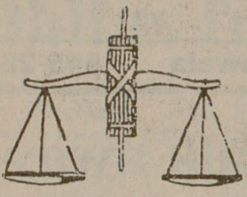


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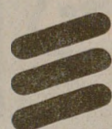
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**ERICSSON**



# Dickerson's return from Colts' inactive list moves Bentley aside

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Eric Dickerson can start practicing with the Indianapolis Colts this week, but don't expect Albert Bentley to put out the welcome mat.

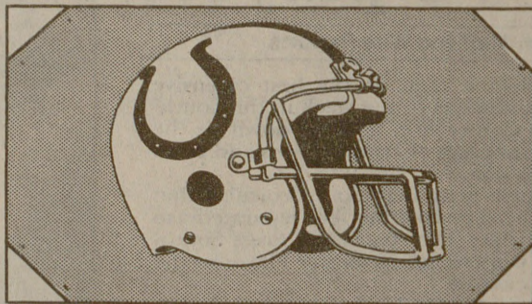
Dickerson is eligible to come off the club's non-football injured list on Oct. 17 and could be in uniform when the team resumes play their next game — Oct. 21 against Denver.

"I haven't thought about it that much at all," Bentley said about Dickerson's return. "I've been trying to focus on what I need to do to get us turned around."

Bentley, second in the NFL with 1,578 all-purpose yards in 1987, became almost an afterthought once Dickerson was obtained from the Los Angeles Rams in 1987 as part of a three-team trade.

Colts owner Robert Irsay has said he planned to meet with Dickerson or his attorney Arn Tellum as early as this week to discuss a possible contract extension. Dickerson, who failed a physical with a hamstring injury after reporting to the team 11 days late in August, was under contract to receive \$1.45 million this year and stands to lose more than \$600,000 due to fines and his in-

jury. While Dickerson, the seventh-leading rusher in NFL history, remained at his California home, Bentley has been the workhorse of the offense. He has four of its 10 touchdowns, made 73 of its



92 rushes and leads the team with 20 receptions. Bentley, who had only 45 times in '88, expressed his unhappiness with the situation by reporting to training camp late last year and is leery about a future that includes Dickerson in a Colts

uniform. "It all depends on how I'm played after that point," said Bentley, who has nearly matched his production of last year in just five games with 275 yards rushing and 258 receiving. "If I'm still given a chance to get in there and compete, Eric would definitely be an asset to our team. If not, of course, I'm not going to be happy."

Bentley scored twice in Sunday's 23-19 victory over Kansas City, extending his 5-foot-11 body to its fullest to get the ball over the goal line on a 9-yard pass play with two tacklers pulling him in the opposite direction and then twisting away for a 10-yard score to put the Colts ahead with 5:33 to play.

Bentley needs only three carries against Denver to top his '89 total of 75 when he had 299 yards rushing with career-highs of 525 yards on 52 receptions.

"Albert and his 213-pound body packs a lot of explosiveness. He is an incredible player," Indianapolis coach Ron Meyer said. "What's so absolutely fantastic about Bentley is, as good a football player as he is, he's an even better person. He's truly a leader."

## Outsmarting the Run-and-Shoot?

### Slocum begins guessing game with Cougars

By RICHARD TIJERINA  
Of The Battalion Staff

Saturday's matchup with No. 12 Houston is the kind that R.C. Slocum the head football coach worries about. But it's one that R.C. Slocum the former defensive coordinator loves.

A&M has won the last five games against Houston, and its aggressive scheme played an integral part. The Aggies have used some tricky shemes to dismantle the Run-and-Shoot, including using linebacker John Roper as a defensive lineman and using 10 defensive backs while rushing only one downline.

Slocum was defensive coordinator for those games. When he became head coach, Bob Davie picked up where he left off.

