

Kubiak returns to A&M

Former quarterback begins coaching career at alma mater

By Chris Whitley
The Battalion

Gary Kubiak, a week after ending a nine-year career in the National Football League, was named as an offensive assistant coach for Texas A&M Saturday.

Kubiak, who graduated from A&M in 1983 and played quarterback for the Aggies from 1979-82, said he was delighted to take a coaching position at his alma mater.

"If somebody would have told me ten years ago that I was going to get to play nine years in the NFL and then return to Texas A&M with a beautiful family and get started in coaching, I would have taken it right there," Kubiak said. "This is a dream come true."

Kubiak ended his NFL career last week with the Denver Broncos in grand fashion. He staged a comeback that almost took the Broncos to the Super Bowl.

He was 11-for-12 passing for 136 yards and rushed for a touchdown after replacing the injured John Elway in the AFC championship game against the Buffalo Bills.

Kubiak spent his entire nine-year NFL career with the Denver Broncos, who went to three Super Bowls and four AFC title games during that time.

Kubiak will take over as running backs coach, but he will also consult with the passing game.

He said his years of experience on the field do not mean he will gain instant success on the

sidelines.

"I felt like as a player I made it to that level of football, and I want to get out and make my way in this business as a coach and pay my dues," Kubiak said. "I've got a lot to learn. Just because you're a player, that doesn't necessarily make you a good coach."

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New A&M assistant coach

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum, who must find someone to replace graduating quarterback Bucky Richardson, said Kubiak's experience will be very valuable for next season.

"With the departure of Bucky Richardson, I plan to change our offense to more of a pro-style attack and Gary's background should be helpful as we move in that direction," Slocum said.

Kubiak, a Houston native, will handle recruiting chores for A&M in that area.

Broncos head coach Dan Reeves said Kubiak showed coaching potential when he was

still playing.

"He's almost like an assistant coach and has been for five, six years," Reeves said. "Nobody has a better grasp of what we're doing than Gary does. (Coaching) is something he's always talked about doing."

The assistant coach position opened up when John Pearce left A&M to take the head coaching job at Stephen F. Austin State University.

Last week it was rumored that Kubiak had been hired as an assistant coach at Stanford University by new head football coach Bill Walsh.

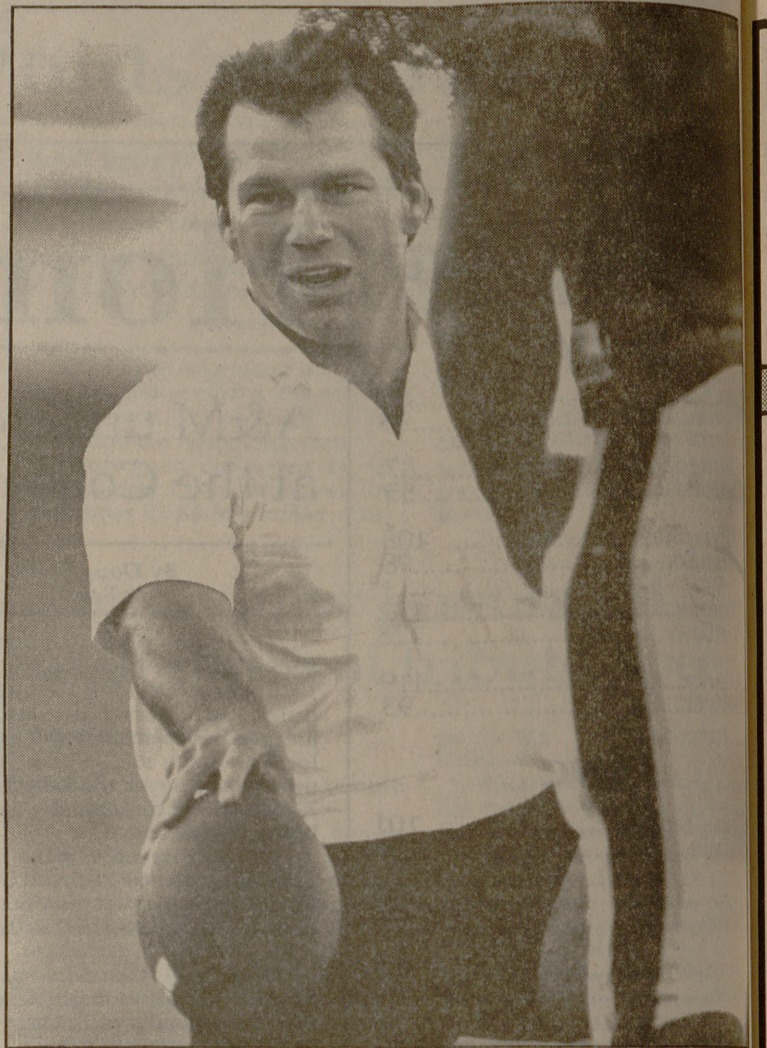
But Kubiak said Saturday he was never offered the job.

