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Editor's Note :

Another year is here. The muggy August sun is beating down and the smell of fresh cut grass is in the air. The campus looks like near-chaos as students bustle through the road blocks and dirt walkways that line a Texas A&M under remodeling.

But the sweat has been broken already on another football season. The season started more than two weeks ago when a fresh crop of freshmen faces walked onto Kyle Field for the first time in their Aggie careers.

The rest of the team has arrived and the molding of the 1991 A&M football team is underway.

The Aggies enter this season with mixed expectations - or at least that's what many pre-season "experts" have said. A&M is picked to finish somewhere in the middle of the Southwest Conference pack. Perhaps giving way to no high or low expectations for each member of the team. Instead, all the Aggies may have to do is go out on Saturdays and win football games. And if they don't, no one will ask why.

This year the SWC is clean enough to eat off. The University of Houston is free of probation, and it has its sights set on winning the conference championship, and possibly the whole NCAA crown, with it's Heisman hopeful David Klingler. The Longhorns are back to grab the SWC title, but the parity in the league may make that task difficult.

Then there will be the battle of the Brazos between Baylor and the Aggies. Grant Teaff has assembled a team capable of many surprises and maybe looking to the top of the conference standings. After the Bears and the boys in maroon its a toss-up.

A&M football players have seen many two-a-days of practice the last few weeks. Here at the Battalion we have seen a few of our own - So please accept the various bugs you may encounter as you travel through the newspaper.

But let's not forget another school year is also upon us. And with it comes all the other formalities - fee slips, bus passes, Midnight Yell practices, procrastination, freshman butterflies, and all-nighters, however you like to spend them.

So do your homework. See you at Kyle Field on Saturday, September 14, when the Aggies embark on the 1991 season against Louisiana State University.

Don't forget your ID's . . .

Sincerely,

Scott Wudel
Scott Wudel
Battalion Sports Editor

Sherman's Tanks ready to lead A&M offense into battlefront

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

Most armies probably wouldn't go into battle without the help of some tanks to lead the charge.

A&M offensive line coach Mike Sherman has the tanks, but does his frontline have the field experience?

If experience is the key to the Texas A&M football team's offensive line, the offense could be in trouble. If youth is the key, the offense is in great shape.

Only one starter returns from last year's squad, junior right guard John Ellisor. The 275-pound lineman will be called upon to hold together an offensive frontline that includes sophomores Dexter Wesley, Chris Dausin, Tyler Harrison, and senior Keith Alex.

But the team's youth does not worry A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum.

"First of all, I have a lot of confidence in our (offensive) line coach Mike Sherman," he said. "I think we have some good, raw talent to work with."

"I'm confident we will develop into a good offensive line."

Slocum said he is counting on Ellisor to take command of the offensive front.

"I think John Ellisor will be the leader of our offensive line," said A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. "I think he will be an outstanding player."

And while the team appears to be young on paper, both Alex and Wesley saw some playing time for the Aggies last year while Dausin and Harrison were listed on the

A&M roster but didn't play enough to earn a varsity letter.

Ellisor is comfortable with the role as leader of the line and is optimistic about its progress.

"I'm one of the only guys with experience," Ellisor said. "I just try to help them out when they need it."

"We have a lot of good guys coming out. I think we're coming together and we'll do real well."

Ellisor does not see any added pressure being the leader.

"I see the pressure as an advantage," he said. "I'm just ready to get out there and play football."

Sophomore Chris Dausin's last name should be familiar to A&M football fans - Two of his older brothers played for the Aggies.

Although this will be Dausin's first real game experience with the Aggies, Slocum said he is confident the center will help the team.

"He's another one of those tough, fighting guys," Slocum said of the 6-foot-4 inch, 265-pound center. "I've got a lot of confidence in him."

Dausin knows he will be a focal point in the offensive line because he is replacing All-American Mike Arthur.

"I have big shoes to feel with Mike Arthur," said Dausin. "I'm just real anxious to get out there and prove what I can do."

Added pressure on himself is something Dausin said he is trying to avoid.

"I'm just wanting to get out there and do a good job," he said. "If I want to do anything, I can do that."

"I just push myself every day and tell myself to get after it."

The young, untested offensive line will hope to prove the critics wrong this season.

"I don't put much stock in pre-season polls," said Ellisor. "Going to the Cotton Bowl is what counts."

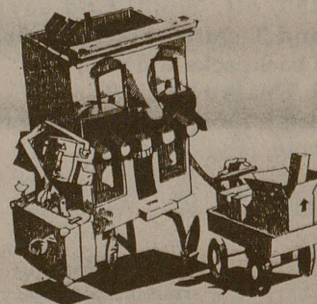


John Ellisor

Aggie Football '91 Preview

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