

A perfect role-player

Hickey a mix of coach, AD, mother

By Denise Thompson
Staff Writer

Be sure to look for the chameleon on the court the next time you attend a Lady Aggies basketball game.

She'll be dressed in slacks and plotting various strategies on a chalkboard while people holler "Coach Hickey!" to get her attention.

Profile of the Week

Lynn Hickey

If she appears to be just another basketball coach, remember that role-playing is Lynn Hickey's most complex responsibility.

Hickey, assistant athletic director for women and head women's basketball coach, says the most difficult part of her job is continually changing roles to be effective.

"As an assistant athletic director for women, my job is to represent A&M at Southwest Conference meetings, NCAA functions and handle problems

with coaches," she says. "But I have my coaching duties, too, and I'm also a wife and mother.

"It's very difficult for people to comprehend everything I have to do . . . even my mother. She asks all the time when I call, 'But what do you do all day?'"

Being a mother herself is the latest of Hickey's roles. Her first child, Lauren, was born in July, and she thinks the additional responsibility will enhance her career.

"I don't feel like I'm missing out by not being around the baby — I felt like I was missing out because I didn't have a child," she says. "When I get home, I just want to sit and hold her, but I look up at the clock and it's nine, and I haven't had dinner or made any recruiting calls.

"Before I had the baby, an assistant and I might have sat up here and talked for two hours, whereas now, when I get all the things covered that I need to have covered, I want to get home. I want to do as good a job with my career as I always have, but I have

to remember that she's number one."

Bill Hickey, husband and assistant baseball coach at A&M, says, "Having the baby is going to take some adjusting. There is really going to be a conflict of interest when Lynn's out on the road and she's wanting to know what the baby is doing at home.

"But Lynn's the kind of person who is able to put everything in perspective and do one thing at a time. I'm sure that she'll be able to coach the game and then go find a phone to call and see how the baby is . . . either that or the baby will be on the road, too."

Although being a mother is Hickey's newest role, she has been developing role-playing skills since she was four. It was then that her father introduced her to the world of sports.

"My dad inspired me," she says. "He coached in the same little school for 25 years where I grew up in Oklahoma. He was really unique because he was the

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A&M faces character test

against 4-6 Frogs Saturday

By Doug Walker
Assistant Sports Editor

The Texas A&M Aggies face perhaps their biggest character test entering the final three games of their season beginning with Saturday's game against Texas Christian (4-6 overall; 2-4 in the Southwest Conference) at Kyle Field.

The combination of A&M's ineligibility for post-season play, a tough loss to Arkansas, and a game against a struggling TCU team would seem to make the task of motivating the Aggies a formidable one.

Aggie Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said at his weekly press conference Tuesday in Cain Hall he doesn't feel the team will have any problems in getting motivated for Saturday's game.

"There are a lot of goals this team still wants to accomplish," Sherrill said. "We've got three games to go. Two of them are on national television (Texas and Alabama) and one is on regional television.

"If we can win them, we should be in the Top 20." Sherrill believes the Aggies can be encouraged by the Arkansas game.

"These seniors have accomplished an awful lot here and I have no doubt they're going to play hard," Sherrill said. "This is their last conference game at home.

"Against Arkansas there were a lot of positive things that can carry over. Playing a game like that really helps you."

He was encouraged by the Aggies' overall performance and said that turnovers and mistakes at crucial times killed the Aggies.

Sherrill said, "You've got to make the play when you have to and we didn't. We did more things offensively against them

than we've ever done, and it was against their best defensive team so far.

"I had to check all my toes to see if I still had them because we kept shooting ourselves in the foot. You can't beat anybody playing like that."

Based on what he has seen on film, Sherrill believes the Frogs will get the Aggies attention in a hurry.

"Looking at the film, you can see they're a good football team and have got some excellent players," Sherrill said. "They have great skill people and their offensive line has done a good job. They've moved the ball on everybody."

The Horned Frogs have moved the ball against their opponents, but they haven't been as successful offensively as other teams. TCU is dead last in the SWC in total offense averaging 321.3 yards per game and relies on a strong rushing attack to stay competitive.

