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**Paying Student Athletes
 For Their Work**

Wednesday, October 24, 1990
 601 Rudder
 7:00 - 8:00

Sponsored by TAMU Debate Society

**MEAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER
 DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE**

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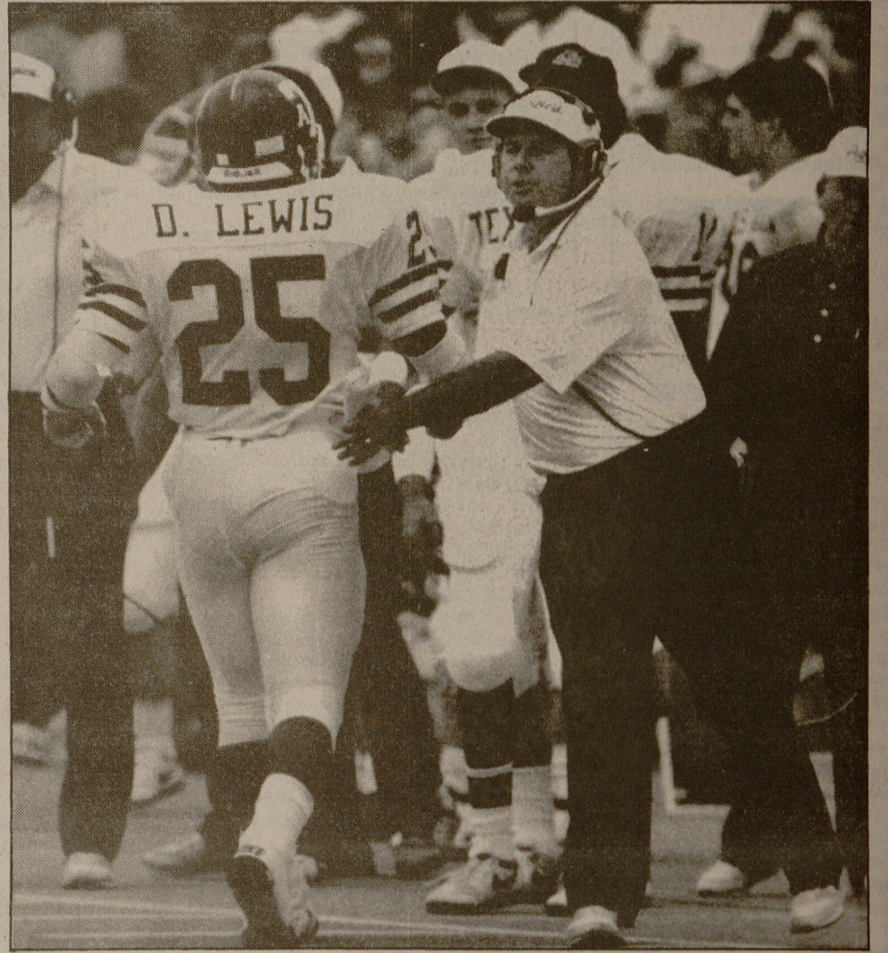
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TOLEDO: *'We'll be fine'*



Battalion file photo by M. Mulvey

Offensive coordinator Bob Toledo congratulates Darren Lewis after the tailback came out of last year's 45-7 A&M win at Rice Stadium. Toledo has come under fire for this year's conservative play calling, criticism he says is wrong.

Coaches tackle offensive woes

By RICHARD TIJERINA
 Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo answered his critics Tuesday: back off and let A&M coaches do what they're supposed to do — coach.

Toledo and head football coach R.C. Slocum have been criticized about conservative play

calling and decisions at the quarterback position. But Toledo said it's easy for fans to criticize coaches' decisions after they see the result of the play.

"One week they say you run too much," Toledo said, "the next week they say you don't run enough. Or we run too many options. Or we don't run the option enough. Or we ought to play this quarterback. Or we ought to play that quarterback."

"When you throw a pass and you complete it, they love you. When you throw a pass and it's incomplete, you're the village idiot. We know our personnel. We know what works best. And we know what offense to run more than that fan out there who's looking at us."

That first personnel decision is at quarterback, where Lance Pavlas and Bucky Richardson have battled for the starting job. Pavlas, the Aggies' starter for the first five games of the season, hasn't played in the last 11 quarters.

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— Bob Toledo, offensive coordinator

Richardson, the starter for most of 1987-88 who sat out last season with a knee injury, was inserted in the first quarter of the Texas Tech game and has played since.

In his first start of the year in the 36-31 loss to Houston, Richardson completed 15-of-30 passes for 241 yards. He led the Aggies to 555 total offensive yards, but threw four interceptions.

Richardson was five-of-12 for 63 yards in the 20-20 tie with Baylor. He threw one interception and one touchdown, and the Aggies struggled to 294 total yards.

Pavlas didn't play in the Houston and Tech games, although Slocum said he was hoping to get the senior into both contests. Slocum put to rest any doubts

whether Pavlas would play against Rice on Saturday. He will. "We will definitely play Lance in the game this week, and I feel badly that I haven't gotten him in there lately," Slocum said. "We'll play both quarterbacks. When you try to compare both statistically, their performances have been similar for the season. In all fairness to both of them, they both should play and they both will play this weekend."

Toledo said he and Slocum have been hoping to put Pavlas in the last two weeks, but were hesitant to put him into a close game when Richardson was playing well.

"Bucky's done a lot of good things, but it's time to give Lance a chance," Toledo said. "We'll use both of them to throw Rice off balance this week. Lance has played a lot of football at A&M, including being the starter all of last season. So it's not like he's a rookie. Bucky will start the game, and at some point Lance will come in and play."

Regardless of who's playing quarterback, Toledo said the Aggies have to cut down on turnovers.

"The major problem has been the turnovers," Toledo said. "The frustrating thing is all the fumbles, and of course the interceptions. You're going to throw some interceptions, but you can't have some of the ones we've had like these tipped passes and overthrown or underthrown balls."

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