

Simmons

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rushing for his first 100-yard game as an Aggie, which came in last Saturday's 63-14 win over Southwestern Louisiana.

Simmons, No. 3 on the depth chart behind Lewis and junior Keith McAfee, said he's just waiting for a chance to play regularly in A&M's offense.

"I'm not jealous of anybody," Simmons said. "Darren worked hard and he's getting what he deserves. I envy him because he's exactly where I want to be. Sooner or later, I want to be at the plateau where he's at."

Simmons ran in McKinney head coach Ron Poe's I-formation attack for 3,818 yards and 63 touchdowns in high school. He wanted to play football close to home, so he narrowed his college choices to Arkansas, A&M, Texas, Oklahoma and Baylor.

Simmons chose A&M the morning of signing day, and said the decision between the Aggies and Longhorns was so hard to make that he almost flipped a coin.

But Simmons soon started wondering if he had made the right choice. He redshirted his freshman year after knee surgery.

He returned in 1988, but carried only 19 times. Coaches tried to switch him to fullback, and he spent the season backing up true freshman Robert Wilson while watching Lewis ramble for 1,692 yards — second in the nation behind Heisman winner Barry Sanders.

Simmons switched back to tailback, but didn't play until the third game of the 1989 season — a 44-7 win over Texas Christian. However, he suffered a shoulder separation on a routine pass play and missed the next five games.

He returned for the 63-14 win over Southern Methodist. He hasn't been injured since, and Simmons said he'd like to keep it that way.

"I didn't have any injuries since the (TCU) game and haven't had any injuries since then and don't want any injuries," he said. "I want to play in the big games too, not just the ones where we're so far ahead. Any playing time is good playing time. You get the experience as you go on."

But if it hadn't been for Sherrill, Simmons would have ended up with no experience — at least in an Aggie uniform.

His 1987 freshman year was a tough one. His weight ballooned to close to 250 and his work habits slackened off. For the first time, he said he started having doubts about his choice to play at A&M and thought about transferring.

Once Sherrill talked him out of it, Simmons rededicated himself to practice, and reduced his weight after teammates started teasing him.

"I had never been fat in my life," Simmons said. "It was just friendly ribbing from teammates, but you start thinking that if that's how they see you, then how do other people see you? I didn't want to be known as somebody that came here and ate a scholarship. So I started working harder."

"I was determined that I was going to earn my keep here. I'm not going to just sit around and let somebody pay my way while I hang on by the skin of my teeth."

With Lewis gone next year, Simmons figures to be doing more than just hanging on — he and McAfee should be vying for the starting job.

A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum, who was an assistant coach at Southern California in 1981, compared Simmons to former Heisman Trophy winner Marcus Allen of the NFL's Los Angeles Raiders. Coincidentally, Allen is Simmons' favorite professional athlete.

"When I was at USC, Marcus didn't make a lot of long runs, but he made a bunch of eight-yard runs," Slocum said. "I think Randy has that capability. It's hard to stop him. He's going to slash on you and four-yard you to death. That's a trait of a good running back."

Simmons finally is getting the chance to play like one. Other people placed expectations on him when he and Lewis came out of high school, but Simmons said that wasn't fair because the two backs are as different as night and day.

"Darren's got the moves and shakes," Simmons said. "On the other hand, I figure there's only two ways to run — north and south. Those are the only ways I know how to run. I don't have that many moves. I don't try to fake anybody out. Four or five yards a pop is good enough for me."

Simmons once rushed for 280 yards in a game at McKinney, but getting his 141 against USL was his game of a lifetime, he said.

"Games like that are the kind of games you don't want to end, where you're having the greatest night of your career," Simmons said. "The more you play, the more confidence you build up."

"I never forgot how to run. A running back never forgets how to run." Where once a 250-pound freshman redshirt sulked his way through thoughts of transferring, Simmons now waits for the chance he hopes will come.

"It doesn't frustrate me because I can't control any injuries I get," Simmons said. "They happen. I've had a few setbacks here and there, but don't count me out. You can say that I'm often-injured, that I hardly ever get to play, you can call me whatever you want, but you'll never be able to call me a quitter."



Battalion file photo by J. Janner

A&M coach R.C. Slocum said he believes the team has to work together to reach its potential.

CHEMICALLY BALANCED

Slocum: No star players, just winners

By DOUGLAS PILS
Of The Battalion Staff

"We don't have anyone with a star mentality. I don't think Darren sees himself that way. I don't think Lance or Bucky see themselves that way."

— R.C. Slocum,
A&M football coach

Chemistry's periodic chart consists of 92 elements making up the world's existence, but in College Station there are 111 elements of which the scientific world may not be aware.