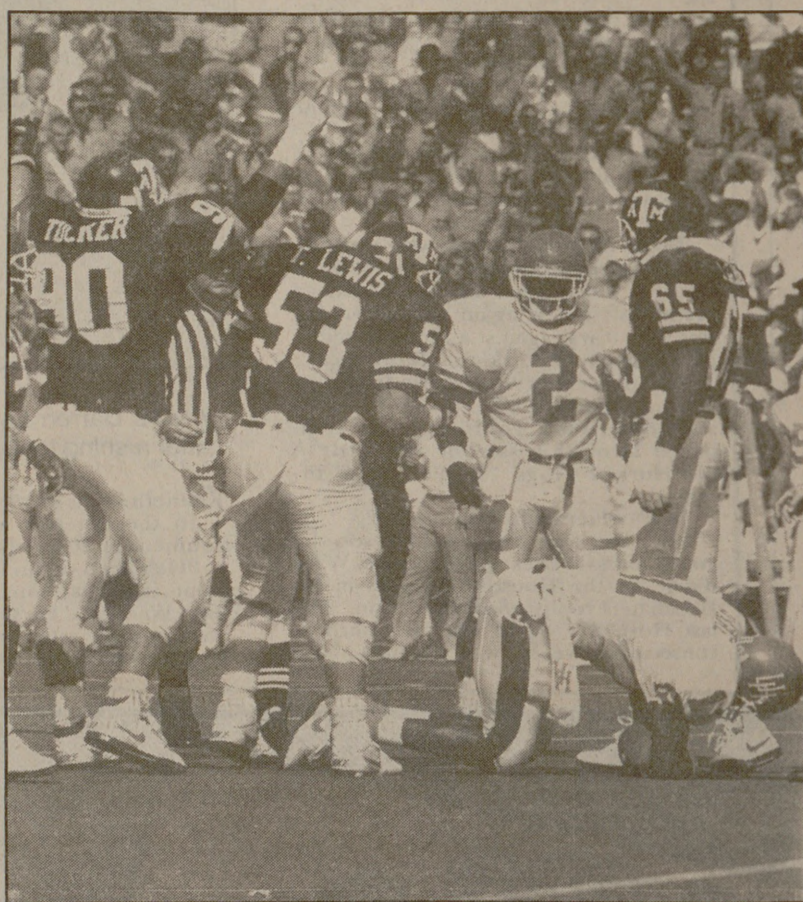
The Aggies' approach is easy: blitz the quarterback on all sides while using man-to-man coverage on Houston's speedy wideouts. So far, it's worked wonders. The Aggies held Heisman Trophy winner Andre Ware to a season-low 247 yards. They sacked him six times and forced three interceptions.

"We're more willing to take risks on coverage than most people do against Houston," Davie said. "I'd rather take my odds with the quarterback having to execute with the one-on-one and the blitz coming."

Last year, the Aggies blitzed on virtually every play and used six linebackers and only one downline. Slocum said at his weekly Tuesday press conference that A&M won't show the same defensive scheme twice.

"We won't blitz on every down," Slocum said. "We'll make big plays on the zone. But I want Klingler to decide what we're doing. I want him to decide first of all if it's zone or if it's man, and if they're coming or not coming, and if they are, where they're coming from. If it is zone, what kind of zone? We'll give him a little bit to think about."

It's the kind of mental chess game Slocum the former defensive coach loves. But he also knows that when you gamble with the Run-and-Shoot, you can get burned with the big play.



Battalion file photo by S. Weaver

A&M is hoping to repeat its dominating 1989 performance against Houston, when it sacked Andre Ware six times.

"You hold your breath on every play against them," Slocum said. "It's like taking a lighted stick of dynamite and pitching it back and forth — you just hope it goes off on their side of the line."

"I think that's one of the reasons we've had success against them. We've been willing to take that risk."

A&M cornerback Kevin Smith said the Aggies must adopt a policy of containment this Saturday in the Astrodome, and that the Cougars' biggest problem may not be A&M's defense, but their own.

