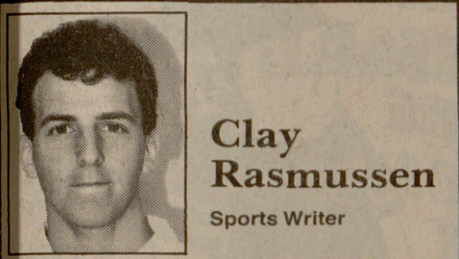


A&M may be in SWC driver's seat, but it's a long road



Clay Rasmussen
Sports Writer

Arkansas Coach Ken Hatfield and Texas Coach David McWilliams are quick to say that Texas A&M is in the driver's seat on the road to the Cotton Bowl.

But A&M Coach R.C. Slocum just chuckles. "I don't know if we're in the driver's seat," Slocum said. "I just hope we're in the car somewhere."

Still, Slocum has a proposition for his two colleagues.

"If they feel that's the case, why don't they just let us drive away with the Conference championship and not even show up for the games?" he joked.

Nice try, Coach, but I don't think McWilliams or Hatfield would buy that one.

Contrary to Hatfield's and McWilliams' concessions, the only real advantages A&M has over Texas or Arkansas is the fact that the Aggies only have three games left on the season and all are played at home.

Arkansas has four SWC games left, while the Longhorns face five more conference foes.

"They talk about scheduling and how that's such a factor," Slocum said. "As I look at it right now, (A&M, Texas and Arkansas) are contenders for the SWC title, and Texas has already played Arkansas. We still have to play them both."

"I don't know how much tougher you can make it."

The Razorbacks have, by far, the easiest remaining schedule of the three contenders.

Arkansas hosts Baylor in Fayetteville and games against Rice and Southern Methodist should provide little challenge for the Razorbacks.

Texas, on the other hand, faces Houston's prolific Run-and-Shoot scoring

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Ags, Ponies resume delayed rivalry

A&M-SMU: Still crazy after all these years . . .



Battalion file photo

The last time Texas A&M played SMU, the Aggies sacked Mustang quarterback Bobby Watters six times. On this play, A&M defensive end Jay Muller sacks Watters in the second quarter of A&M's 39-35 victory. Muller led the Aggie defense with two sacks on the day.

Series picks up where it left off in 1986, but 39-35 thriller not expected Saturday

By Richard Tijerina

Of The Battalion Staff

It's been two years since Texas A&M and Southern Methodist last met, but Saturday's game at Kyle Field probably won't be as close as the game they played in 1986.

That year, A&M brought a 4-0 Southwest Conference record into the game. SMU was 4-1-0, and the game was the Ponies' Homecoming.

The Aggies won that day 39-35, and went on to the conference championship and a second straight Cotton Bowl appearance (a 28-12 loss to Ohio State). But SMU's

two touchdowns on a one-yard plunge.

After a Roger Vick touchdown on a fourth-and-one play at the Mustangs' goal line, the Aggies jumped back on top with a 17-14 lead with less than two minutes left in the half. But the Mustangs marched right back with a 65-yard touchdown drive in 1:25 to take the halftime lead, 21-17.

The Aggies knew they had to put more pressure on Mustangs' quarterback Bobby Watters in the second half. Watters was 10 for 17 for 95 yards and one touchdown in the first half.

"We just had to keep fighting the whole game," Aggie linebacker Johnny Holland said after the game. "We could never give in and we knew if we kept fighting good things would happen."

Good things eventually would happen to the Aggies, but the situation looked grim at the start of the second half. SMU, just like its first possession of the game, scored the first time it touched the ball in the third quarter. Atkins dived for a one-yard touchdown to widen the Mustangs' lead to 28-17.

After three straight A&M drives that ended in punts, the Aggies found themselves in a bad situation. Fortunately, A&M's defense, the best in the SWC and one of the top-ranked ones in the nation, kept the Aggies in the game.

With just 41 seconds left in the third quarter, A&M marched 63 yards on but two plays to cut into SMU's lead. Murray threw a 49-yard touchdown pass to Woodside, and a successful two-point conversion.

A&M went up 32-28 on a four-yard touchdown run by running back Keith Woodside with a little over ten minutes left in the game. But SMU marched right back. Running back Ron Morris scored on a 23-yard scamper to put the Mustangs up 35-32.

Time was running out on the Aggies. There was 2:37 left in the game when Murray again hit Woodside for a 34-yard touchdown pass. The Aggies went up for the last time, 39-35.

"The character of this team has really asserted itself," A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill said after the game. "Our players played as hard as they could for 60 minutes and they never lost sight of what they had to do."

SMU had lost a close game, and Mustang

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SMU at Texas A&M

- Site: Kyle Field (72,387 cap.)
- Kickoff: 2 p.m.
- Ranking: A&M (20th), SMU (—)
- Records: A&M (6-2), Rice (2-5)
- TV/Radio: The game will not be televised live; KTAM (AM 1240)

program took a turn for the worse.

The NCAA slapped the Mustangs with the death penalty — two years without a football program. Underclassmen left the school and transferred to other programs. Head Coach Bobby Collins resigned, and for the first time in history, the NCAA banned a football program.

