

Sports

Why not finally start Osgood?

This may seem a little sudden, but Chris Osgood is the best man for the starting job against the Oklahoma State Cowboys this Saturday.

Each week for the past two years, Aggie fans have wondered who will be the starting quarterback for the upcoming game.



Jeff Miller
Sports viewpoint

Could it be Craig Stump, Bucky Richardson, or Lance Pavlas? The usual reply from Coach Jackie Sherrill is, "We'll name a starter on game day."

Well, now that Craig Stump has graduated the choices are now Richardson, Pavlas, and Osgood.

Last year's star Richardson has been less than impressive this year and hasn't shown that offensive spark of the 1987 season. Pavlas has let all the hype he had out of high school go down the drain. There's only one more choice. He's been the big secret in Aggieland for

the last year and a half, and he's not such a secret anymore.

His name is Chris Osgood, a junior transfer from the University of Mississippi.

Opponents of Ole Miss know who he is, and Aggie fans caught their first glimpse three weeks ago in Baton Rouge, La.

After the Aggies struggled so terribly, Osgood made his debut (coming in the game 20 points behind) and seemingly added enough life to the A&M offense to earn Texas A&M Player of the Week.

Playing in only the second half, he rushed for 18 yards and was 8-of-15 for 110 yards and one interception.

The odds are in Osgood's favor. He has one more year of experience than Richardson or Pavlas and has been a starting quarterback at a Division I-A school.

Sure, Richardson did some great things last year, leading the Aggies to their third consecutive Cotton Bowl, but he hasn't shown any promising performances this year. (He went out after the sixth play at LSU.)

Osgood sat out an entire year and seemingly returned to good form when he was given the position.

This will be the third game of the year and next week is the conference opener. Something must be established offensively.

Using all three quarterbacks can work, but the Aggies need a leader on both sides of the ball instead of one on defense and three on offense.

Linebacker John Roper is clearly the leader of one of the toughest defenses in the nation. The offense needs the same leadership.

Osgood seemed to stay calm during the little time we saw him play, and he's had two years of experiencing pressure to deal with it.

Another edge that Osgood displays is his ability to run and pass, rather than one or the other.

Richardson is clearly the best runner, while Pavlas is the passer.

A good quarterback has to do a little of both.

Some quarterbacks make up their lack of speed with passing accuracy, but Pavlas hasn't been exactly outstanding in that category, sending his first pass of the season into the hands of LSU linebacker Ron Sancho for a touchdown.

Richardson's passing has been better this year, but is still far behind both Osgood and Pavlas.

Rumor has it that Osgood was to start last week against Alabama, but since the game was cancelled, we'll just have to wait until Saturday, as always.

Lewis vs. Johnson culminates today

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The 100-meter dash offers Carl Lewis a double chance at Olympic distinction.

The headline event on Day 7 — Saturday in Seoul, today in the United States — carries with it the chance at earning the title, "the world's fastest man" for Lewis, and is the first step of his quadruple gold chase.

The final of the 100-meter dash is expected to offer a matchup between Lewis and Canadian Ben Johnson, the world's two fastest sprinters.

"It's good for track and field just like Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier were good for boxing," Lewis said. "I feel what we're doing is focusing attention on our sport and advancing our sport."

The 100-meter dash will also be the first step for Lewis in his quest to repeat his four gold medal performance of 1984 — a feat duplicating the efforts of Jesse Owens in the 1936 Olympics.

"I just want to run each step one at a time," Lewis said. "The 100 meters is a big event for me. I'll put 110 percent into that. Then comes the 200, the long jump and the relay. That's the way I'm going to go into this. I'm not going to anticipate."

The triple jump will also be contested. American Willie Banks, who won the event four years ago, is again the favorite.

The women's heptathlon moves into its second day. American Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the only heptathlete to surpass 7,000 points — she has done it four times — has said she will aim to break her world record.