TCU averages 220 yards a game on the ground (third in the SWC) while sporting the SWC's weakest passing game (101.3 yards per game).

Halfback Tony Darthard, who has rushed for 749 yards (4.6 yards per carry) and five touchdowns, leads the TCU ground attack.

Injuries to tight end Roscoe Tatum and split end Jarrod Delaney have further damaged the passing attack for TCU, which hasn't beaten A&M since 1972.

Look for the Aggies to try to utilize the passing game against the TCU defense.

In spite of being one of the SWC's weakest units statically, TCU has had a knack for forcing turnovers.

The Horned Frogs have collected 21 interceptions to tie with Arkansas for the SWC lead.

Landry should do himself a favor and pick a QB

It's time to face it. I've been putting this off for a few years now but reality is forcing itself into my heart.

The truth is that I am one of the few remaining Dallas Cowboy fans. And the realization has hit me that the Cowboys are not the team they used to be. More simply, they're bad.

Of course this is obvious to those ever present Cowboy antagonists. But sporting fans try to hold on to the glory days as long as possible — especially Cowboy fans, who got used to supporting great teams every year.

Fans that have stuck with the Cowboys since their long string of winning seasons was broken, are coming to accept that there is something wrong. At 2-9, Dallas is in the process of compiling their worst record since the 1960s.

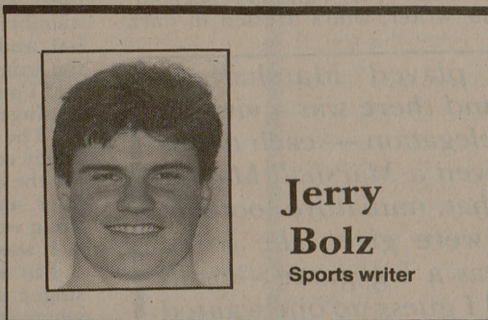
Figuring out just what the problem is

with Dallas isn't simple. The truth is, there could be as many problems as there are fans. So where does the critique start?

There are definitely some problems on defense. In losing nine games, there have obviously been some points scored on the Cowboys. But to win, you not only have to keep the opponent from running over you, you have to score. So, on offense, the most obvious place to look is quarterback. The Cowboys in this position not because they have no talent at quarterback, but because they have a coach who happened to be leading the team when Roger Staubach played there.

It was easy for Tom Landry when Staubach was in Dallas. They won almost all the time and the fans loved and were content with Staubach.

Without "The Dodger," though, Landry has had to learn the quarterback shuffle



Jerry Bolz
Sports writer

while trying to please fans, ownership and players. The problem with this dance is that pulling a quarterback out every time he does bad can put a wrinkle in his confidence.

For example, the latest shift was Landry

pulling Steve Pelluer and putting in Kevin Sweeney. Regardless of how Sweeney did, the next time Pelluer starts he will have pressure on him to prove he is better than Sweeney. Few players do their best work in that environment.

