

## TEXAS A&M VS. LOUISVILLE

# Aggies aren't taking Cardinals lightly

### Slocum thinks Schnellenberger has potential to provide upset win

By DOUG FOSTER  
Sports Editor of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M head coach R.C. Slocum has one word of warning for Aggie fans about this weekend's opponent, the University of Louisville: Don't judge them by their 4-5 record.

Slocum and his fifth-ranked Aggies will host Louisville tomorrow at 2:30 p.m. at Kyle Field in the first ever meeting between the two schools. And Slocum,

game," Slocum said. "People are often a product of their environment and look at a team like them only by their record, but they don't have the understanding of Louisville that myself and other coaches around the nation have."

Slocum, who has led his team to a 20-1-1 record at Kyle Field since taking over in 1989, also said a team with Louisville's experience at playing tough road games should keep the Cardinals from being intimidated by the A&M crowd.

That experience comes from a season-opening 20-19 loss at Ohio State, one in which the Cardinals attempted a game-winning, two-point conversion and failed in the fourth quarter.

The Cardinals were also beaten 31-17 by the University of Florida in Gainesville. In that game, the Gators held only a 17-10 lead going into the fourth quarter.

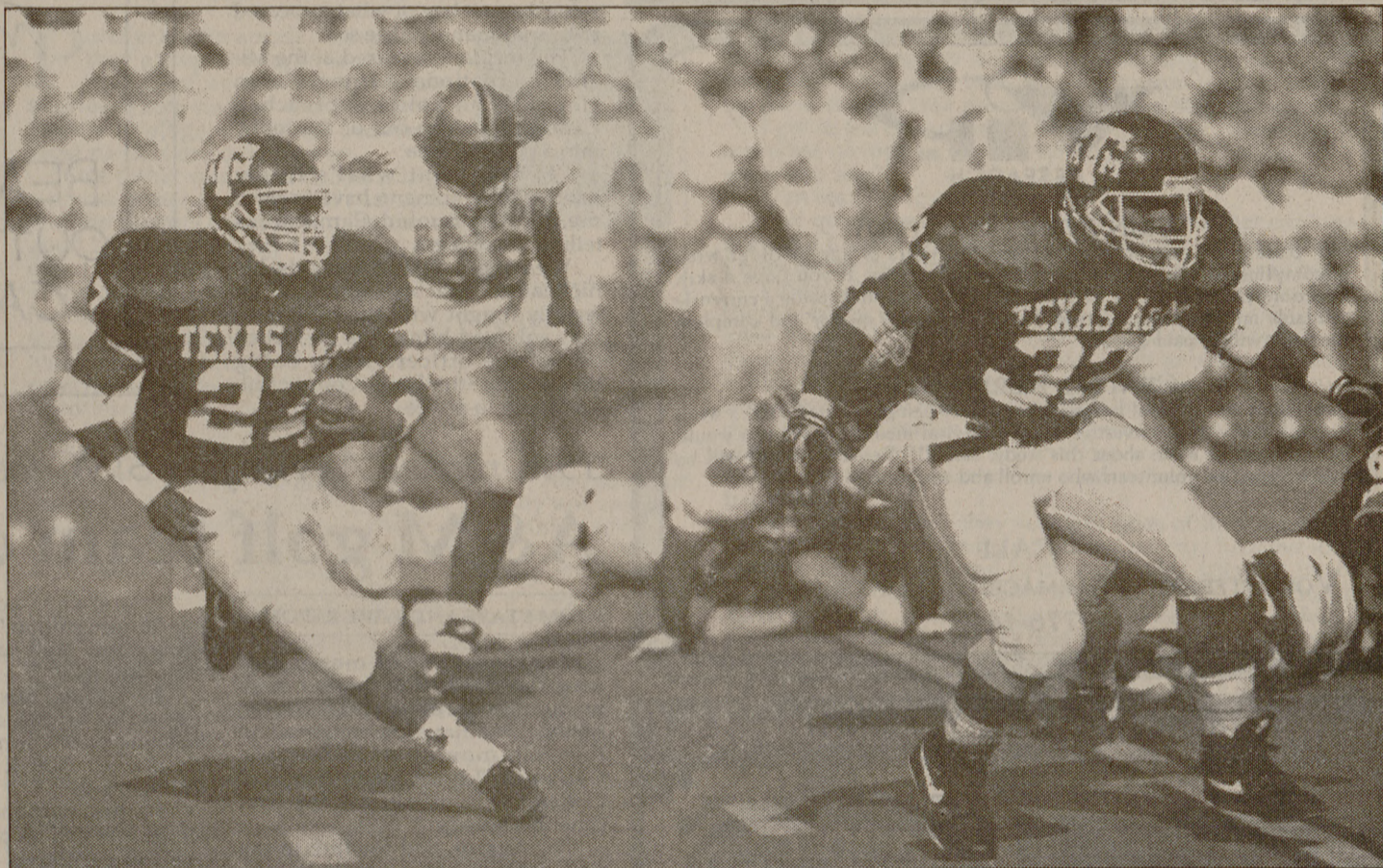
"They have posed some tough challenges to some really good teams," Slocum said. "They lost to Florida and Ohio State on the road and lost another hard-fought contest to Syracuse (15-9)."

