

THE 1993 GUIDE TO EX

Offensive Preview



Pullig

• QUARTERBACKS •

Sophomore **Corey Pullig** took over for Jeff Granger last year and finished A&M's undefeated regular season, averaging 38 points and 434 total yards in his five games compared to 22.7 and 350.7 in the previous seven games...For the season and Cotton Bowl, Pullig completed 63-of-126 for 953 yards with three touchdowns and interceptions...Rated nationally as fifth-best all-purpose quarterback by The Sporting News...Back up sophomores **Tommy Preston**, an A&M Consolidated product, and **Matt Miller**, from San Diego, will be vying for the number two slot behind Pullig... Junior Steve Emerson moves back to quarterback after spending last year as a linebacker.



Hill

• RUNNING BACKS •

Junior running backs **Greg Hill** and **Rodney Thomas** combined for 2195 on the ground last season, ranking them one of the top tandems in the nation...Hill and Thomas will be joined at tailback by highly touted redshirt freshman **Leeland McElroy**...Junior **Clif Groce** and sophomore **Detron Smith** are battling for the starting fullback spot...Hill is the leading returning scorer in college football, lighting up the scoreboard for 102 points last season...Thomas completed 3-of-3 passes for 90 yards and one touchdown last season.



Harrison

• WIDE RECEIVERS •

Senior split end **Tony Harrison** grabbed 22 receptions for 454 yards and four touchdowns last season...Harrison's 20.6 yards per catch led the team...Junior flanker **Brian Mitchell** suffered a broken foot last season but still had 10 receptions for 220 yards and one touchdown...Redshirt freshman **Kevin Bierne** will back up Harrison while junior **Ryan Mathews** is behind Mitchell...Redshirt freshman **Danny McCray** earned indoor All-American honors as a sprinter on the A&M track team last season.



Schorp

• TIGHT ENDS •

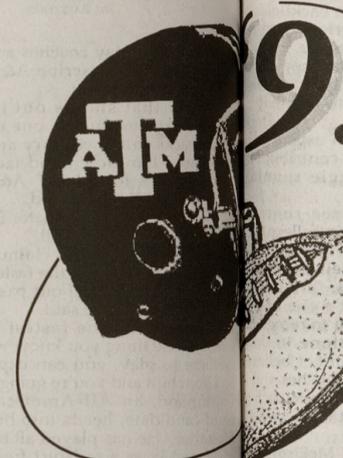
An excellent run blocker with soft hands, senior tight end **Greg Schorp** looks to pick up where he left off last year when he caught 24 passes for 280 yards and one touchdown...Schorp started last season off right by being named the Most Valuable Player in the Disneyland Pigskin Classic, a 10-7 A&M victory over Stanford...Sophomore **Hayward Clay** will see time in double tight end sets...Junior **James McKeehan** and Schorp form the third-best tight end tandem in the nation according to The Sporting News...Redshirt freshman **Jim Brady** moves over from linebacker to add depth.



Dausin

• OFFENSIVE LINE •

Senior **Chris Dausin** is ranked as the fourth-best center in the nation by The Sporting News...Senior guard **Tyler Harrison** scored a touchdown last season against Houston on a fumble-rooskie, a play which has since been outlawed by the NCAA...Senior tackle **Dexter Wesley** was second team All-Southwest Conference, as selected by the Associated Press...After moving from tight end, senior tackle **Jason Mathews** became a key component in A&M's drive to the Cotton Bowl...Redshirt freshman **Calvin Collins** replaces the departed **John Ellisor** at left guard.



ANGEL KAN/...

