

Now, boredom makes the heart go yonder . . .

I'm bored. Bored, bored, bored, bored, bored.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I think this weekend is shaping up to be the worst in recent memory for any fan of Texas sports.



K. LEE DAVIS
Sports Writer

Your Aggies are not playing anybody on the gridiron Saturday, which might be just as well since the offense scored better in Monday's hot dog eating contest than they have in football games this season.

Even the Lady Aggies, who are always good for a quick sports fix, are going to be away from "Jolly Rollie," traveling all over North America in search of victories and respect.

The Cowboys aren't going to play a down in anger for 12 more days, and the Oilers are looking more anemic than a dog at a flea convention.

The auto races were held last weekend, and the two major league baseball franchises from the Lone Star State lost sight of their respective division leaders more than two months ago.

Things are so bad that I'm almost looking forward to the start of basketball season, when the Aggies might actually have a chance to get more victories than you can count on one hand for the first time since the days of Shelby Metcalf.

But alas, hoop season is still nearly two months away, so as I see it this leaves us with one option, Aggies.

Study.

I know I shouldn't be the one to

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LEARNING A NEW TRADE

Petty, Emerson adjust to their change of roles

By STEVE O'BRIEN

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

The career paths of Steve Emerson and Kent Petty were running side by side at one time. Today, their football futures are headed in opposite directions like two freight trains - one going east, the other going west.

The change in course began in July when Jeff Granger was cut from the U.S. Olympic baseball team and decided to return to football.

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum and offensive coordinator Bob Toledo promptly promoted Granger to starting quarterback. Emerson and Petty promptly gave up their dreams of becoming college quarterbacks and decided to start new dreams.

A senior from Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, Petty considered two things before changing positions: where did he want to play and where could he play.

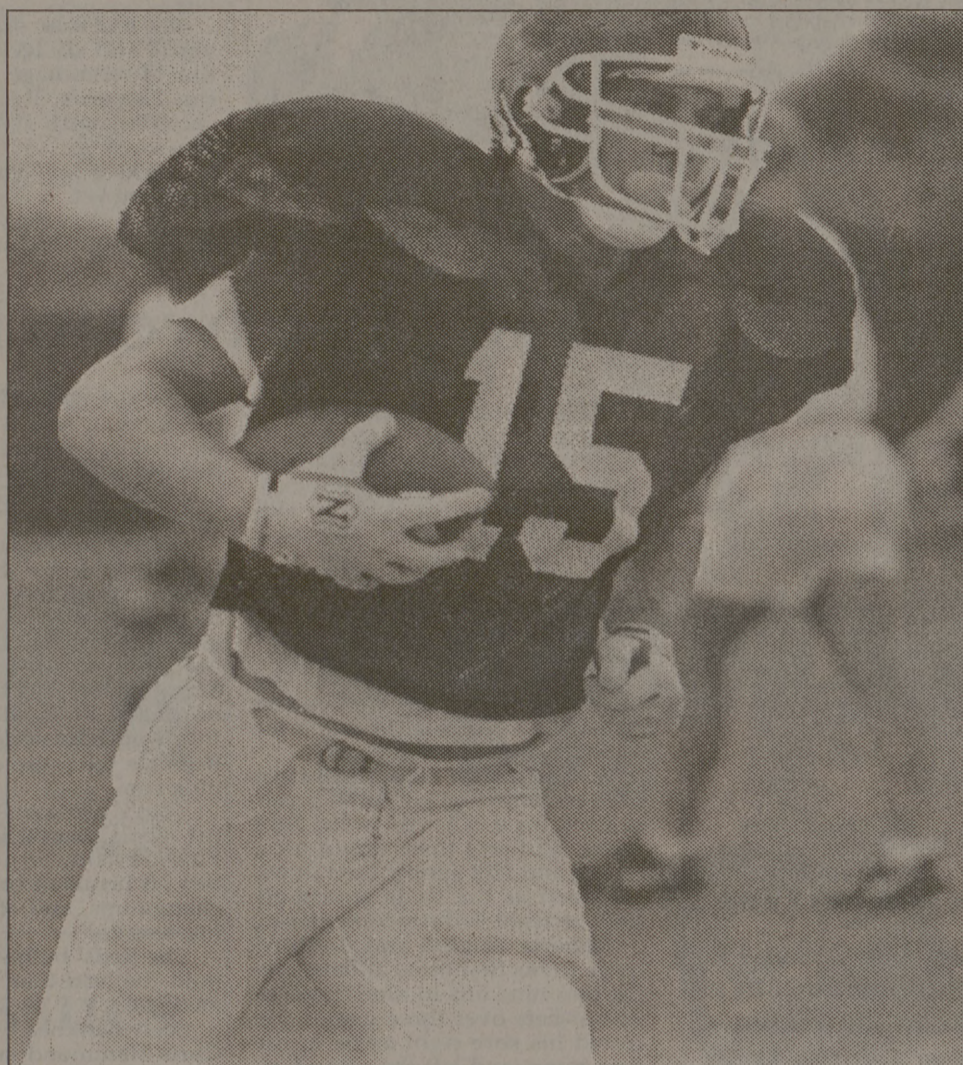
Petty chose tight end. "I thought I would give it a shot there and get a chance to play a little," Petty said. "It's a little bit different than quarterback. Blocking is the big adjustment for me. Catching the ball isn't too hard."

