Sports

Lack of respect doesn't bother unsung Aggie offensive linemen

By Danny Myers Sports Writer

If Rodney Dangerfield was a footoall player instead of a comedian, he probably would play on the offen-ive line. Offensive linemen get no

It's the people behind that line tho get the credit for Texas A&M's ffense, which is ranked second in e Southwest Conference in total ffense and first in scoring. Kevin durray has received recognition as ne of the nation's best quarterbacks, nd fullback Roger Vick, with five 00-yard games this season, also is urning some heads.

Without the big guys on the line scrimmage, however, nobody ould gain any yards. These are the nsung heroes who smash people with their heads, but receive little cognition from the fans.

Marshall Land, a senior tackle, aid the offensive line has never eally been a main topic of conversa-

"The things that make us happy are when the backs get 100 yards and Kevin is having a good game," Land said. "But it's always nice for meone to mention the offensive li-

Offensive line coach Joe Avezzano aid he doesn't think offensive lineen are too concerned about getting

"They would like it, but they don't erry about it," he said. "The satisction is winning and knowing you otected the quarterback. After the ame, most of the players go out to he press conferences and the melia. The offensive linemen go out to heir girlfriends and parents, but hat's just part of the job

"They'll be very pleased with the ecognition they receive if they win he next two games and go to Dallas the Cotton Bowl).

Avezzano said the line did get ood recognition last year when ackle Doug Williams was voted an All-American and guard Randy Dausin received All-Southwest Con-

This year, guard Jerry Fontenot, enter Matt Wilson and tackle Louis Cheek deserve some postseason ention, Avezzano said.

But he said it's unrealistic to compare last year's line to this year's line. "We emphasized the run more ast year," he said. "We averaged 4.1 ards per carry last year and we're averaging 4.0 yards per carry this year, so our run is still effective.

"And as for our passing game, e're protecting Kevin extremely vell; we have all season. He can do a

ot for us if we just take care of him." Murray has been sacked only 16 imes all season, three times in the st three games and not at all last eek against Arkansas

Lady Aggies

play tonight

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie basketball team opens its season tonight when it hosts the Red Star

Club of Yugoslavia in an exhibi-

tion game at 7:30 p.m. in G.

Admission for tonight's game

s \$3 for adults and \$2 for stu-

dents. Students with either an all-sports pass or "Maroon Cards"

get in free. "Maroon Cards" allow

admittance to all A&M women's

Rollie White Coliseum.



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

Quarterback Kevin Murray has found life in the pocket fairly safe behind the protection of offensive linemen like Marshall Land (77) and Louis Cheek (79). The Aggies, who have

the nation's current longest home winning streak at 13 games, face TCU at 12:04 p.m. Saturday in Kyle Field. The game will be televised by the Raycom sports network.

The players said they think much of their success is due to Avezzano.
"He's the best coach you could ask

for," Land said. "He gets on you when you need to be gotten on."

Teammates Wilson and Frank Case agreed.

"He makes us work hard on the little things," Wilson said. "He also stresses agility, the ability to move." Case said he thinks Avezzano has

the ability to motivate the players. "More than anything, we all be-lieve in each other's abilities," he said. "There's a good chemistry about it.

Coming into this season, the ques-

Land. He played in only three quarimainly the foot though, but it's all ters last year because of continuing going to work out." injuries to his knee.

But Avezzano said the tackles have played as well as any other position and Land has done his part.

"Marshall has played extremely well in passing situations," he said.

Land, who has cut back on the vittles and now weighs a mere 328 pounds, said he doesn't think he's played up to his potential

'I've been bothered with these little injuries and I can't move the way I want to move, but I'm trying,"

AGGIE NOTES . . . Place-kicker Scott Slater is one field goal away from tying the A&M record for field goals in a season and two away from the SWC record.

Tight end Rod Bernstine needs three receptions and wide receiver Shea Walker needs four to pass Jeff Nelson's A&M record of 92 career receptions.

Murray's 180 yards passing against Arkansas put his career yardage total at 6,000. He is only the fifth SWC passer to surpass 6,000

Longhorns rip Ags in three games in final match of regular season

The Texas A&M volleyball team lost to the University of Texas in three games in the two teams' Southwest Conference finale Thursday night at UT's Gregory Gym in Aus-

The fifth-ranked Longhorns won by scores of 15-1, 15-8, 15-5 to go 10-0 in SWC play and 24-4 overall. The loss drops SWC runner-up A&M to 7-3 in the conference and 23-13 for the year, the ninth defeat in its last 16 matches.

Coach Al Givens said, "and when we don't pass well we don't win many games. When we pass well, then other aspects of our game open up."

It may have been the last match for seniors Stacey Gildner, Laura Hoppe, Stacey Smith, Margaret Spence and Chris Zogata if the team doesn't receive a bid to the NCAA

The seniors were sidelined in the "We didn't pass well," A&M third game against Texas in order to

rience, Givens said.

A&M hit only .118 for the match, although Kelli Kellen had seven kills for a .538 average. Zogata, Smith and Gildner each had four kills.

The Longhorns were led by Diane Watson's 10 kills for a .529 hitting percentage.

Anna de Ybarrondo and Jackie Campbell added eight kills and a .500 average for Texas, which won the SWC title for the fifth year in a



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