

Wednesday, October 4, 1989

Slocum remembers 1987 Tech taunts

Coach, players say No. 19 Ags are focused for Saturday's game

By Richard Tijerina

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M Coach R.C. Slocum remembers the spit.

It was two years ago when the Aggies last traveled to Jones Stadium in Lubbock to play Texas Tech. A&M had beaten Southern Mississippi the week before, but were dominated by the Red Raiders in a 27-21 upset.

The Aggies, with then-freshman quarterback Lance Pavlas as the starter, looked flat throughout the game.

"It was one of those days where we were off-stride all day," Slocum said. "We didn't play very well. It was a frustrating day for me, the players and for everybody."

Slocum may have thought the loss was frustrating, but what he and his team will remember most this weekend is what happened after that game was over.

"Coming off the field there was a lot said — people were spitting on us and that whole thing," Slocum said. "I haven't forgotten one bit of that day. The players that were on that

trip haven't forgotten it either."

That could spell trouble for Texas Tech. The Aggies and the Red Raiders head into this weekend's South-west Conference game with identical 3-1 records. But A&M carries a 1-0 SWC record and a No. 19 ranking.

A&M at Texas Tech

- **Site:** Jones Stadium
- **Kickoff:** Noon
- **Ranking:** A&M (19th), Texas Tech (—)
- **TV/Radio:** Raycom Sports Network; KTAM (AM 1240)

Texas Tech lost their SWC opener last week to Baylor and now face an early death in the conference race.

"Going out to Tech, they have the same (season) record we have," Slocum said at his weekly press conference on Tuesday. "They're back home for the first time in weeks. This is a big game for them because they face elimination in the conference race."

"We'll have our hands full out there."

But what Slocum didn't say is that the Aggies usually do whenever they play in Lubbock. Since 1979, the last five games between the two teams in Lubbock have been decided by a total of 12 points. A&M is 2-3 in those games.

Jones Stadium (47,000 capacity) has been unfriendly to Aggie football teams in the past, but Slocum said all that is history now. All A&M needs to do this weekend is play its game.

"We have to worry about ourselves and not worry about Tech," he said. "We have to be concerned about us going out and getting ready to play. They're going to have a big crowd and it's going to be noisy and all that stuff, but it shouldn't have an impact on the game."

Slocum said the game will be a struggle. With two of their next three conference games on the road, at Baylor on Oct. 21 and at Rice on Oct. 28, he said the Aggies will have to be successful away from Kyle Field to be a SWC contender.

To be successful in the SWC, the Aggies must continue to have steady output from their offense — partic-

ularly from Pavlas and running back Darren Lewis. Last week against Southern Mississippi, Lewis rushed for 126 yards, his first 100-yard game of the year.

Slocum said Pavlas' play has inspired the Aggies, and the team now is starting to rally around the junior.

"He answered the challenge in the first ballgame and has done that since then," he said. "Against Washington he took some big hits. He has not wavered at all and I think the players recognize that."

Pavlas will have to have a better game on Saturday than he did that afternoon in 1987. So will the entire team.

Lubbock always is one of the tougher places to play, but Slocum said that's all a part of football.

What's worse, Texas Tech still will be stinging from last week's loss to Baylor. Facing the Aggies in their home stadium may give the Red

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Lady Aggies open conference play vs UH

By Alan Lehmann

Of The Battalion Staff

The match will be a big one for A&M, said Givens.

"It would be nice to have about 2,000 fans here for 'Cougar High,'" he said. They think that they are the west Conference schedule at 7:30 p.m. against Houston in G. Rolie Coliseum.

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team will open their South-west Conference schedule at 7:30 p.m. against Houston in G. Rolie Coliseum.

The match will be the conference spect right now, and I think we'll opener for both teams. The Cougars teach them a lesson."

The Cougars are led by fourth-come into the match with a 11-2 record, while the Lady Aggies bring a 7-4 mark.

