

Red Raiders' Gray looking for big game vs Aggies

By Alan Lehmann

Of The Battalion Staff

After starting the season like a rocket, James Gray has fizzled. The Texas Tech I-back began the season with a 234-yard performance, but hasn't broken the 100-yard mark in his three games since. It's not that he hasn't been trying — the problem is that he hurt his shoulder in the second game of the season. Since that game against New Mexico, Gray has played sparingly. However, he was healthy enough to gain 78 yards on 15 carries in last week's loss to Baylor. Still, Gray wasn't happy resting on the sidelines while he was hurt. "I am very disappointed about the Baylor game," Gray said. "I felt like I should have played more of the game." Gray said his shoulder is 100 percent healthy for this weekend's matchup with the 19th-ranked Aggies in Lubbock. He said likes the Red Raiders' chances of upsetting A&M.

yards last season, and is comfortable catching the ball coming out of the backfield. "I like to catch the ball," he said. "If we can move the ball through the air, that's fine with me." Although the 5-foot-10, 200-pound I-back has the size to be a power runner, Gray sees himself as a finesse runner. "I'm more of an elusive runner than a power runner," Gray said. "If I can gain yardage without a lot of contact, then I will. But, if it's third and short, I feel like I'll get the yardage." Gray already has eclipsed the Tech career rushing mark of 2,794 yards, formerly held by James Hadnot (1976-79). However, he sees his team's goals as more important than his own. "It's a great accomplishment, but hopefully things won't stop there," he said. "I think we have the kind of team to finish right at the top of the conference, and perhaps win it, if we just go out and take care of business." Gray serves as a co-captain for the second consecutive year. He's the

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— James Gray, Texas Tech running back

"I feel confident, we had a good practice this week," Gray said. "We know that our backs are against the wall. To contend for the conference title, we've got to beat A&M." However, Gray, a senior physical education major from Fort Worth Trimble Tech, knows doing that won't be easy. One of the Raiders' biggest problems this season has been that they've often stopped themselves with turnovers, Gray said. "A&M has a great defense, probably the best in the conference," he said. "We need to cut down on our turnovers. We certainly can't have turnovers against a team like A&M and expect to win." Through four games this season, the Red Raiders have turned the ball over 12 times. However, A&M has only three turnovers in their four games. Tech has lived by the ground game this season. Unfortunately for the Red Raiders, the A&M defense has specialized in squashing its opponents' rushing attack. "A&M has had great run defense," Gray said. "We'll just have to take what they give us. As long as we win — I guess that's the most important thing." If the Red Raiders are forced to go to the air, he probably will be a target of Tech quarterback Jamie Gill. Gray caught 27 passes for 351

first player to do so since 1960, when Tech entered the SWC. He said he's comfortable with the role of leader. "Being a captain, I feel responsibility to be a leader," Gray said. "I just give my best, and hopefully, it'll rub off on the other guys. If we're having a bad practice, then I try to pick everybody up." Although this year's Tech team was picked to finish near the bottom of the SWC, the Raiders are 3-1, and have beaten Arizona and Oklahoma State. Still, Gray said the Raiders feel the loss of strong-armed quarterback Billy Joe Tolliver, now the rookie backup to the San Diego Chargers' Jim McMahon. "We miss him quite a bit," Gray said. "We don't have the deep threat this year. We miss his experience at quarterback." Gray said that 1989's Tech team differs from last year's. "I think that this year's team has more unity," Gray said. "We don't have as much talent as last year." Because he hasn't gotten much national exposure, Gray wasn't considered to be a Heisman Trophy candidate during the preseason. "Since his shoulder injury, Gray said his chances of winning the award are all but gone. "I'll have to do some extraordinary things to even be a candidate," he said. "That's in the back of my mind."

Despite DWI, Gervin seeks return to NBA

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — After pleading no contest to a driving while intoxicated charge, former San Antonio Spurs star George Gervin says he hopes to make an NBA comeback this year. Gervin was sentenced to 45 days in jail Tuesday. However, County Court-at-Law Judge Tony Ferro placed him on probation for one year, meaning Gervin will not have to serve jail time. The former pro basketball stand-out also was fined \$250 and ordered to pay a \$30 per month probation fee. The sentence was part of a plea bargain agreement under which the Bexar County District Attorney's office dropped a misdemeanor marijuana possession charge. Police arrested Gervin Aug. 8 in San Antonio. Officers said they found less than a quarter of a gram of marijuana in his car.

Defense attorney Ben Walker said he thought the case could be won before a jury. But Gervin's publicist, Jerry Barisano, said a trial would have taken time that Gervin could spend pursuing a career comeback. "I intend to play with the NBA somewhere this year," Gervin told the San Antonio Express-News in its Wednesday editions. "That's my dream, to play, back with the Spurs." "I'm glad this is all behind," Gervin told reporters. "I'm going back to my program, to continue working out, hopefully to be ready to play some basketball." Although Gervin said the Milwaukee Bucks and Houston Rockets are interested in him, he prefers the Spurs. He said he is hoping to meet with Spurs owner Red McCombs soon to discuss the matter.

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