While Petty decided to stay on offense, Emerson had other ideas.

"Coach Slocum gave me a couple of options," Emerson said. "We talked about me playing outside linebacker, because I'm about the right size for it. But I looked and there were about ten guys there, so I decided to go to inside."

Changing positions has forced Petty and Emerson to spend some time on the sidelines, but that is nothing new.

Behind All-Southwest Conference quarterback Bucky Richardson last season, Petty completed 2-of-7 passes for 29 yards in six games and Emerson played in only two games, throwing only one pass.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Former backup A&M quarterback Kent Petty has found a new role as a tight end. Petty switched positions after Jeff Granger took over as starting quarterback.

And the opportunities for this fall didn't look much better.

After spring practice, freshmen Matt Miller and Tommy Preston were listed as the first two quarterbacks, while Petty and Emerson were third and fourth.

When Granger returned to the Aggies at the start of two-a-days, Petty and Emerson slipped even further down the depth chart.

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Lady Aggies embark on grueling trip

By DON NORWOOD

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team begins their first major road trip of the year tonight, a four-match swing that might turn out to be the most intimidating one they will face all season.

Things start off in Lubbock this evening, as the Lady Aggies open their Southwest Conference slate against a 15th-ranked Texas Tech squad that welcomes back four starters from last year's 26-6 SWC runner-up.

Tech's starters appear to be picking up this year where they left off, jumping out to a 7-1 record. Their one loss came to New Mexico, who is ranked ninth in the nation.

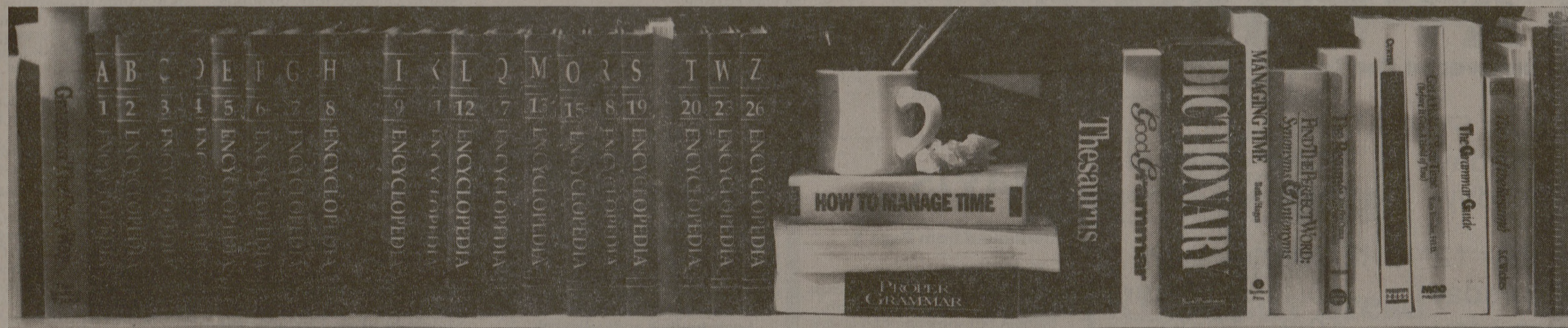
The task of opening the conference schedule against a top 25 team is a mean one. And A&M head coach Al Givens said that the objectives for the Lady Aggies tonight are clearly laid out.

