

(Continued from page 11)

Bucky

most memorable play of his career. With four-and-a-half minutes to play and the score 13-13, he kept the ball on a second-and-goal and the five-yard line and rushed in untouched for the winning touchdown.

Things had worked out for the freshman quarterback from Louisiana. But that was 1987. 1988 would be much worse.

What started out as a year that meant little because of NCAA probation that kept the Aggies from the Cotton Bowl, ended for Richardson on the turf of Memorial Stadium in Austin.

He was leading A&M in a rout over Texas, but toward the end of the first quarter, Richardson went one way and his knee another on a rushing play. The ball popped loose and his anterior cruciate ligament was torn.

Reconstructive surgery would force him out for the rest of the season.

In the spring, new Coach R.C. Slocum hired new Offensive Coordinator Bob Toledo to revamp the Aggies' offensive scheme. Out went the option running game — Richardson's specialty — and in came a pass-oriented attack.

He is probably out for the year to rehabilitate his knee. Strong-armed junior Pavlas was given the starting nod for 1989.

Richardson now finds himself in a peculiar position: having to watch from the sidelines as his teammates fight to regain the SWC championship and a trip to the Cotton Bowl.

But Richardson said he knew the time would come this year when he'd have to be nothing more than a participant from the sidelines.

"I've been preparing for it since I

got hurt because I knew it would be hard for me," Richardson said. "I think I've handled it well. There's times when I get down on myself, but I've got good people around me that help me get out of it."

Recovering from that knee surgery, which has left a long scar running down his left knee, is all that Richardson is hoping for now. Playing football will have to come later.

"(Rehabilitation's) been long," he said. "I've been running for a couple of weeks. Everything's coming along good now — I'm getting stronger, gaining weight. I've been lifting weights for a couple of months, building up my upper body."

The road to recovery has been a

"Everything's fine now. There're still no decisions that have been made."

— Bucky Richardson, Aggie quarterback

long one, but it's one that Richardson has almost completed. He said he is now 80 percent healthy. The remaining 20 percent is something Slocum and Toledo just have to wait for.

During two-a-day practices in August, coaches were impressed with the progress Richardson's knee had been making. Where before coaches were just hoping he'd be ready for next year, now they were saying he might be ready to come back by mid-season.

"Everything's fine now," Richardson said. "There're still no decisions that have been made."

Those "decisions" are whether or not Slocum needs Richardson back this year. After two years of shaky performances, Pavlas may have fi-

nally emerged as the quarterback Sherrill hoped he'd become when he recruited him.

In three games as the starter this season, Pavlas has completed 61 percent of his passes for 496 yards in leading A&M to a 2-1 record and a No. 21 national ranking in the Associated Press Top 25 poll.

A&M's offense has looked sparkling at times this season — when it's passed the ball. However, its running game, with preseason Heisman Trophy candidate Darren Lewis and last year's SWC Newcomer of the Year fullback Robert Lewis, has yet to get off the ground.

It's a far cry from last year, when Richardson led an Aggie team whose offensive attack centered around the option running game. Whenever Lewis didn't hurt opposing defenses for long runs, Richardson usually did. He finished second in team offense behind Lewis.

But the option days at A&M are gone, Slocum said last week at his Tuesday press conference. That could mean trouble for Richardson, whose game is focused on the running attack and not the passing game, which Slocum is favoring this year.

However, this year looms as a remote possibility for Richardson. Even if he regains his full health, Slocum may be hesitant to waste a year of Richardson's eligibility for a few games in 1989, especially if Pavlas continues to perform the way he has been this season.

For now, Richardson is staying on the sidelines, playing the waiting game. He is watching his teammates prepare for next week's game at Kyle Field against Southern Mississippi — the same team A&M was playing when his collegiate career got off to such a quick start two years ago.

"I can run, drop back, roll out and do everything good, just not as good as I need to be doing it to compete," he said. "That's what we're waiting on."

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Homestead Savings Extends Drive Thru Banking Hours

Homestead Savings Association has extended its drive thru banking hours for the College Station office, President William F. Phillips Jr. announced recently.

"We added four hours a day to the drive in schedule to accommodate the busy schedules of our regular customers," Phillips said. "Continued growth of the home office traffic also played a part in the decision," he added.

The College Station banker noted that Homestead was growing at a time when many financial institutions were having problems.

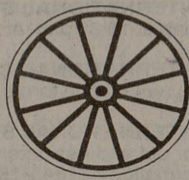
"Homestead Savings continues to grow and continues to show profits for its shareholders," he pointed out. "At a time when some financial institutions are offering less service, we are able to offer more."

Phillips attributed Homestead's steady growth to a conscious manage-

ment decision to pick solid loan customers and offer competitive services to banking customers.

"Homestead is in the enviable position of having a solid capital base, a portfolio of current loans and an increasing number of banking customers. When Homestead was opened, we sought a particular customer who paid loans on time and wanted checking and savings services without frills. Those customers have stayed with us through the hard times. They have built this institution into a highly visible part of this community. The success of Homestead is theirs — but you can be sure that management is very proud of their accomplishments."

The new drive thru banking hours will be 8 - 6, Monday thru Friday, Phillips said. Hours for the Bryan office will not be changed, he reported.



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