

A&M coach R.C. Slocum says USL will be just as fast, strong and big as the Aggies are ...

USL not OK with RC Ags worried about Ragin' Cajun talent

By CLAY RASMUSSEN
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum is not the type to throw caution to the wind. He'll be the first to tell you that Southwestern Louisiana's football team worries him.

Slocum and the No. 12-ranked Aggies open the home portion of their 1990 season Saturday when they host the Ragin' Cajuns. Kickoff is scheduled for 6 p.m.

"You watch the scoreboard and every week teams like Southwestern Louisiana beat teams like A&M," Slocum said. "It's not farfetched. It's a legitimate concern that anyone who understands the game of football has."

Slocum said evidence of the underdog upsetting the favored team is shown week after week. The Aggies are 17-point favorites going into Saturday's matchup.

"I see it happen all the time," Slocum said. "Can you believe Southern Miss beat Alabama at Alabama? I can believe it because I see it happen every week."

"Once you're aware of that from a coaching standpoint, then every week you recognize that you have your hands full. Your challenge is to make your players understand that."

USL is 2-0 after crushing Tulane 48-6 in its opener and squeaking past Nicholls State last week, 24-21. And although the Cajuns don't have the national recognition that A&M has, USL has gained Slocum's re-

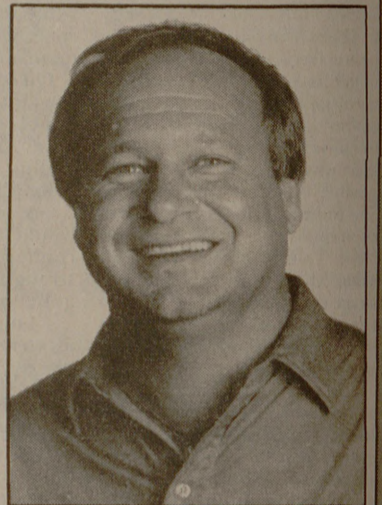
spect.

"People want to know why (USL) is so talented," Slocum said. "In the last several years they've taken a bunch of talented Proposition 48 players."

Proposition 48 is an NCAA entrance requirement that states if an athlete doesn't meet academic requirements, then he or she must sit out a year and lose a year of eligibility.

"They have taken guys that would have gone to Louisiana State or Tulane," Slocum said. "When you watch them play, they'll be as big and fast and strong as we are across the board."

"Needless to say, I'm very concerned



... while USL's Nelson Stokley said he is plenty worried about A&M's Wrecking Crew defense.

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A BUNCH of ROBOTS?

Slocum: a fine line 'tween show and celebration

By RICHARD TIJERINA
Of The Battalion Staff

R.C. Slocum didn't even see the play, but he took the referee's word for it. And tight end Derek Ware took the brunt of Slocum's anger.

At the time, A&M quarterback Lance Pavlas, evading a Hawaii blitz, rolled right and threw to Ware in the back end of the endzone. Ware's one-handed touchdown grab — his first catch as an Aggie — put A&M up 21-3 in the second quarter of their season opener against Hawaii.

But the endzone official called Ware for unsportsmanlike conduct for allegedly spiking the ball. The Aggies were penalized 15 yards on the ensuing kickoff. Slocum ran out onto the field and had a few words with Ware on his way to the A&M sideline.

But Slocum said Tuesday at his weekly press conference that after watching the game film, he believed the official's call on Ware was wrong.

"If you watch the game film, then you'd know that call was a bad one," Slocum said. "Here's a guy who catches his first college touchdown pass in his first college game, and he made a heck of a catch."

"And he's jumping up and down, and as he is, he just throws the ball away. The ball hits about five yards away and the official calls it. What he did was not spiking the ball. That is not what I saw."

But that's where the problem begins, Slocum said. The line between celebration and showing off is too thin.

"It's an emotional game," Slocum said. "You watch the fans and spontaneously you'll have 70,000 people jump up and wave their arms and all that stuff. But now a player jumps up and does that, and he's showboating."

A&M's aggressive style of defense might give players too many chances



Battalion file photo by J. Janner

Coach R.C. Slocum is worried that celebration, like above when Aaron Wallace sacked LSU's Tom Hodson in 1989, gets confused with showing off.

to celebrate. Sack specialists William Thomas and Quentin Coryatt and big hitters Larry Horton and Derrick Frazier often have good reason to celebrate.