Those 111 constitute the Texas A&M football team and in a team sport like football those elements working together are essential for the team to reach its potential.

A willingness to work for the team's best interest, rather than personal interests, is one of the strong points of this team said head coach R.C. Slocum. He said this was especially evident in last Saturday's victory over Southwestern Louisiana.

"We don't have anyone with a star mentality," Slocum said. "I don't think Darren (Lewis) sees himself that way. I don't think Lance (Pavlas) or Bucky (Richardson) see themselves that way."

"When I took him (Darren) out of the game at halftime, he was just as thrilled as he could be for the other guys who got to play and make their yards."

Lewis rushed for 141 yards in the first half and Slocum said he didn't think twice about taking him out.

"To be totally honest, I would love for Darren to stay in there and get those yards," Slocum said. "However, I would have a difficult time explaining why in the third quarter Darren Lewis was out there carrying the football and gets hurt with a 42-7 lead."

The same was done with the quarterbacks. In the first quarter, Pavlas picked the Cajun second-

ary apart, completing 7-of-7 passes for 162 yards and three touchdowns.

Slocum, who stated that he would use his two quarterbacks on a "feel basis," said he wanted to put Richardson in the first quarter but chose not to because of Pavlas' hot hand. One can only ponder about the numbers he could have posted had he played the entire game.

"We've got two quarterbacks here who have both been starters and they're pulling for each other," Slocum said. "After the Hawaii game, Bucky did not have one problem. He was just as positive as he could be."

The unselfishness showed by his top players, Slocum said, is an intangible that is not often thought of when it comes to a great football team.

"You kind of take that for granted," he said, "because there are a lot of guys who couldn't do that. There are guys who'd sit on the bench, griping the whole second half because I took him out of the game."

"Then he'd go into the locker room griping. You get those things going on your team, and pretty soon you have a problem. You can't have a team like that."

Slocum couldn't be happier about having his leaders demonstrating their unselfishness in the heat of a game.

"They (teammates) see how Darren is handling that," he said, "and how Lance and Bucky are handling that, and it kind of starts permeating your team and that's when you have a good football team."

"Because of that we don't have guys on the team looking at these guys with contempt. There's not a guy on this team that's got the least bit of selfishness about him."

For A&M to be successful this year and in the future, Slocum believes in using games like USL and North Texas to allow his younger players time to develop and to build up their confidence.

"My responsibility is for the entire team and the entire program," Slocum said. "It is in our best interest to get those young guys some playing time."

"Just from a practical standpoint, what you gain and what you stand to lose is not worth it. That will always be my philosophy."

Based on that philosophy, Slocum made it clear that he is the orchestrator of A&M's chemical make-up.

"This is a team sport, if you want to play here you're not going to worry about how many carries you get or any of that," he said. "We're going to worry about how many games we're going to win as a team. That's where I will always make decisions."

Country club adds to bylaws

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Just weeks before hosting the Texas Open PGA tournament, leaders of Oak Hills Country Club voted to add a non-discrimination statement to the club bylaws, officials said Thursday.

The country club has no black members.

The announcement was made the same day it was reported that Oak Hills has reached an out-of-court settlement with former San Antonio Spurs forward Larry Kenon.

Kenon filed suit against Oak Hills over an incident in which his daughters' tennis program at the club was discontinued, allegedly because the girls are black.

Club officials claimed the cancellation had nothing to do with the Kenons but with a club policy that prohibited people not sponsored by club members from taking part in such classes.

Terms of the settlement with Kenon were not disclosed.

Club president John Yantis said at a Thursday evening news conference that after the incident he offered Kenon a club membership.

"I just felt that we didn't want him to feel like the cancellation of the tennis lesson was pointed at him directly," Yantis said.

Kenon has declined to publicly discuss the settlement details.

"It's between myself and Oak Hills. It's all been taken care of. We're moving on to bigger and better things," Kenon told the San Antonio Light.

Yantis said club officials began considering adding a non-discrimination clause after membership controversy shrouded the PGA event at Shoal Creek Country Club in Alabama.

"For a number of months we have been considering a change in our bylaws that would make an affirmative statement about the recruitment of minorities at Oak Hill Country Club," Yantis said.

New assistant for women's athletics named

From Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M hired Tina Cheatham as the new Assistant for Women's Athletics. Cheatham replaces Kelly Krauskopf, who resigned last month to take a position with the Southwest Conference.

Cheatham, a 10-year veteran of coaching and teaching, comes to A&M from Dewitt Perry Junior High in Carrollton, where she taught and served as the school's volleyball coach.

This summer, Cheatham served as an intern with the SWC, assisting with a variety of activities, including preparations for the Whataburger Showcase volleyball tournament and the conference's drug-testing program.

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