

## Conference race for Cotton Bowl toughens up for Ags

Strike up the band, it's time to start marching to Dallas for the Mobil Cotton Bowl and a return to glory for the Texas A&M football team.

### Douglas Pils

While A&M's loss last weekend to Louisiana State killed any hopes of a national championship, there's still the matter of returning to capture the Southwest Conference title for the first time since 1987.

Texas Tech comes to town this weekend and the Aggies should have no problem getting psyched up for this one.

First and foremost, A&M needs a victory to get back on the winning track and headed back up the charts.

Secondly, the Aggies will be looking to avenge last year's 27-24 last minute loss to the Red Raiders in Lubbock.

There's been plenty of talk about the Aggies not being as good as they look on paper because they haven't played anyone tough and were beaten by the Tigers — a team that lost to Southeastern Conference lowlife — Vanderbilt.

But by no means is that any reason to send off any red flares and start worrying about the competency of this team. A&M lost to a talented and a very emotionally charged LSU team that was hell-bent on proving their worth in front of a home crowd.

That game is gone and it's time to forget about the opportunity lost until next year, when the Bayou Bengals return to Aggieland.

Tech, although 1-3 and 0-2 in conference play, always seems to play its best against the Aggies and this year should be no different.

Its 1-3 record is somewhat deceptive, considering the Red Raiders performance this year.

Tech lost a hard fought game at Ohio State on a fourth quarter punt return for a touchdown. They piled up 476 yards against Houston in a 51-35 loss and

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## Slocum: QBs or not QBs

By RICHARD TIJERINA  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M freshman quarterback Steve Emerson will be redshirted for the 1990 season and Jeff Granger could follow, head football coach R.C. Slocum said Tuesday.

The two freshmen recruits have not played this season. Slocum said Emerson, a 6-2, 195 quarter back from Aldine MacArthur, would "definitely redshirt," but that it was too soon to tell if the 6-4, 193-pound Granger also would redshirt.

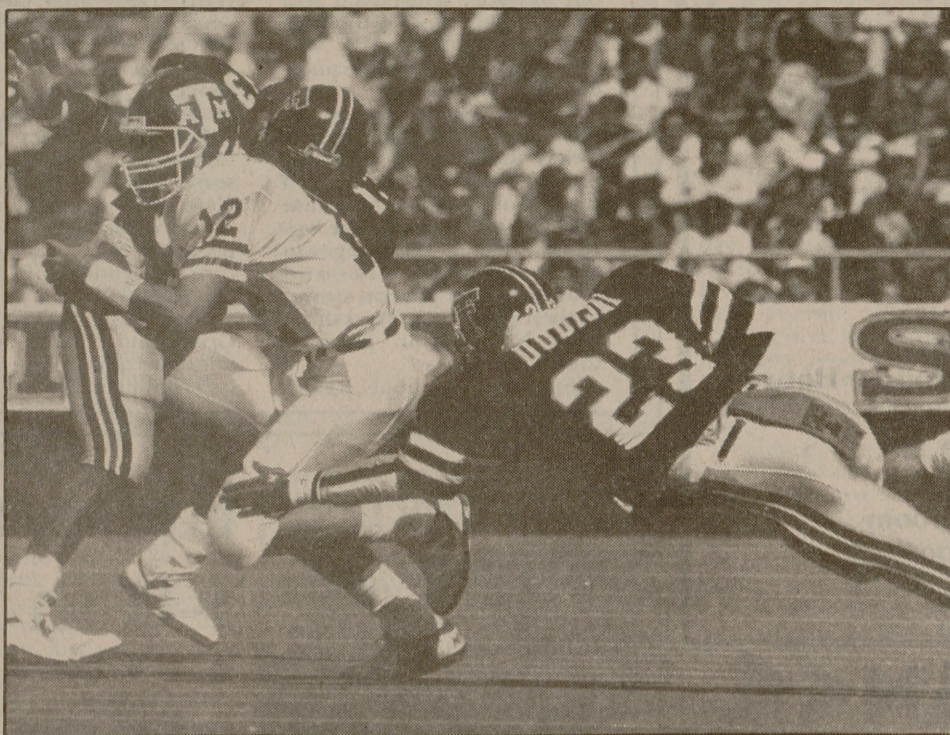
"Emerson will definitely redshirt, but it's still up in the air about what we'll do with Granger," Slocum said at his weekly press conference. "You'd like to redshirt him as well."