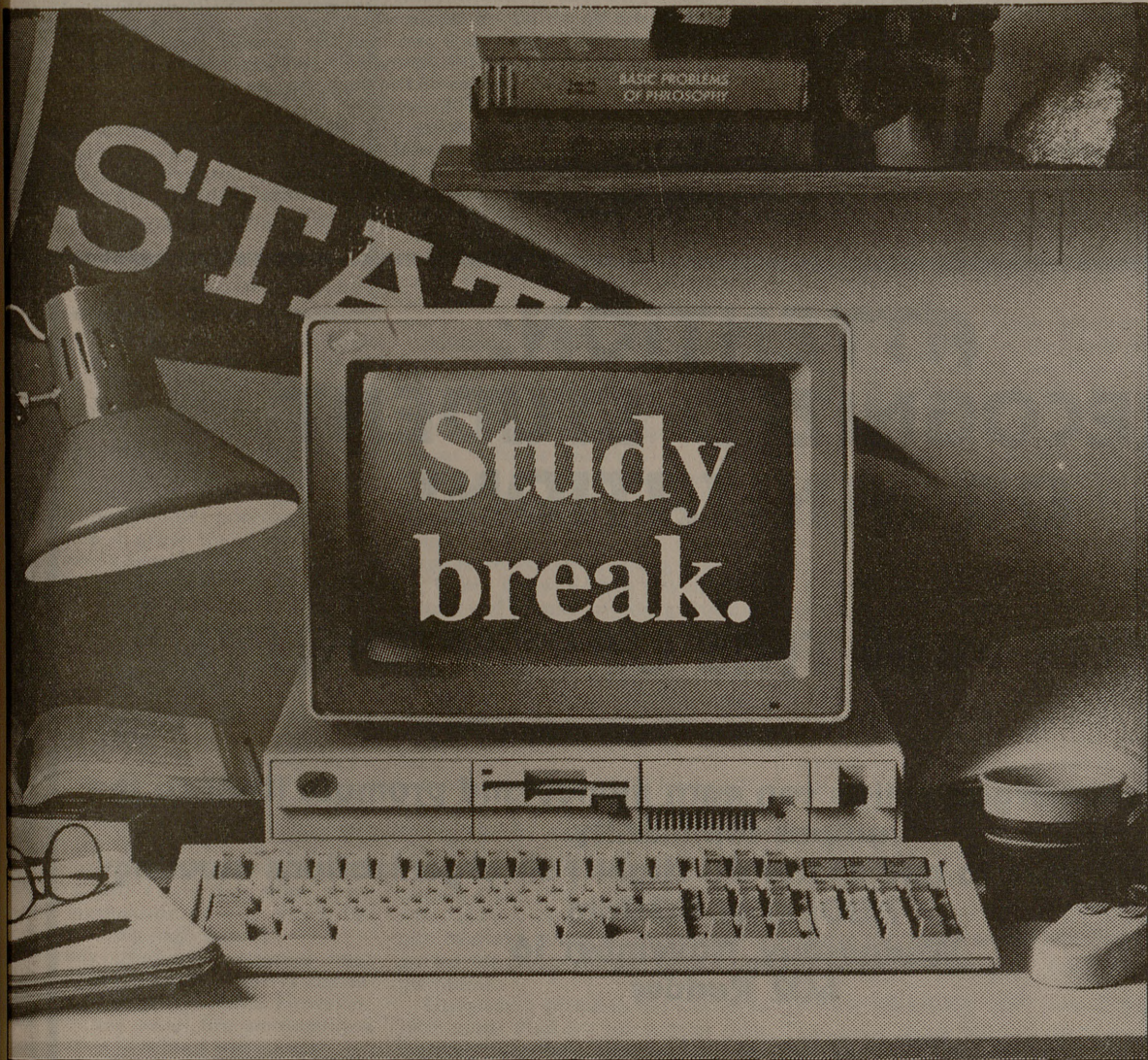
Landry would make a wise move by sticking with one quarterback for the whole season. He did great at the beginning of the year keeping Pelluer in week after week. But Pelluer has seen what has went on in the past with the shuffling of Danny White and Gary Hogeboom, and even himself and White last year.

So now Sweeney gets a shot, and of course he knows the pattern, too. Two games ago, playing the Giants, Sweeney looked great coming on in relief of Pelluer. In this situation, there was no pressure on Sweeney. The Cowboys were getting dogged and the only option Sweeney had

was to be a hero. And he was — it got him the start against Minnesota.

Starting a game is different, though. All the pressure that is not present in a substitute role is magnified, especially playing for Dallas. You can't blame Sweeney for the loss to Minnesota, just like you can't blame any of the quarterbacks for losses this season. They are playing under an unneeded pressure. Inside, I wouldn't doubt if the members of the Cowboy quarterbacking crew actually dreaded starting, rather than seeing it as a privilege.

The Cowboys have capable leaders. With the worst team in the league getting the first draft pick, the Cowboys might have one more capable leader after this season. But a quarterback does not a team make. And if Landry and the Cowboys are going to make a team, they need to stick with one man. Just pick one.



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