"Tech's a very good team, and they are deserving of their 15th ranking," Givens said. "In order for us to be successful in Lubbock, we'll need to control the tempo, and our execution is going to have to be very good."

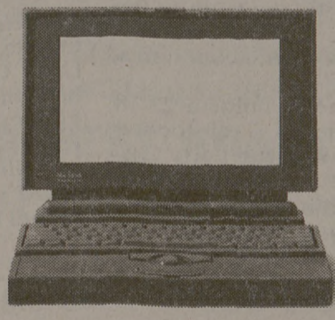
A&M's execution leading up their match with Tech seems to be nearly flawless. After cruising to a championship in the A&M/Holiday Inn Invitational last weekend, the Lady Aggies' record stands at 8-2, their best start since their last NCAA tournament season in 1986.

All the key figures for A&M have not been disappointing Givens, particularly outside attacker Elizabeth Edmiston, who leads the team in both kills and kill average. Setters Genny Wood and Suzy Wente are neck-and-neck for the lead in assists, with Wood leading the squad in digs and dig average.

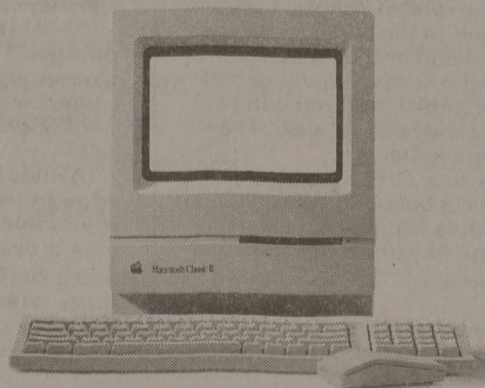
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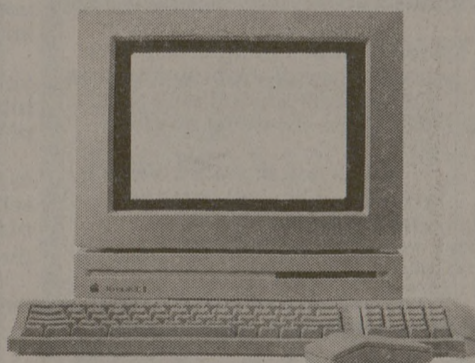
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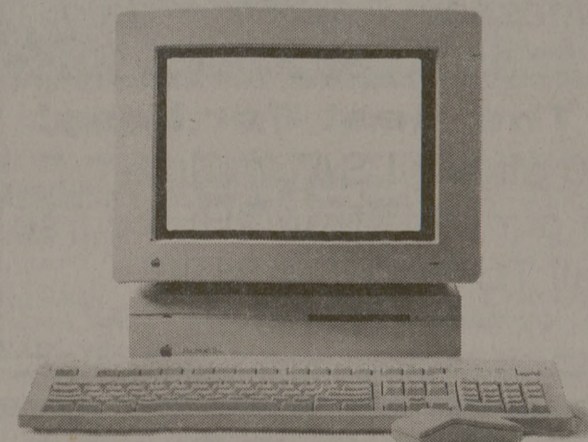
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