In last season's 17-13 win over Houston, linebackers Aaron Wallace and Thomas leveled quarterback Andre Ware. Ware's helmet popped off, and Wallace picked it up and raised it above his head.

"Grabbing Ware's helmet relieved a lot of frustration for me," Wallace said

after the game. "It was when I had his helmet in my hand that I finally sensed we were going to win."

The Kyle Field crowd of 66,423 may have liked it, but Slocum said sometimes a player can get caught up too much after making a spectacular play. Although Wallace wasn't called for unsportsmanlike conduct, he could have.

And that's what Slocum wants to

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A&M spikers face tough competition in Nebraska

By SCOTT WUDEL
Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M women's volleyball team won't be welcomed with open arms when it travels to Nebraska this weekend.

The Lady Aggies will face three of college volleyball's top teams in the Baden-Mizuno Invitational in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The Lady Aggies (2-3) will face the top-ranked Cornhuskers tonight. They play 20th-ranked Wyoming Saturday before meeting a tough Purdue team the same day.

The team may have found a set of starters and the chemistry they were needing in time to face their toughest competition.

The Aggies are coming off a 2-1 home stand they completed Tuesday night by defeating Southwest Texas State varsity Bobcats in a long four-game match.

Coach Al Givens says the tournament will be a good confidence builder.

"Nebraska is ranked No. 1 in the country, and that's where we would like to be ranked one day," Givens says.

Nebraska is 4-0 and coming off victories over former No. 1 UCLA and former second-ranked Hawaii in the Hawaiian Airlines Wahine Classic last weekend.

The Cornhuskers return ten letterwinners from last year's team that compiled a 29-4 record and won their 14th straight Big Eight championship. They finished run-

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— Al Givens
A&M volleyball coach

ner-up to Long Beach State for the national crown.

Givens says the Lady Aggies will have to play unbelievable defense and serve well just to be in the match with the perennial powerhouse.

The Lady Aggies are 4-4 in the series against Nebraska, but the Huskers have taken the last four matches, including a win over the Aggies last year in College Station.

The Wyoming Cowgirls got their No. 2 ranking by compiling a 4-1 record. They reached the finals of the NCAA West Regionals last year before falling to UCLA.

A&M and Wyoming have split the two matches they have played, but haven't seen each other on the court since 1983.

The Lady Aggies' last meeting with Purdue was two years ago, when the Boiler makers downed A&M in a 2½-hour marathon match. The series between the two teams is set at 1-2 before this weekend.

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Klingler, UH top Tech 51-35

LUBBOCK (AP) — David Klingler, picking up where Heisman Trophy winner Andre Ware left off, threw five touchdown passes, carrying the 18th-ranked Houston Cougars to a 51-35 Southwest Conference victory over Texas Tech on Thursday night.

Ware abandoned his senior year to play for the Detroit Lions, and Klingler, a junior from Houston, got his chance. He also threw five scoring passes in a 37-9 opening victory over Nevada-Las Vegas.

Klingler, operating a no-huddle run-and-shoot offense, stunned the Red Raiders, who lost 17-10 to Ohio State in their opener, with a 53-yard scoring strike on the Cougars' first possession. That got Houston going towards 538 yards of offense.

The Red Raiders seldom managed to disrupt the Cougars' wide-open passing attack, and when they did, running back Chuck Weatherspoon burned them with 121 yards on 18 carries.

Klingler, who hit 29 of 54 passes for 435 yards, took Houston on three 80-yard scoring drives and another of 55 yards for a 28-11 halftime lead as the Cougars celebrated their first national television appearance since the 1988 Aloha Bowl because of NCAA probation.

Owner's approve NY general partner in quarterly meeting

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Broadway producer Robert Nederlander, promising to bring front office stability and fiscal sanity to the New York Yankees after George Steinbrenner's 17½ years, was unanimously approved Thursday by major league owners as the team's new general partner.

The owners ended their quarterly meetings by extending American League president Dr. Bobby Brown's contract for two years and by more than doubling the pension benefits of players who retired from 1947 through 1988.

The two leagues failed to reach an agreement on the American League's suggestion to share in the National League's \$190 million franchise fees, prompting Commissioner Fay Vincent's promise to intervene if necessary.

Nederlander backed off criticizing Steinbrenner's free spending on free agents and revolving-door hirings and firings, but said the Yankees will rebuild their farm system and "will operate in a fiscally responsible manner."

