseeded Kim Krieg of Southwest Texas State University in the second Texas A&M Four-Way Tennis Tournament.

A&M Coach Bobby Kleinecke says his team is well-prepared and ready to play.

"The players are ready and anxious," he says. "We've been at it for three weeks and we haven't had a chance to play other schools."

Three other schools — Southwest Texas State, the University of Southwestern Louisiana and North Texas State University — will participate in the tournament, although it will be based on individual, not team, competition.

Two players from Sam Houston State University, Houg Lakin and Jeana Burton, will make the trip and replace two USL players who could not make it.

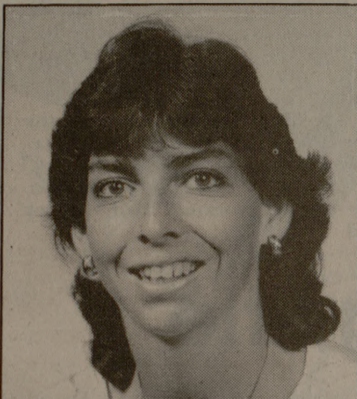
Sixteen singles and eight doubles matches will be played in the Friday's opening round.

"We ought to have a lot of success," Kleinecke says. "There's a lot of team unity on this squad."

Kleinecke says this year's team should have more depth than last year's team, which won the Southwest Conference title and finished 15th in the nation.

"The level of the players is the same all the way down," he says. "Every position is open and no one is locked into one."

The top three seeds for the tournament are all from A&M. Sophomore Karen Marshall, who made it to the finals of the SWC



A&M's Karen Marshall No. 1 seed for tourney

tournament, enters as the No. 1 seed, followed by Gensler, and junior Kim Labuschagne.

Marshall and Labuschagne also come into the tournament as the top-seeded doubles team, while Gensler and freshman Jennifer Jones are third-seeded.

Other seeded players from A&M include freshman Cindy Crawford at No. 7 and senior Laura Liong at No. 8.

Labuschagne, who upset second-seeded Heliane Steden at the NCAA tournament last year, says the players will back up each other even though they might end up playing one another.

"We're still a team," she says. "We're still going to support each other."

Gensler says the team hopes to get more support from students this year.

"We hope the fans get behind us," she says, "especially because we won the conference last year."

The tournament will continue through Saturday and conclude Sunday at 1 p.m. Admission is free to the public.

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