

Sports

Amedee: Successful seasons lead to strong recruiting

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Editors note: In the second part of a two-part interview with Texas A&M Offensive Coordinator Lynn Amedee, the coach discusses the future needs of A&M and the advantages of recruiting for the Aggies.

Q: What kind of holes do you see that need filling in your offense?

A: If we're talking about future, I think we need some more linemen. Big linemen. Our quarterbacks need to come on and become a little better in the throwing game. And I think we have some receivers here that are not playing this year that are going to help us. The four guys on Proposition 48 are all receivers, . . . and that will give us the outside speed that we really need. And with . . . all of our receivers coming back next year, I think our receiver corps is going to be that much better. Our running game is going to be very, very fine with (Randy) Simmons and (Darren) Lewis and (Larry) Horton. I think we still need, probably, a big fullback, but I hope that Simmons will fill that bill. . . .

Q: And you went off this weekend on a recruiting trip to try to fix those holes.

A: Oh yeah. It was the first time out of here and boy, . . . you know we flew out of here Thursday. I think it was something that the new rule had set us all back.

Q: What new rule?

A: The NCAA recruiting rule where . . . you can't go out until Nov. 1 now. That's set us back in recruiting to the point where we knew who to look at, but we hadn't had a chance to look at them. And now we try to catch up and decide on who we're going to recruit. But we're trying to fill in some needs, and one of our big needs offensively, is big linemen.

Q: You think that's the most important thing you need to fill?

A: I think so. I think that is a big area. . . .

Q: Describe recruiting in Texas. Is it a lot tougher than it is, for instance, at Vanderbilt?

A: Well, I think that the recruiting

part of Texas is the fact that everybody is recruiting the same guy. So you have seven schools or eight schools within the same vicinity recruiting the same person, and that makes it tougher to the point that those guys can get there as fast as you can.

Recruiting at Vanderbilt, for example, we recruited nationwide. I mean, we'd fly to Chicago, to Florida, to go after a different kind of person, a guy who, first of all, was academically above that scale of a 2.0. I mean, it was really strong, and so you had to go further to find those kind of guys that have had foreign language in high school, and it made it a little different for us. So that's the kind of difference in recruiting.

Q: Do you think A&M ought to put more emphasis on academics?

A: I think Coach (Jackie Sherrill) has done that. . . . We abide by the NCAA rules of the 2.0 (grade point ratio) but our admission people have put our structure a little higher than a lot of places. I think Coach has done a great job. . . . You will notice that in the three years I have been here we haven't lost any guys academi-

cally because they've all been in that scale where they could hang with the student body. I think that's part of it. And our graduation guys have helped us. I've seen us graduate more people here than at a lot of places.

Q: Could you assess the last two or three years of recruiting at Texas A&M? It seems like everybody has been really crazy about A&M's recruiting classes.

A: I think we've been good. I think we've had good recruiting years. I think we've been very fortunate that we've filled in some areas in the two years or three years. Like last year — running backs was a great need for us. We recruited five of the best, which has shown this year already. The year before we needed some help on defense, and we recruited some help. And so it's been a positive thing that we've been able to recruit our needs. And it goes back to a lot of things. It goes back to, we as a staff have not changed. I think that helps us, because we know what we've needed and we go out and we look for those same guys. . . . I know what R.C. (Slocum, A&M's defensive coordinator) wants in a linebacker,

because I've got two of them playing for him that I've recruited — Adam Bob and Basil Jackson. He knows what I want as a quarterback or a running back because he recruited two of them — Darren Lewis and Randy Simmons. . . . I think we know what Jackie wants academically because our guys stay in school here. And all that has helped, and I think that's why we've had great recruiting years here. Our alumni has been tremendous because of that same thing, also.

Q: About the running backs: can you imagine what your running back corps would be like if you had gotten Anthony Ray (a blue-chipper out of Wharton who went to Baylor) and Harvey Williams (the celebrated Hempstead back who went to Louisiana State) like a lot of people thought you would?

