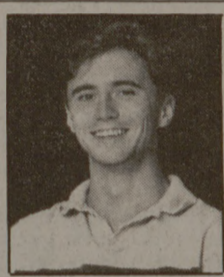


## Cowboys going back to familiar winning ways

That's right, National Football League. Your worst nightmare has come true.



**J. DOUGLAS FOSTER**  
Sports Editor

The Dallas Cowboys are back, and the best start in many years for the 'boys' has all fans realizing that "America's Team" will soon be just that once again.

3-0. That's right, 3-0. And just when you thought the ghosts of Roger 'the Dodger,' the 'Doomsday' defense, Tony Dorsett and Drew Pearson had finally died, along comes Troy Aikman and the new Dallas Cavalry.

That new regime is supported by a tough young defense, running back Emmitt Smith and receiver Michael Irvin, who is probably the best passer in the game simply because he doesn't run a 4.2 in the 40, and he still makes all the catches.

That defense is led by a surplus of talented tackles and linebackers, including rookie Robert Jones, who has the potential to be a great linebacker cut in the mold of former Cowboy superstar Lee Roy Jordan.

3-0. And doesn't everyone hate it. Why? Simple: Jealousy.

Everyone else in the NFL hated Dallas during the Staubach years because whenever playoff time came around, the Cowboys were sure to be somewhere in the hunt. Not only that, Dallas won cleanly, with players you couldn't help but like.

Unless, of course, you weren't a Cowboys fan.

Another reason many people hate to see the comeback is because the only teams that were able to steal any of the Cowboys' glory during their heyday, the Pittsburgh Steelers and the San Francisco 49ers, are both on their way down and have both paid the Cowboys back with gifts that will help carry Dallas to greatness in the NFL.

The Niners, who used one lucky play to keep the Cowboys from going on to an unprecedented sixth Super Bowl appearance, had their glory days through the late '80s and seem now to be a solid team, but not a serious playoff threat.

That could be because the Niners transferred Charles Haley's services to Dallas, giving the Cowboys the

See Foster/ Page 8

# ALL WORK AND NO PLAY...

## A&M uses open week for rest, preparation for conference race

By J. DOUGLAS FOSTER

Sports Editor of THE BATTALION

Despite a perfect 4-0 record and a fifth-ranking in the Associated Press poll, Texas A&M head coach R.C. Slocum saw some room for improvement in his squad after the first phase of the season.

Slocum and his troops got the chance to work on those improvements over the last two weeks as the Aggies took last Saturday off, and Slocum and offensive coordinator Bob Toledo took time during practice to work out the kinks.

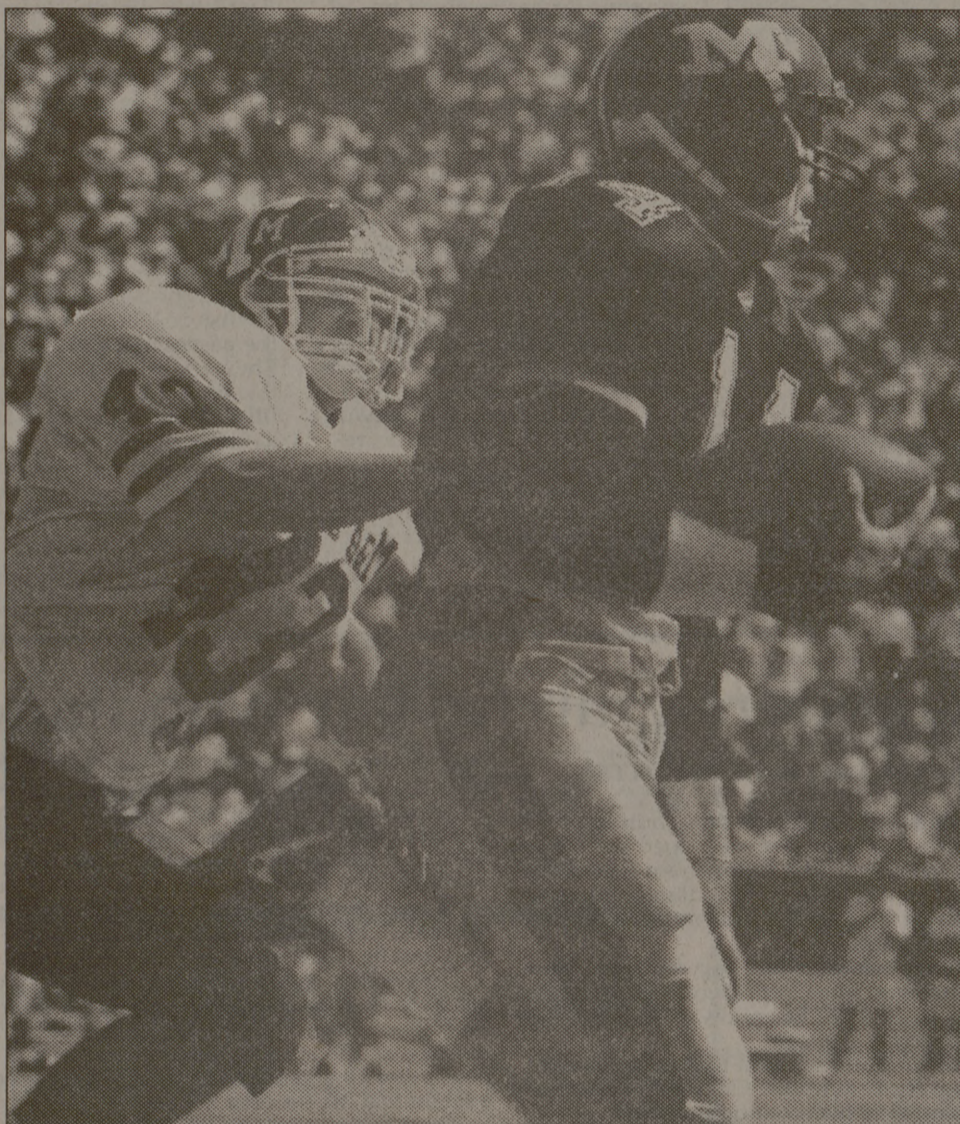
Toledo said his offensive unit has had trouble maintaining consistency because of the inability to successfully execute the passing attack. He also said that he had worked with quarterback Jeff Granger to try and iron out some of the inconsistencies.