Hinting he won't be a headline-seeking, hands-on owner like Steinbrenner, Nederlander said he won't second-guess general manager Gene Michael, player personnel director George Bradley or manager Stump Merrill.

"My own personal philosophy is you have to give people a chance, and continuity is important," he said. "If a reasonable decision has been made, you should stick with it, and you shouldn't second-guess people."

Meanwhile, Vincent — marking his first anniversary as commissioner — said he is sympathetic to the financial plight of small-market franchises such as Pittsburgh, Milwaukee and Cleveland "but there's nothing that I nor anyone else in baseball can hold out as a panacea in the short term."

One of baseball's most fiscally conservative franchises, the Pirates likely will pay Barry Bonds and Bobby Bonilla more money in 1991 than their total 1986 payroll.

"Some of these players may not be retainable" by small-market teams, Vincent said. "There will have to be some very hard economic decisions made by clubs like Pittsburgh. That's inevitable, but that's the market."

A&M punished for NCAA violation

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP) — The NCAA Thursday levied a \$1,000 fine and a public reprimand against Texas A&M University for failing to report the ineligibility of an athlete before the 1990 track championships.

The NCAA said Texas A&M notified its own officials that the athlete was no longer a student at Texas A&M, making him ineligible for competition. But the track coach did not inform NCAA officials until one day before the competition began, the NCAA said.

The delay didn't give championship coordinators enough time to find another eligible participant, said NCAA spokesman Jim Marchiony.

David Walker, chairman of the NCAA's Men's and Women's Track and Field Committee, said the school is putting together administrative controls to prevent similar problems in the future.

A&M softball opens home season

By DOUGLAS PILS
Of The Battalion Staff

Under the limelight of the Texas A&M football team's home opener, Bob Brock and his Lady Aggies are quietly embarking on their 1990-91 softball season.

The team split a doubleheader in San Marcos against Southwest Texas State Wednesday night. A&M opens its home season today at 5 p.m. against St. Edwards at the Lady Aggie Softball Field next to Olsen field.

The Lady Aggies are also participating in a round robin tournament, 10 a.m. Saturday at College Station's Central Park. Universities such as Louisiana Tech, Sam Houston State, Stephen F. Austin and Southwest Texas State are scheduled to play.

Wednesday, Dana Mitchell pitched the Aggies to an 8-2 victory in the first game, with both Bobcat runs being scored in the

first. In a shortened nightcap, A&M lost by a 3-2 count with Missi Young taking the loss.

Brock said he was pleased with his team's performance.

"We had a very positive outing," Brock said. "Right now we're way ahead of where we were last year."

That could be good news as the Lady Aggies return 11 players from last year's NCAA Regional playoff team.

Leading the returnees are pitchers, Mitchell and Young, outfielder Michelle Mayfield and catcher Chris Wilfong. Young and Mayfield were first-team All-Region selections last year and Mitchell and Wilfong were second-team choices.

With all the old faces still on the team, Brock needed to add just three new members. Jennifer McFalls, a shortstop from Grand Prairie, Kim Halbrook, an outfielder from Corpus Christi and Rhonda Halbert, from Yukon, Okla., who returns from aca-

demical difficulties.

Halbert, who will play third base, is actually a veteran as she was a member of the last NCAA College World Series team in 1988. Halbert spent two years away from A&M working to improve her academic standing and, in Brock's words, "to straighten out her priorities."

"I'm really excited to have Rhonda back," Brock said. "She has always been a very fine player, but now she's a more mature player."

Both Brock and Assistant Coach Butch Edge were ecstatic about Halbert's performance Wednesday night.

"She's better than she ever was," Brock said. "You couldn't tell she's been away from the softball diamond for a year-and-a-half."

Brock said that since the fall is basically an exhibition season, he wants to make sure everybody gets a chance as he tries to find the right players for the right positions.

OAKVILLE long absence had its gre Cook's short "My chipr game left, taking a sh first round with a 7-un on it more i than I have i (as a touring That work 75-foot chip- puts as the ing round I most of last wrist surgery He was tiec also used his a bogey-free bey Golf Club "Chipping are my stron this was a lit sive Faxon, times. That from 20 feet footer to save lead on the fin While the the lead, a p themselves in first home-gra tional champi Dave Barr at 66 and Ri his career-bes role three we group tied for

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