Houston swept matches this week-end from Eastern Kentucky and was named the SWC player of the South Florida, and their only losses week last week, and boasts a .415 hitting percentage. Seniors Tina Johnson and Julie Gates lead the Cougars and LSU.

Coach Al Givens feels that A&M with 129 and 106 scoring spikes, has built up momentum with a four-game winning streak.

"We've reached our goal of 7-4," Brandt, who is ranked second in the Givens said. "We're still improving, nation in digs per game. She is also ranked among the conference leaders in service aces and assist average."

Packers, Cowboys playing in their own 'Twilight Zone' in 1989

Who would ever have figured Green Bay to be in the running for the top spot in the NFC Central Division?

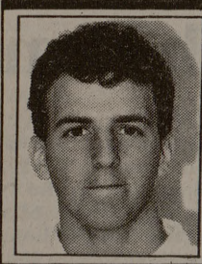
I know it's still early, and a lot of things can happen, but just think about it.

The Packers are 2-2 going into the fifth week of the football season, but more importantly, they have won in dramatic fashion — scoring points in the last seconds of games to make opposing coaches nervous wrecks.

The 1989 Packers resemble the Packers of old. You remember last year's team: They couldn't even lose to come out ahead.

In the last game of 1988, all the Packers had to do was lose to earn the NFL's top draft pick. Green Bay won and in the process lost an opportunity to snatch the Cowboys' Troy Aikman.

Green Bay has been outscored in the first two quarters of their four games 30-90, but returned in the second half to outscore opponents 96-27.



Clay Rasmussen
Sports Writer

What's the deal, Green Bay?

The second-half Packers have staged four comebacks — falling short, but dangerously close, twice. Lambeau Field is becoming a sort of Twilight Zone.

"Submitted for your approval: a ragged bunch of men from Milwaukee struggle to play football on a field where a man named Vince once prowled. Fumbles, interceptions, broken body parts — these

young men will see it all. They retire at the end of the first half to a mysterious jug of Gatorade. But they will spend the second half... in the Twilight Zone."

What's with these Packers? Can the Cowboys drink from that magical jug? For the first time since "The Icebowl" of 1967, the Packers will host the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday at Lambeau Field.

Back in 1967, the Cowboys were a team to be reckoned with. In 13-below-zero weather, the Packers struggled with the Cowboys to win the NFL Championship in the last second 21-17, on a Bart Starr quarterback sneak.

Hmmm... coming from behind to win in the last minute. Sounds a little like this year's Packers. Could they have returned from the past? Will Coach Lombardi return in some new coaching form?

Probably not, but the Cowboys return to Lambeau Field to experience a different sort of coldness.

Sure, the temperature will be in the mid-eighties, but the Cowboys have been so cold lately that they've mustered only 41 points this season, and seven of those came from the defense.

Heading into their fifth game, the Cowboys are in a twilight zone of their own.

Their offensive schemes are so simple that New York Giants' linebacker Lawrence Taylor said the Giants were wondering if Dallas was trying to trick them with the simplicity of their offense last Sunday.

It didn't take the Giants too long to figure out that the Cowboys were just simple.

The balance of power in the NFC has shifted and Green Bay is in the thick of one of the toughest divisions in the NFL.

The NFC East used to be stacked with powerhouses like Washington, Dallas, New York and Philadelphia, but recently those teams have been struggling with teams in

the Central division.

The Bears had a rough time with Philadelphia last Monday night, but the score at the end was all that mattered: Bears 27, Eagles 13.

Or should that read "Chalk one up for the Central?"

The Bears, Minnesota, Green Bay and even Tampa Bay are off to impressive starts. While their records may show 2-2, these Central division teams have hung in with some of the best of the league.

And as these Central division teams continue to mature and grow strong, Eastern rivals like the Dallas Cowboys continue to take their places as the punching bags of the NFL.

Want to feel like you've entered the Twilight Zone with Green Bay? Just look at the point spread in the sports page. Green Bay is favored by seven.

When's the last time you've seen the Packers as anybody's favorite?

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