

# A&M FOOTBALL '93

Section D

THE BATTALION

Monday, August 30, 1993

## Aggies are hopeful that third time is the charm

By Michael Plumer

THE BATTALION

In the past two seasons, diamonds have been the Texas A&M football team's best friend as the Aggies have captured two consecutive Southwest Conference championships.

By posting a combined 15-0 SWC record during the 1991 and 1992 seasons, A&M players have earned two diamonds for their championship rings. While looking for a threepeat, the Aggies also hope to add an emerald to their jewelry collection.

That treasure would signify a national championship for the fourth-ranked Aggies.

But before any postseason plans can be made there are some preseason questions to be answered. For instance, sophomore offensive lineman James Brooks along with these juniors: running back Greg Hill, wide receiver Brian Mitchell, defensive back Billy Mitchell and linebacker Jessie Cox are awaiting word from the NCAA on their suspensions because of a paycheck scandal before they can play in a game.

A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum puts that problem quickly to rest.

"The NCAA is not a factor, and I am tired of talking about it," Slocum said. "I want to go forward with our program because we are not a bunch of crooks. I believe we have been unfairly labeled."

"There are those who have highlighted in our situation, but we are not going to disappear because we have too many positives."

While the off-the-field problems are major, A&M's on-field concerns are relatively minor. Slocum said his biggest worry was finding a punter to fill former All-SWC performer David Davis' shoes.

A&M will attempt to make a third straight trip to Dallas on New Year's Day to play in the Cotton Bowl, and most preseason prognosticators have

tabbed the Aggies as runaway favorites.

Slocum said he enjoys the pressure. "Potentially, this is the best team I've had in my years as head coach here," Slocum said. "But, of course, right now it is on paper. Who knows about chemistry, and injuries are always a factor."

"There is no sign of complacency from the team, and for me, I have the least amount of question marks concerning our players."

"We could get seduced by various articles and statements but we won't," he said.

Slocum also said it is a credit to the program that A&M has received national championship mention.

"I would love to bring the title back to the state of Texas and win it with Texas players," Slocum said. "That would be a thrilling thing and would show that our players can play with anybody."

"Of course, our first order of business is to defend our Southwest Conference crown and then maybe the other notoriety will follow."

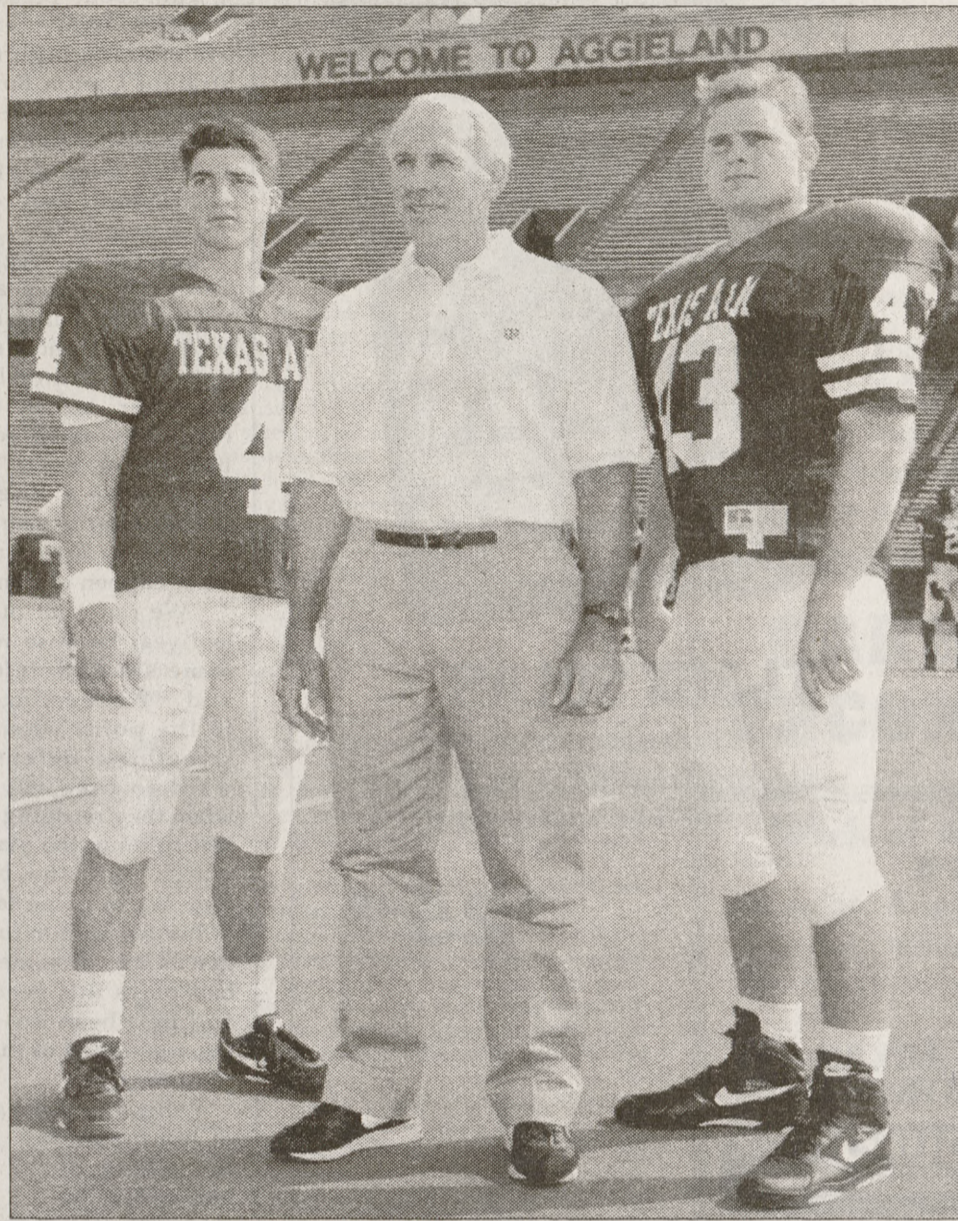
A&M's last two trips to the Cotton Bowl have been disappointing as the Aggies have only been able to muster five points. Hill said he wants to change that.