"I had talked to Bill Walsh the day before we played Buffalo, casual conversations about coaching," Kubiak said. "I guess the comments he had made during the ball game Sunday brought that about."

"It was flattering to be mentioned along with Bill Walsh, but that did not happen."

Kubiak still holds several records at Texas A&M, including: touchdowns in one game (six vs. Rice in 1982), touchdowns in one season (19 in 1982), longest touchdown pass (92 yards to Don Jones vs. Louisiana Tech in 1981), and most completions in one game (32 vs. TCU in 1982).

He completed 53 percent of his passes and threw for 31 touchdowns during his career at A&M. He was a team captain in 1982, and received the Aggie Heart Award after that same season.



Battalion file photo

New assistant coach Gary Kubiak helps out during spring practice two years ago.

Lady Aggies continue roll

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Russo also said the current winning streak could be credited to not looking too far ahead.

"We have been just taking one game at a time and I think that is why we're being so successful right now," she said. "Now we have to get ready to go into Monday's game (with Texas). As long as we keep playing like we are, we feel really confident."

Brown said the Lady Aggies felt they could beat Baylor by taking the ball inside and beating them in the paint.

"The inside was open tonight, and we keyed on taking it inside to the post players and getting the foul shots," Brown said.

Brown credited Baylor's defense with keeping the game close after the Lady Aggies' early scoring spurt.

"They played a really tough zone, and we couldn't get some of our shots to fall in from the outside, Brown said. "So the key became taking them to the inside and to get their post players into foul trouble."

"We also knew last year they had a tough time handling our press, so we ran the same press we ran on them last year, and they had trouble with it once again."

A&M head coach Lynn Hickey said the keys to the win were limiting turnovers, winning the rebounding battle and making free throw attempts.

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"I thought we played well in only 16 turnovers, because I was anticipating many more because of their defensive changes, Hickey said. "They kept changing zone defenses on us and we have trouble with that."

"I thought we would dominate the boards a little bit better than we did, but we played a good, controlled game, and give Baylor credit for keeping the game as close as it was."

Hickey also said that Brown's play in the second half was a big factor in the win.

"I think Yolanda went out with 12 minutes left in the first half because of fouls, then she came out in the second half and had some big plays. Russo also played very smart, and with those two working tonight that really helped."

Hickey also said that the current winning streak is something she and her players have been waiting for.

"The kids are getting really excited, and the confidence and the excitement are two things that took a little time to get here, and it is fun to see them get pumped up," she said.

"We are having a really good time getting ready for all the games, and our biggest objective so far is to have a really good work ethic."

Banged-up Boston rallies past Spurs

BOSTON (AP) — Robert Parish scored 30 points, including 11 in Boston's 37-point third quarter as the Celtics rallied from a sluggish first half and beat the San Antonio Spurs 98-89 Sunday.

The Celtics, again playing without injured Larry Bird and Kevin McHale, also got 24 points from Reggie Lewis and 22 from Kevin Gamble, while veteran John Bagley directed the third-period outburst with five assists and five of his seven points.

Parish, who returned from a two-game absence with a twisted ankle and went over the 20,000-point career mark as Boston defeated Philadelphia on Friday night, outdueled the Spurs' David Robinson in a matchup of old and young centers.

Parish, 38, the eighth player in NBA history with 20,000 points and 10,000 rebounds, also had 14 rebounds while playing 37 minutes. Robinson, 26, had 21 points and nine rebounds in 36 minutes.

The Celtics, 16-5 at home this season, took a 23-22 first-period lead, but then went cold in the second quarter, hitting six of 20 shots while being outscored 23-16. The Spurs took a 45-39 halftime lead with the help of a 15-2 run.

Robinson gave the Spurs a 47-39 lead with a tip in the opening seconds of the second half. Later, trailing 51-44, Boston went on a 20-6 surge, outscoring the Spurs 37-22 in the final period.

San Antonio closed to 82-77 in the first 4:28 of the fourth period, but the Celtics pulled out of danger as Parish converted a rebound and Sherman Douglas hit an amazing 10-foot scoop shot for his only two

points of the game. Sean Elliott had 16 points and Terry Cummings 14 as the only other San Antonio scorers in double figures.

Bird and McHale remained on the injured list with a bad back and torn calf muscle, respectively.