Mary T. Meagher, an Olympic triple-gold medalist in 1984, will begin her attempt to duplicate that feat in the women's 100-meter butterfly — tonight in Seoul, today in the United States — a day of five swimming finals, the first three track and

field medal events, and the first appearances of Lewis and Edwin Moses.

Meagher, who will turn 24 next month, is the oldest member of the U.S. women's swim team. She has held world records in the women's 100- and 200-meter butterfly for more than seven years.

The native of Louisville, Ky., took some time off from training last year and has found the road back to the Olympics a difficult one.

"I'm excited to be here," Meagher said. "I'm hungry. . . I really want to win."

"Getting myself to work out this year was harder than it's ever been."

Matt Biondi will be seeking his second relay gold as part of the U.S. 4x100-meter freestyle relay team on tonight's swimming card. The other three will be the men's 400-meter freestyle, the men's 200-meter breaststroke, and the women's 100-meter breaststroke.

The native of Moraga, Calif., who is shooting for seven medals in seven events, won his first gold of the Games in the men's 4x200-meter freestyle. He was looking for his fourth medal of the Games in the men's 100-meter freestyle tonight.

The U.S. men's basketball team concludes its preliminary play against Egypt Saturday (tonight in the United States). The Americans have already clinched a berth in Monday's quarterfinals.

Men's gymnastics moves to gold-medal competitions Saturday in each of the six apparatus. Another gold medal will be awarded in the men's air pistol.

When Roy Jones steps into the ring tonight (today in the United States) for a 156-pound bout against Mtendere Makalamba of Malawi, only three American boxers will be left waiting to make their first appearance of the Games — Andrew Maynard, Ray Mercer and Riddick Rowe.

Biondi, Evans highlight Thursday

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Matt Biondi and Janet Evans planted a solid gold exclamation mark at the end of a day marked by violence, disgrace and drug scandal at the Seoul Olympics on Thursday.

Biondi and Evans each won their second swimming gold medals. Biondi won the 100-meter freestyle for his fourth medal, and he is almost certain to win three more. Evans, stack-jawed and shaking her head when she saw the clock, cut a huge 16 seconds from her own world record in the 400-meter freestyle.

"I couldn't believe it," she said. "I was just amazed."

Amazing was an apt adjective, too, for the conduct of South Korean

boxing officials, who attacked a referee and punched him after a close decision went against one of their boxers. Five Koreans were banned from the Games.

"It was very disgraceful behavior," said Shin Hyon-ung, director general of the Seoul organizing committee's international press department.

A Bulgarian weightlifter, meanwhile, was stripped of his gold medal and banned from the Olympics for two years when he tested positive for a diuretic that helped him lose weight. An Australian modern pentathlete was also sent home after high levels of caffeine showed in his test.

And there could be more. The In-

ternational Olympic Committee said it expected about 15 positive drug tests among the 10,000 athletes here.

After six days of Games, the medal standings looked like this: Soviet Union 28 medals, 14 gold; East Germany 19, 6 gold; United States 13, 5 gold.

The golds by Biondi and Evans, and a silver by Chris Jacobs in Biondi's event, gave a needed lift to a swimming team considered one of the best in the world, yet a winner of only five of a possible 27 medals in nine events before Thursday.

Biondi, of Moraga, Calif., had a time of 48.63, missing his own world record by .21 seconds but breaking the Olympic mark of 49.04 he set

earlier in the day during qualifying heats. With four medals, he is on track to become only the second man to win seven medals in a Summer Olympics. Mark Spitz won seven in 1972, all gold.

Jacobs, of Livingston, N.J., was second in 49.08.

Evans, of Placentia, Calif., who also won the 400 individual medley, won the 400 freestyle in 4:03.85. Her old world mark was 4:05.45.

Heike Friedrich of East Germany, who won the silver in 4:05.94, was just as amazed about the time as Evans.

"I didn't think Janet was capable

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Mastpieces

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