"Jeff's been pretty sporadic over the first few games," Toledo said. "That may be the big reason we're struggling is because he's not throwing the ball well. He knows that as well as I do, so he's worked extremely hard this last week to try and get rid of the flaws."

Toledo said the problems Granger has been having have been associated with the delivery he uses as a pitcher for the A&M baseball team.

"We've had a camera that has been just on Jeff every play, and we have found two major flaws in his delivery that we've tried to get rid of during the last week," Toledo said. "Jeff's elbow was way too high in delivery, and his left foot was crossing over his right in his follow-through like a pitcher."

Toledo said he had noticed some of the flaws during the first four games, but that having last weekend off gave Granger more of a chance to work them out and perfect his form.



STACY FEDUCIA/The Battalion

A&M linebacker Jason Atkinson (43) chases Missouri quarterback Phil Johnson during the Aggies 26-13 win over the Tigers on Sept. 19. A&M took advantage of an off-week last weekend to prepare for the the Southwest Conference race.

"We really concentrated on the problems during this bye week," Toledo said. "I think Jeff kept zooming in on the problem during the break, and he saw himself throw over and over. Then he started correcting it. By mid-week last week we could tell he realized what the problem was and was making a concentrated effort to improve."

"He's looked pretty good the last couple of days."

Toledo said he felt Granger would find his way out of these tough days, because he has the ingredient that would not allow him to accept less-than-perfect play.

"The thing that separates Jeff from other people is that he's a competitor," Toledo said. "When people get in his face, he fights back and competes, and I think that's why we've seen an improvement in his play this year during the fourth quarter."

Another positive aspect of the week off for the Aggies is the extra time it allowed for some of the injured players to recover from their wounds without having to miss another game. Slocum said offensive lineman John Ellisor and wide receiver Brian Mitchell should both be back at some point during the Tech game, but that he expected fullback Doug Carter to be out for at least one more game.

Having these players back, Slocum said, will be a big boost to the Aggies entering conference play.

"When you lose guys like Ellisor, Mitchell and Carter, you lose quality players who have a lot of experience, and that is invaluable," Slocum said. "When Ellisor and Carter went down, those were two seniors who are leaders on the team. You would like to have all the seniors you can on your offensive unit."

"Losing Mitchell was a big blow as

See Aggies/ Page 8

## Lady Aggies end extended road trip with win

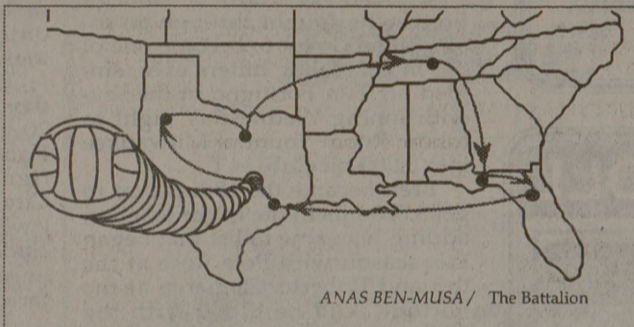
### A&M returns home Friday for first time in two weeks

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

HOUSTON — Texas A&M's Elizabeth Edmiston returned from her injury-related hiatus with a vengeance Wednesday, as she logged 19 kills on only 31 attempts in the Lady Aggies' first Southwest Conference over Rice in Autry Court.

Edmiston, A&M's leading scorer, missed practice this week due to an injured hitting shoulder. But her team-high .484 hitting percentage, plus 10 digs, three service aces and three blocks, turned out to be major factors in the Lady Aggies' 15-4, 15-2, 10-15, 15-4 victory.

Edmiston got offensive help from middle blocker Kim



ANAS BEN-MUSA / The Battalion

Mitchell, another Lady Aggie who was rested in practice this week due to a mild virus, who finished with nine kills.

Blocker Amy Kisling and outside attacker Karen Richards ended the night with seven kills each.

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