A: *laughing* Well, I think some of them would be ready to leave if it had gotten to that point! Because running backs are a rare breed. Running backs are like quarterbacks — they want to play every snap of every play. I mean, they want to run the ball every time. And it doesn't happen that way. It just doesn't hap-

pen. Everybody's here to play. You try to play your people where you think they fit in best for what you do. So everybody has a role, and as long as they fill that role, then they will be OK. I don't care if it's Harvey Williams or Randy Simmons or John David Crow, you know, who was a great running back, what I'm saying is all three of those guys have got a special role, and all three of those guys have got to play for you. And sometimes they're not all happy, and that's when they start leaving.

Q: So you end up with role players like Larry Horton, who could be starting for a lot of people.

A: A lot of people. That's exactly right. But the bottom line is, they're gonna get an opportunity to do what they do to help us win to get where we want to go. And that's what it's all about.

Q: Does the recent success the team has had help in recruiting?

A: Oh, I think it does. I think it makes it a lot easier for us. People know who Texas A&M is, especially

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Boston's Clemens wins 2nd Cy Young award

NEW YORK (AP) — Roger Clemens of the Boston Red Sox became the first American League pitcher in more than a decade to win two straight Cy Young awards, capturing the 1987 trophy Wednesday despite a spring training holdout and 4-6 start. Now, he says he can aim for the record books.

"It's an individual award. It gives me something to shoot for, something that no one has done before, win a third time in a row," Clemens said at a Houston news conference. "I beat the jinx. Now, I guess I have to do it again."

Clemens, who lives in Katy, had 256 strikeouts in 281 1/3 innings this year. He received 21 of 28 first-place votes and 124 points in balloting by a

panel of Baseball Writers Association of America members.

Jimmy Key of Toronto, 17-8 with a league-leading earned-run average of 2.76, had four first-place votes and 64 points to finish a distant second. Dave Stewart of Oakland, at 20-13 the only other 20-game winner in the AL, was third with two first-place votes 32 points.

"At the end of the year, I was very confident and very strong," Clemens said. "I think I may have been throwing the ball even better than I did at the end of 1986."

Clemens, who had the league's third-best ERA of 2.97, was the only pitcher in either league whose name appeared on each ballot cast. Steve Bedrosian, the Philadelphia Phillies reliever, won the National League

Cy Young award in a close battle with Rick Sutcliffe of Chicago and Rick Reuschel of San Francisco.

The last American League pitcher to win consecutive Cy Youngs was Jim Palmer of the Baltimore Orioles in 1975-76. Denny McLain won the AL Cy Young in 1968 and shared it with Mike Cuellar the following year.

Clemens became only the third American League pitcher to win a Cy Young for a team placed as low as fifth. Dean Chance with the 1964 California Angels and Gaylord Perry with the 1972 Cleveland Indians also won the award with fifth-place teams.

Following Key in the balloting were Dave Stewart of Oakland, 32 points; Doyle Alexander of Detroit,

8; Mark Langston of Seattle, 7; Ted Higuera of Milwaukee and Frank Viola of Minnesota, 5 each; Jeff Reardon of Minnesota, 4, and Jack Morris of Detroit, 3.

Stewart, at 20-13 the only other 20-game winner in the league besides Clemens, had two first-place votes, and Alexander had the other.

Balloting is done by a panel comprised of two BBWAA members from each league city. They are asked to name their top three candidates with five points awarded for a first-place vote, three for second and one for third.

Clemens earned \$150,000 for winning the Cy Young. In addition, \$150,000 will be tacked onto his 1988 salary of \$1.2 million as a result of his contract negotiated last April.

Volleyball team defeats UH for third consecutive victory

The Texas A&M Volleyball team defeated the University of Houston in four games Wednesday evening for its third conference victory and its first road victory of the year.

The Lady Aggies, who improved their overall record to 13-19, continued their strong showing in the second half of the season by downing the Cougars 14-16, 15-9, 16-14 and 15-5. The victory is the third straight win for A&M.

Cheri Steensma paced the team with 16 kills, followed by Kelli Kellen and Michelle Whitwell who had 11 apiece. Kellen

also had 13 digs and seven blocked shots.

A&M Coach Al Givens said his team might have finally put it all together.

"We're not losing to anybody in the second half (of the conference season)," Givens predicted. "I'm very pleased with the play tonight, particularly . . . with the play off the bench."

Givens also said winning is a product of good team play.

The Lady Aggies play Southern Illinois in G. Rollie White Coliseum Friday evening at 7 p.m. before hosting Texas Tech Sunday at 2 p.m.

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