A&M free safety Patrick Bates, who is the team's second leading tackler with 61, said Louisville was good at executing the offense but that the Cardinals shouldn't throw anything at the Aggies that they have not seen.

"In this conference, there are not many things we don't see from the offense of other teams," Bates said. "Louisville doesn't do anything extremely complicated, but they execute the offense that they run very well."

Bates also said the way Louisville executed that offense has made the Cardinals a team that he has anticipated all season.

"They may have one of the best offenses, besides Stanford, that we have played yet," Bates said. "I have kind of thought about this game throughout the entire year, knowing that we were going to have to stay consistent with what we've



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

One of the mainstays of Texas A&M's "Lion offense", tailback Greg Hill, runs behind fullback Doug Carter in the Aggies' 19-13 win over Baylor on Oct. 24. Hill will join Rodney Thomas in the A&M backfield when the Aggies take on Louisville on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in Kyle Field. Thomas and Hill together have accounted for 1,393 yards of rushing offense.

been doing for the past eight games."

After A&M quarterback Jeff Granger went down with a concussion last week against Southern Methodist, true freshman Corey Pullig filled in and went 7-for-15 for 114 yards.

Granger was still feeling the effects of the concussion early in the week, and Slocum said his health combined with the performance of the two during practice would determine who would start tomorrow.

Slocum also said he probably wouldn't make a decision until right before gametime.

"I won't make my decision about who will start until gametime," Slocum said. "Both of them will play, and we will have to look at their performance in practice before we decide who will be our starter."

"I have been very pleased with Pullig, and I have confidence in both of our quarterbacks."

Slocum also said no matter who plays this weekend, the decision would remain his and that he would not have a debate with anyone about who he was playing.

"We won't make it into a big thing," Slocum said. "It's not a big thing on this team who starts, because they are both going to play. There's not going to be a quarterback controversy here. If two guys in the stands want to argue about who plays, that's their prerogative."

**Time:** 2:30 p.m., Saturday  
**Place:** Kyle Field  
**TV/Radio:** Ch. 3, 13 (cable), KTAM  
1240-AM  
**Records:** A&M (8-0, 4-0), Louisville (4-5)  
**Line:** A&M by 15 1/2

whose 8-0 Aggies are leading the Southwest Conference by half a game with a 4-0 record, is not taking the Cardinals or their head coach Howard Schnellenberger for granted.

Schnellenberger, who came to Louisville in 1985, has a career that is highlighted by his 1983 season with the University of Miami when he defeated the University of Nebraska in the '84 Orange Bowl to win the national championship.

"Louisville is a team that is very capable of coming in here and winning this

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