"If the Run-and-Shoot is on, it's hard to stop," Smith said. "But it's not really stopping it, it's containing it. You keep the score low, keep the ball and play real good defense."

If they could get their defense to stiffen up a little more, it might be different. Last year, they scored 38 points against Arkansas and still didn't win the game."

A&M has had more success against the Run-and-Shoot than any other Southwest Conference team, and Slocum said the Aggies' defensive style against the Cougars is, and always will be, evolving.

"There's a constant evolution of trial and failure: This worked pretty well. This wasn't quite that good. We can improve this and throw that out," he said. "Coaches historically steal from each other week to week. We will likely do some of that."

"There'll be a few new wrinkles from what we've had in the past. They won't be wholesale changes, but we won't be exactly like we've been."

But even though A&M's defense may change, its philosophy won't, Slocum said. The Aggies still will try to pressure Klingler into mistakes by playing man-to-man coverage.

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### Smith: words were 'twisted' about distractions

By RICHARD TIJERINA  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M cornerback Kevin Smith said Tuesday that statements he made after last Saturday's win over Texas Tech were "twisted," and that the team is not suffering from internal problems.

Smith said Saturday the Aggies weren't playing well, and that "outside distractions" were hurting the team's motivation.

"The snowball is going to get larger and larger unless we stop it," Smith said Saturday. "It's just a lot of things going on that's affecting the team. Outside distractions are bothering us. It doesn't have to do with football. It's just some things that shouldn't be happening."

The Dallas Times Herald also quoted Smith criticizing the lack of leadership on the field, but Smith said he never put down the players the article mentioned — quarterback Lance Pavlas, safety Larry Horton and linebacker William Thomas.

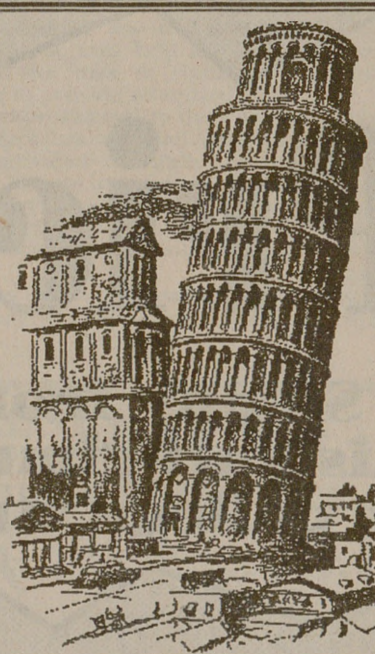
"A Dallas paper said I said something about them not being vocal leaders," Smith said Tuesday. "Well, I did say that. But they're leaders by action. Players like William Thomas and Larry Horton work hard every day. That was the only statement that was twisted."

"Those guys are leaders, but they're not vocal leaders. They're not going to go out there, raise hell and slap you on the helmet. You have to look at what they're doing on the field for leadership."

Smith said the Aggies aren't the first team with problems, and that rumors of what those outside distractions could be have been getting out of hand.

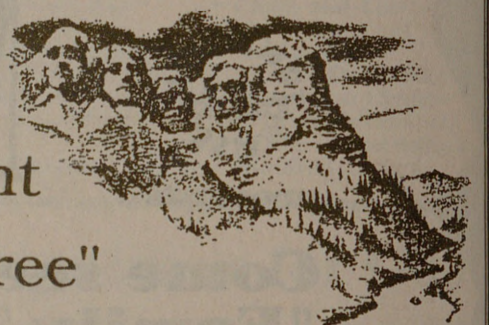
"I made a few comments that were blown out of proportion," Smith said. "All teams have problems. We don't have big problems. I was asked if it's about drugs, and it's nothing like that. At the time, I didn't say what the problems were because I didn't think it was appropriate then. And it really doesn't matter anyway because it's things that we'll

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