

# A&M FOOTBALL '92

Section D

The Battalion

Monday, August 31, 1992

## Aggies' time for stardom is now

### Expectations soar as A&M looks to repeat

By CHRIS WHITLEY

ANAHEIM, Calif. - In the 238 days since Texas A&M's most successful football campaign in decades came to an ignominious end in a field of wet cotton, the rallying cry that kept the Aggie faithful going has been, "Wait until next year."

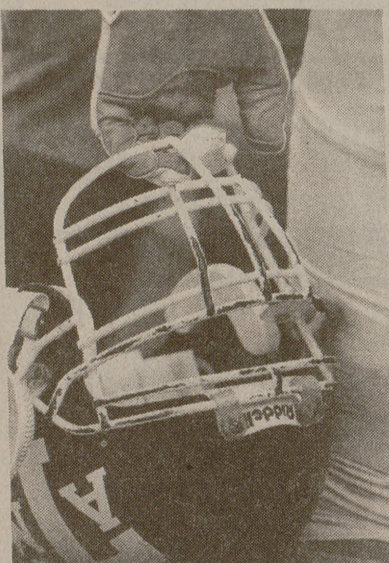
Next year is now. With a load of players returning from last year's Southwest Conference championship squad and one of the top recruiting classes in the country, the Aggies have been picked by most of the civilized world to successfully defend the title this year.

And there's even talk of the first national championship in College Station since 1939.

After being tabbed seventh in the country in the Associated Press poll and surviving against Stanford in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic last Wednesday, the Aggies have done nothing to convince people that they aren't a national power.

After all, that is the master plan of A&M head coach R.C. Slocum. Since he took over as head coach in 1989, his mission has been to consistently end up at the top of the polls and at the top of the SWC, and to do it all with Texas recruits.

So far, so good. "This year, I think we've taken another step," Slocum said about the program. "This summer, we've gotten considerable national recognition. When people this summer have talked about the good teams in the country, we've



been included in that group.

"That's something that I want the program to be like every year."

However, several of the reasons that Texas A&M's program has catapulted to national prominence have gone to the greener pastures of the National Football League. Leading the list is their spiritual leader and producer of wins.

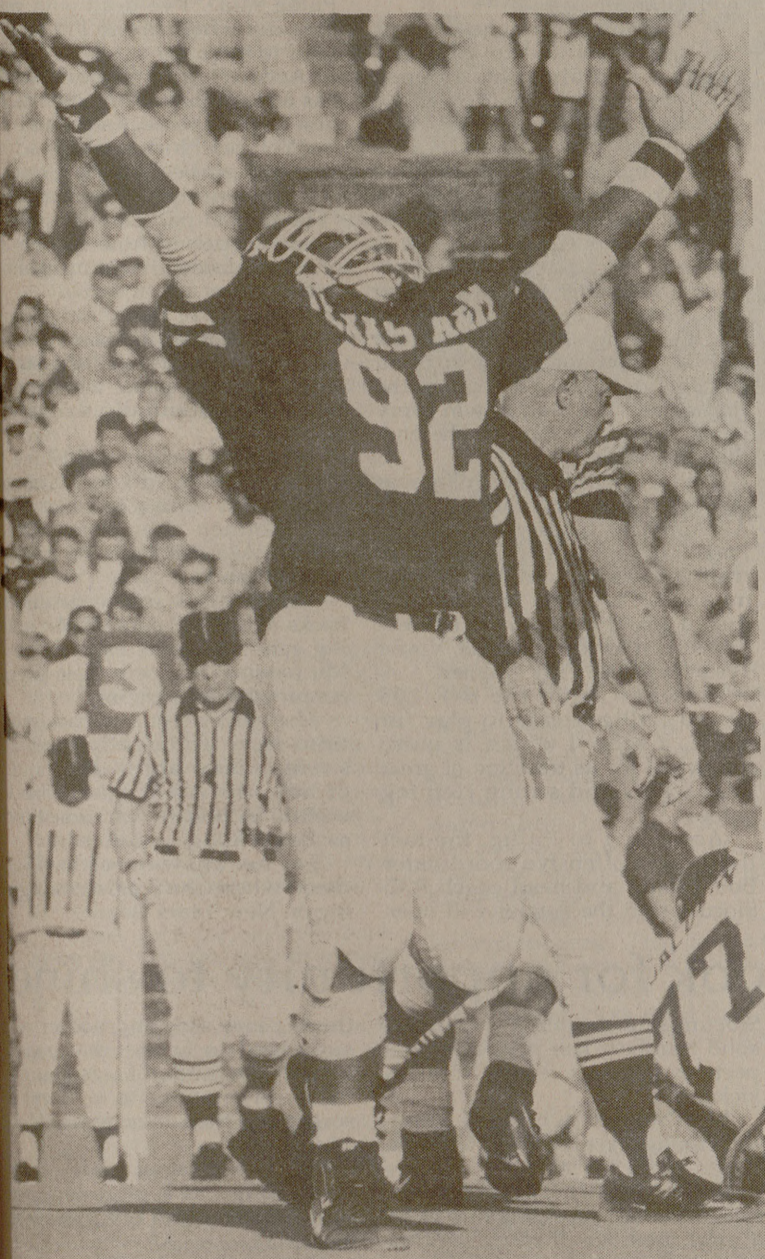
Bucky Richardson left A&M as the winningest quarterback in school history and took his teams to two Cotton Bowls. Now that his career has taken him south to the Houston Oilers, how best to fill his shoes has been the biggest question mark of the new season.

In spring practice, Slocum tried out four candidates and with great

See Aggies/Page 2



Last year's SWC Defensive Newcomer of the Year Sam Adams had 35 tackles and five and a half sacks in 1991 as a freshman.



Defensive lineman Eric England celebrates after a sack against SW Louisiana. England had 39 tackles and four sacks in 1991.

## Don't miss Fall Rush '92!

### It all begins with the Interfraternity Council's Fraternity Life Seminar.

### Come see why more and more Aggies are choosing to go Greek.

### All 28 IFC member fraternities will be present. You can talk to their representatives one on one.

### Wednesday, September 2 7:00 p.m., 225 MSC