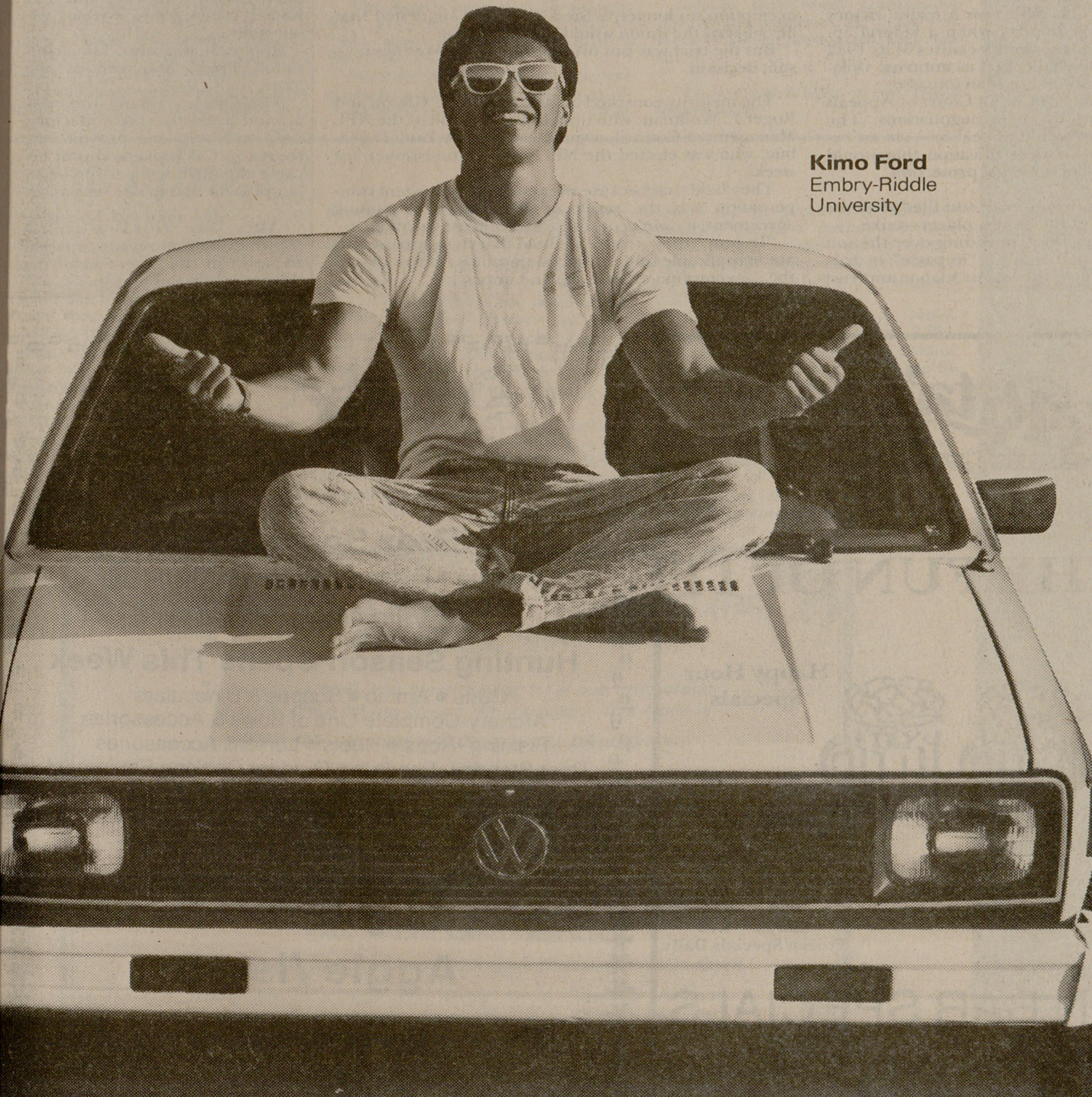
But none of that mattered on Nov. 1, 1986. There was no talk of resignations or NCAA death penalties. That day, two teams fighting for the conference championship met at Texas Stadium.

SMU scored on its first possession — a 73-yard drive that ended with a three-yard touchdown run by junior fullback Cobby Morrison. A&M, led by junior quarterback Kevin Murray, responded with a 52-yard drive that ended in a 35-yard field goal by Scott Slater to cut the SMU lead to 7-3.

The Aggies opened up a 10-7 lead later in the first quarter on an 18-yard scoring toss from Murray to tight end Rod Bernstine.

However, the Mustangs took a 21-17 lead into halftime after they scored two touchdowns in the second quarter. Running back Jeff Atkins, who was the Mustangs' leading rusher with 81 yards, scored the first of his

VW ON CAMPUS



Kimo Ford
Embry-Riddle
University


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"Everyone in my family has driven a Volkswagen at one time or another. My dad had a Microbus in the Sixties. My mom and sister both drove Beetles. And my brother, who's also a student, drives an '83 Volkswagen Rabbit.

"So when I saved enough money to buy a car there was only one logical choice. A Volkswagen. My car's a '79 Rabbit. With 145,000 miles on it. Ten years old and all those miles and it's still running great.

"If you ask me, it's the perfect student's car. Good on gas. Fun to drive. And big enough to carry four friends." Even so, Kimo is already thinking about his next car. Another Volkswagen? "Absolutely. A GTI. White. Gotta have white."

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