"This season, we want to show the nation that we are for real because we have received criticism from people around the country," Hill said. "If we do get back to the Cotton Bowl, we definitely want to have a better showing."

Senior defensive end Eric England said he thinks this year's team is ready to have a season to remember.

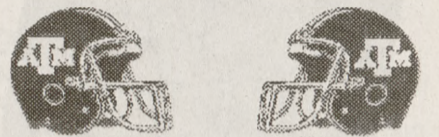
"Right now, we are clicking in practice which is important because that sets the tone for the season," England said. "As a team, everything seems to be settled, and there shouldn't be anybody to stop us because we are developing as a unit."

"Besides, I am tired of being thought of as the Buffalo of the Cotton Bowl. It is time to change that perception."



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M quarterback Corey Pullig (left), A&M head coach R.C. Slocum (middle) and linebacker Jason Atkinson are looking toward a return trip to the Cotton Bowl.



### 1993 Texas A&M Football Schedule

#### SEPTEMBER

4	LSU	College Station	2:30
11	Oklahoma	Norman, OK	2:30
18	Missouri	College Station	noon

#### OCTOBER

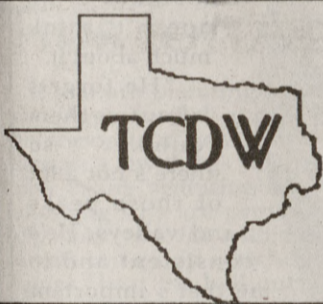
2	TexasTech	Lubbock	7:00
9	Houston	College Station	2:00
16	Baylor	Waco	1:00
23	Rice	Houston	2:00
30	SMU	College Station	2:00

#### NOVEMBER

13	Louisville	College Station	2:00
20	TCU	Fort Worth	2:00
25	Texas	College Station	7:00

#### Televised games

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Texas -- ESPN-TV  
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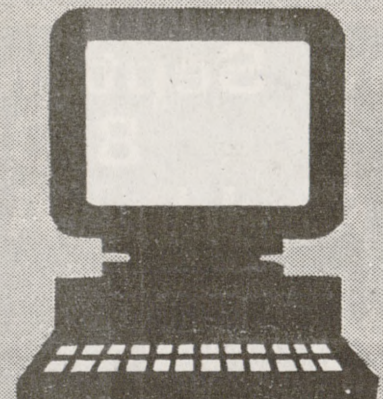
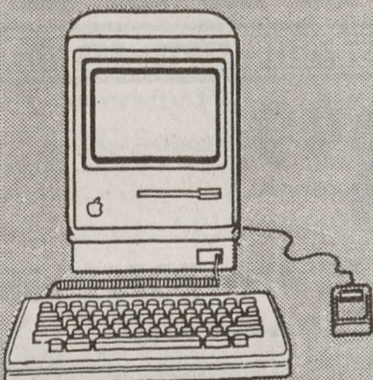
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