Granger and Emerson were the only quarterbacks the Aggies signed in their 1990 recruiting class, which was ranked in the top five classes in the nation. Granger of Orangefield was considered the state's No. 2 quarterback prospect behind Huntsville's Steve Clements, who signed with Texas.

But Slocum's comments Tuesday on A&M quarterbacks weren't limited to Emerson and Granger. He also discussed starter Lance Pavlas' direction of the offense — or lack thereof — in last Saturday's 17-8 loss to Louisiana State.

Pavlas, who is the No. 2-rated quarter back

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Battalion file photo by F. Joe

Quarterback Lance Pavlas must shake last weekend's three-interception game from his mind while preparing for Texas Tech, R.C. Slocum says.

## Former Heisman Trophy winner teamless

### Oilers place RB Rozier on waivers

HOUSTON (AP) — Running back Mike Rozier, a Pro Bowl selection in 1987 and 1988 but more recently a seldom-used substitute in the Houston Oilers' run-and-shoot offense, was waived Tuesday.

Rozier, who led the Oilers in rushing four straight years, had 10 carries for 42 yards and no touchdowns in Houston's four games this season and he caught 5 passes for 46 yards.

General Manager Mike Holovak failed in attempts to trade Rozier.

"If you look back at my quotes from training camp, I said at the time that in this offense we really only needed two backs," Holovak said. "There's just not enough work to go around for three."

Rozier was a contract holdout at the start of the 1989 season and then missed the early part of the season with a knee injury. He appeared in 12 games and finished with 301 rushing yards on 88 carries, the lowest totals of his NFL career.

Rozier's playing time this season dropped off even more when new Coach Jack Pardee installed the one-back run-and-shoot offense.

The Oilers started training camp with four veterans battling for the starting S-back spot, which places a high premium on blocking.

Alonzo Highsmith was the projected starter but he was slowed in camp by injuries and eventually traded to the Dallas

Cowboys. Lorenzo White earned the starting spot with Allen Pinkett in reserve.

White leads the Oilers in rushing with 80 yards on 34 carries.

Rozier signed a one-year contract with the Oilers for \$600,000, making him an expensive reserve.

"In no way were finances a consideration in this decision," Holovak said. "The bottom line is we don't go three deep at any position on the ball club. Why should we be three deep at running back. We don't need a third running back who doesn't play special teams."

The Oilers also waived quarterback Don McPherson, leaving two vacancies on the roster.

## Former NBA commissioner O'Brien buried

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP) — Larry O'Brien, who served as commissioner of the NBA and engineered John F. Kennedy's presidential campaign, was buried Tuesday in the Irish neighborhoods where he learned how to get out the vote.

"How appropriate that this funeral is celebrated in the city of his birth in this, the church of his baptism, in the company of friends who rejoiced in his achievements and who, to the end, proudly claimed him as their own," the Most Rev. Joseph Maguire, Roman Catholic bishop of Springfield, said in his homily.

The son of an immigrant saloon keeper and Democratic party activist, O'Brien became the confidant of presidents. And as Lyndon Johnson's congressional liaison, he engineered passage of such wide-ranging social legislation as the Peace Corps, Medicare and the model cities program. O'Brien died Thursday of cancer in New York. He was 73.

Among the hundreds of people at St. Michael's Cathedral were Ron Brown, chairman of the Democratic National Committee; NBA commissioner David Stern; Gov. Michael Dukakis; Irish Consul General Liam Canniffe, and Joseph Califano, who was Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the Johnson Administration. Honorary pallbearers included U.S. Sen. Edward Kennedy and his nephew, U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy II.

"He was really a member of the family," Senator Kennedy said. "He shared the triumphs and many of the sadnesses."

"His great contribution was to always make sure ordinary people were involved in the election process," Rep. Kennedy said. "He didn't pay so much attention to the media. He was a great believer in neighborhood organization and ordinary people. And that kind of political campaign will be missed."

O'Brien left politics in 1972 for Wall Street, then was named NBA commissioner in 1975, when free agency and big money were reshaping pro sports.

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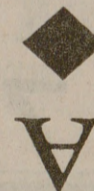


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