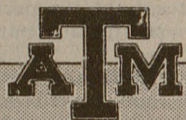


Sports

Friday, September 27, 1991

The Battalion

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Texas A&M vs. the University of Southwestern Louisiana



Steve O'Brien
Asst. Sports Editor

Slocum must play cards right

Like a straight-faced gambler, ready to play his hand, A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum leans back in his chair. No smiles, just the straight face. Instead of a smoke-filled room, this one is filled with flying questions.

Is Bucky going to play? How much of the running load will Randy Simmons carry? What's the condition of Quentin Coryatt's shoulder?

The gambler keeps his cold stare. His hand is a good one, but like all great sharks he is reluctant to throw down his best cards. The numbers are simple, though.

An ace, a pair of jacks, a wild card and a suicide king makeup his stash. And under the table lurk two marked cards.

Conference games, however, don't give way to gamblers. Only coaches make it. In conference you play every down like it's your last. The Cotton Bowl waits for no one. You throw down your best and you bluff if that's what it takes.

But out of conference, a coach quickly becomes a gambler and a technician. The coach must play to win, but he must also be sure his team is healthy for the long conference schedule ahead.

A&M's first league matchup is against Texas Tech in a week. For now, Slocum remains the gambler.

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Kickoff marks end of long, emotional week

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

The stage is set again, but A&M head coach R.C. Slocum has changed the script. He hopes the players will fit into their roles better this time around.

The Aggies are favored by 25 points over the University of Southwestern Louisiana but predictions don't mean much to Slocum and his team. The Aggies lost to unranked, 18-point underdog Tulsa last Saturday.

But the Aggie players have had to deal with much more than a defeat on

the football field this week. Freshman placekicker James Glenn collapsed before practice Wednesday and later died at a local hospital.

Senior quarterback Bucky Richardson said the team will move on despite the tragedy.

"When somebody on the team gets weak, his friend picks him up," Richardson said. "We go forward. That's what we have to do here - grab each other by the hand and pull forward."

"We realize we have a game, and we have to take care of business. Our players will be ready for the game. It's still kind of a shock to everybody and no-

body seems to believe it right now."

Before last Saturday's game, the Aggies were ranked No. 15 by the Associated Press but quickly fell from the poll after their loss.

"The team is disappointed and the coaches are disappointed," Slocum said. "But you can only go back and go to work and say 'we're a young team and we're going to get better as the season goes on.'"

For now, though, the Aggies must improve by 6 p.m. Saturday when they kickoff against the Ragin' Cajuns or another upset may lurk for the opposition. The last time the two teams played A&M

won 63-14.

Slocum's lineup has changed little since last Saturday. The Aggies again will field a team riddled with injuries and young players.

Freshman quarterback Jeff Granger is expected to start in place of Richardson. Granger, primarily a passing quarterback, completed 13-of-28 passes for 255 yards against Tulsa. Junior Kent Petty may also see playing time if Richardson can't perform.

After taking a 28-10 halftime lead last weekend Granger and the rest of the

See Aggies/ Page 9

Graham a part of Glenn's dream come true

By Scott Wudel
The Battalion

Reggie Graham woke up Thursday morning and wondered if the tragic death of Texas A&M teammate James Glenn had really happened.

Just last Saturday, Graham and Glenn, both from Clear Creek High School in League City, talked about the possibility of forming the Clear Creek Connection - Glenn kicking off and Graham making the tackle.

The only problem was that Glenn was just a walk-on placekicker who was sent on the trip as a safeguard in the event that something happened to Terry Venetoulis, the Aggies' starting kicker.

"James didn't really think he was going to get a chance to play this year," Graham said. "We were sitting on the bus after getting off the plane to go to the hotel in Tulsa, and we were talking about it."

"I said, 'James, if you ever kick it and



TED ALBRACHT/The Battalion

A&M redshirt freshman Reggie Graham remembers his high school teammate James Glenn, and the experiences they had before his sudden death Wednesday.

I'm on the kickoff team, it'll be a Clear Creek player kicking the ball and a Clear Creek player making the tackle."

"James didn't think he was going to get in the game."

One of Glenn's goals was to kick for A&M. Fate took a step in that direction.

The Aggies had just scored their fourth touchdown with more than two minutes remaining the second quarter. Suddenly, A&M head coach R.C. Slocum decided he wanted Glenn to handle the next kickoff. He called Glenn's number and told him he would take the field as the Aggies' placekicker.

"It's kind of eerie when you think back," Slocum said. "The only discussion we'd had in staff meeting was to have James as a backup."

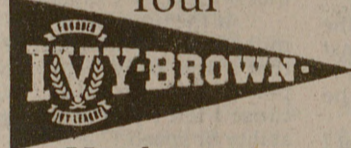
"During the course of the game, and for really no reason at all, and I hadn't thought about it before that instant, I made the decision."

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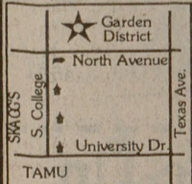
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