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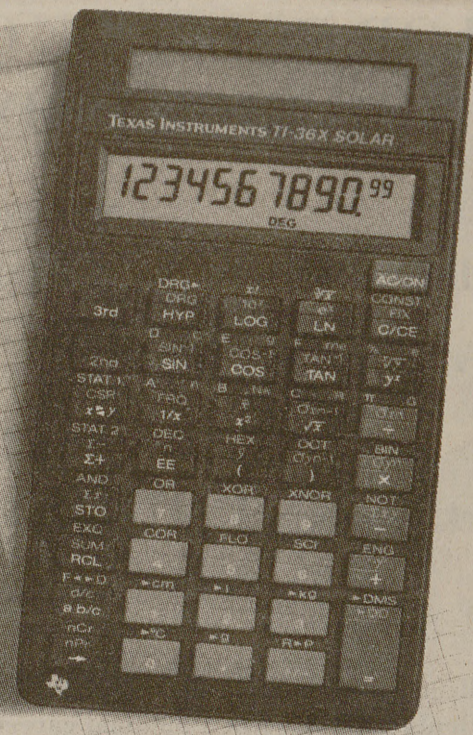
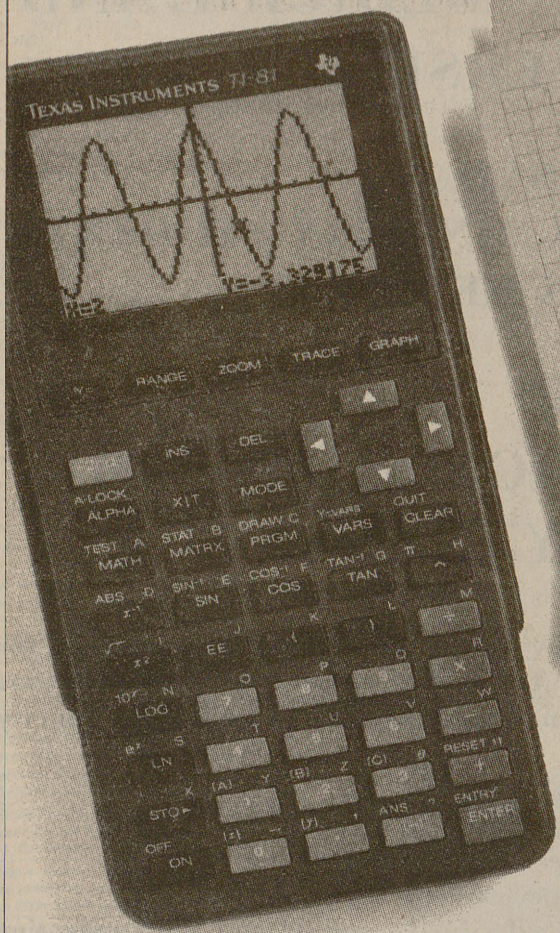
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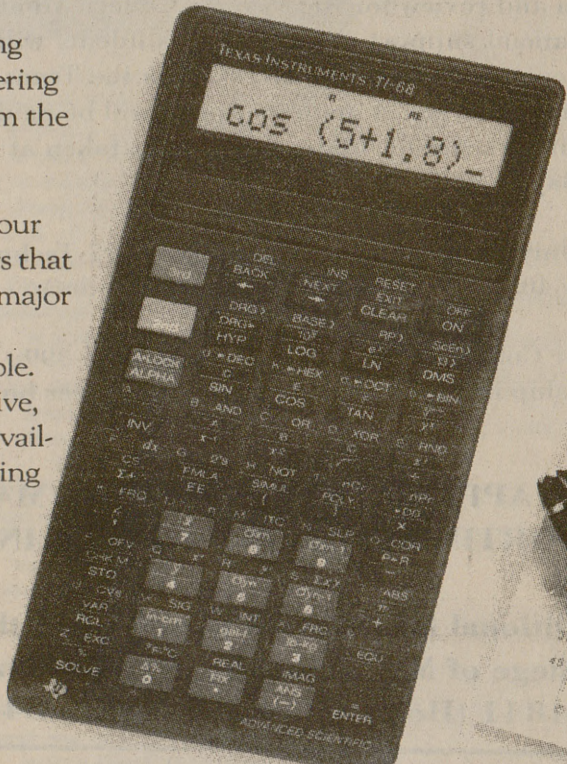
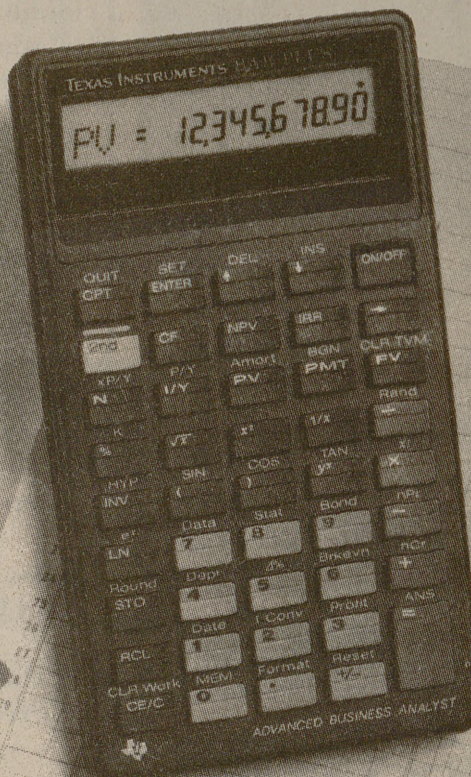
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