

Graham remembers Glenn

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Kicking coach John Pearce had already gathered the kickoff team together. Slocum ran Glenn down the sideline and told Pearce he wanted the freshman to handle the kickoff chores. Pearce looked at Slocum strangely but filled the request.

"That kid was grinning from ear to ear," the coach remembers. "At the time you don't think anything about that, but looking back, it's strange that you would have a notion like that, especially after you had planned to do something just the opposite."

Graham was already on the field when he saw Glenn running in.

"I saw him and said, 'James, are we going to make it happen?'" Graham explained. "He said, 'I'm going to kick it. Are you going to tackle him?'"

The question soon was answered. Glenn kicked the football to the opponent's 6-yard line and Graham wrapped up the returner 12 yards later.

Glenn would get the opportunity to kick two more times before the day was over.

"We talked about it on the bus after the game. I'm glad that before all of this happened, he

got to experience that," he said.

"I really think there was some type of divine providence," Slocum testified.

Slocum said the freshman had a certain magnetism about him despite the less-than-prominent role of a walk-on kicker.

"The death of any youngster would have been difficult, but he had a magnetism about him," Slocum said. "The guys he was in competition with were some of his closest friends and admirers."

"The whole coaching staff and the whole team as drawn to this young man, and not just for his ability, but because of the kind of kid he was."

This Saturday will be quite different for the Aggies. This time they will be without the eager Glenn on the sidelines waiting to make a dream come true.

Glenn's No. 30 will be stuck in their minds, as well as to the back of their helmets in memoriam. Sunday, and in future days to come, they will wake up and ponder the reasons for his sudden death and the frailty of life in general.

They will not forget James Glenn, and the effect he had on their lives.

O'Brien

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The ace.

Freshman quarterback Jeff Granger has been impressive in the Aggies' first two games, but the heart and soul of the A&M offense remains senior Bucky Richardson. In A&M's opener against LSU Richardson strained the arch in his left foot and was forced to sit out last week's Tulsa game.

If tomorrow's game was against Baylor or Texas you can bet Richardson would be playing. For now, though, Slocum holds the ace. Another week of rest will ensure Richardson's health for next Saturday's game against Tech.

The pair of jacks

Freshman running sensation Greg Hill is a player for the future and for now, but he's only that much better when teamed with senior tailback Randy Simmons. The two have different enough running styles to keep the defense guessing.

Hill slashes and jukes and uses his break-away speed. Simmons uses his straight-ahead, pain-inflicting running style.

Saturday these two aren't held back. And with Simmons' apparent return to health, these cards only become more valuable.

The wild card.

Or should we say the "Wild Man?" Quentin Coryatt is one of the nation's hardest hitting linebackers, and don't think opposing ball carriers don't know it.

Against LSU, Coryatt drove a Tiger running back out of bounds and delivered a patented, execution-style Coryatt love tap. The hit could have been taken as a late one, but the LSU runner wisely walked back to his huddle.

Most runners would have gotten up and yelled at the defender and gotten in his face. Realizing it was Coryatt who drove him out of bounds, the Tiger runner chose health over the hospital.

The Wild Man is hurt but the

Red Raiders had best get ready to 'just wisely walk back to the huddle.' Slocum keeps Coryatt in his hand to ensure good health for the start of conference play.

The suicide king.

Sophomore Patrick Bates was supposed to make us forget Larry Horton, but it's too soon to tell if Bates will have an affect on our memories. He's played exceptionally well in spurts, but then had an average performance last Saturday against Tulsa.

The season is far from over and Bates, who possesses great size and speed, and is the prototype blitzing safety. We haven't seen much of it yet (and probably won't Saturday) but conference quarterbacks best get to running.

Opposing players don't have many options.

The marked cards.

Two of A&M's most explosive players were in high school five months ago. Wilbert Biggens and Rodney Thomas still make freshman-type mistakes, but they also make Rocket-like runs when they get the ball.

Thomas, with Simmons at less than a 100 percent, may be the Aggies' second-best runner. That's saying a lot for a guy who's only had his driver's license for two years.

Biggens is the other young stud for A&M. It's been awhile since the dwellers of Kyle Field have seen a kick returner like this. He's had problems holding on to the ball but he's fast and knows how to read holes on returns.

But remember, no matter how good the cards are, you have to know when to play them.

Coach Slocum and his staff have been around long enough to know who to play and when to play them.

It's just a little easier when you have a full house.

Aggies

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Aggies stumbled, letting Tulsa grab a heap of momentum and 25 points.

The offense used against Tulsa, which was part of an offense geared towards the running abilities of Richardson, will be different if Granger starts.

"One of the problems we had in the Tulsa game with Bucky getting hurt is there's a considerable part of our offense that really isn't any good to us (with Granger playing), because it was put in to take advantage of Bucky's abilities," Slocum said.

It's difficult to decide what's better, Slocum said, keeping the old offense that Granger would be more comfortable with or putting in a whole new system.

"Now you're faced with the additional problem of the Tulsa game and do you put on a bunch of additional offense," Slocum said. "Do we go in with a lot of new stuff or do we try to go in with a pared-down version of our old offense and hope to win?"

If Richardson doesn't play Saturday, the Aggies will use an offense that has been slightly altered to his style of play, Slocum said.

"We're in the same situation this week as last and that concerns me," he said. "But we will put on a couple of new things."

Slocum said he wants his offense to be able to adjust to different signal callers.

"It would be unfair to put those guys out there, who aren't

really option guys and say 'well we've got this offense and we're going to keep running it.'

"I want to go get us some other things that these kids are capable of doing and start developing them. When Bucky's in there we can do those things and when he's not, we've got some other things."

But Slocum has much more to deal with than a change at the quarterback spot. Two key components in the Aggie defense will be missing.

Senior linebacker Quentin Coryatt, an All-American and Butkus Award candidate, suffered a dislocated shoulder against Tulsa and is not expected to play Saturday against USL.

Senior defensive lineman Mark Wheeler suffered a pulled groin in last weekend's game and will also miss Saturday's contest.

Injuries on defense add to Slocum's concern over Saturday's game.

"We're very much aware of their capabilities and respectful of their capabilities to move the ball and play defense," he said. "They held Arkansas to three field goals. Last year, they had two or three linebackers hurt and their quarterback, who is now their starter, came off the bench and ruffled for 125 yards."

Football games don't always go as planned and last Saturday proved that. The Aggies are hoping things go according to plans Saturday.

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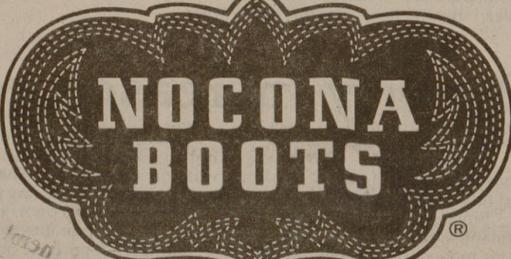
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