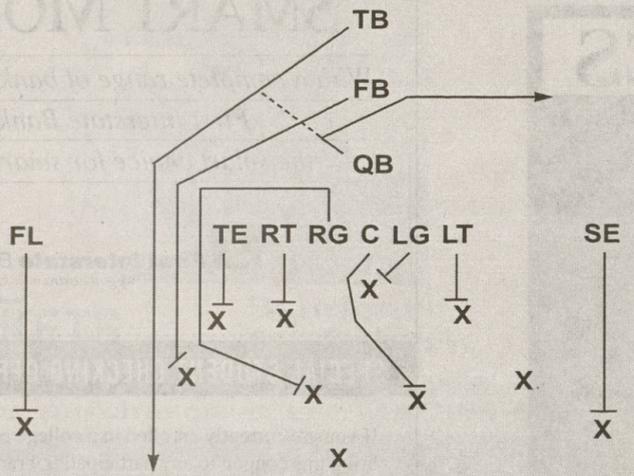
THE AGGIES' DEEP

Free Safety 5 Junior White 36 Steve Kenney	Strong Safety 40 MICHAEL 6 Typ
Left Inside Linebacker 37 Larry Jackson 35 Jason Andrus	Inside Linebacker ATKINSON Colon
Left Outside Linebacker 93 Antonio Shorter 38 Reggie Graham	Right Outside Linebacker 94 Steve 46 Reggie
Left Cornerback 31 AARON GLENN 30 Donovan Greer	Defensive End 92 ERIC ENGLAND 64 Larry Wallace
Left Tackle 75 DEXTER WESLEY 78 James Brooks	Right Tackle 67 JASON 76 Chris
Split End 3 TONY HARRISON	Left Guard 55 TYLER HARRISON 72 Jeff Jones
Quarterback 4 COREY PULLIG 14 Tommy Preston 13 Matt Miller	Guard Collins Mathison
	Fullback 33 Clif Groce 44 Detron Smith
	Tailback 27 GREG HILL 20 Rodney Thomas 34 Leeland McElroy

ALL CAPS — DENOTES RETURNER

A&M offense will ride on three backs and an arm

Toledo's 'Toss Sweep'



The "Toss Sweep" is designed to take advantage of A&M's strong running game by getting the speedy Aggie tailbacks to the outside. The NCAA's decision to move the hash marks further toward the middle of the field should mean added dividends for fast backs, who will have more territory to accelerate and turn corners.

The tailback receives the pitch from the quarterback, who rolls to the opposite (left) side to pull the defense's coverage away from the play. The right guard pulls to the right and lead blocks with the fullback and the rest of the blockers scoop block to open up the right side.

By Roy L. Clay

THE BATTALION

Defending Southwest Conference champion Texas A&M's offensive strategy will feature its traditional running game this season, but will also incorporate a passing game to strengthen an already dangerous ground attack.

Offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said A&M football is noted for its physical running game and this season they will build on that strong foundation.

"We're going to emphasize running the football," Toledo said. "That's our philosophy, to be a physically tough football team."

According to Toledo, A&M has all the tools necessary to run the football. One of the most noticeable of these tools is the tailback combination of Greg Hill and Rodney Thomas.

But redshirt freshman Leeland McElroy has continued to impress coaches with his performance. Toledo said McElroy is a running back with incredible talents.

"He had a great spring (practice)," Toledo said. "You can't help but want to get him in the football game."

To be successful, the trio will need some help, which they have. They will be running behind the protection of an offensive line regarded in some publications as one of the nation's best.



Toledo

Four of the five linemen are returning seniors: guard Tyler Harrison, center Chris Dausin and tackles Dexter Wesley and Jason Mathews. The right guard spot, vacated by John Ellisor, will be filled by redshirt freshman Calvin Collins.

The fullback position is another area on the Aggie offense that has lost talent from last year's squad.

Doug Carter, a former A&M fullback who is now with the Houston Oilers, will be replaced by junior Cliff Groce and sophomore Detron Smith. Toledo said both players have outstanding combined skills as blockers, runners and receivers.

"They're the total package," he said.

Even with a strong running attack, the A&M offense was lacking a strategy last season that proved to be detrimental at the end — the passing game.

Toledo said the loss to Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl illustrated that an ineffective passing attack will allow a capable opponent to cheat against the run.

"They took away what we did best," Toledo said. "They took the run away."

Quarterback Corey Pullig said A&M's lack of a passing attack did not come from insufficient planning.

"The strategy has always been there," Pullig said. "It's just that the performance hasn't."

Toledo notes Pullig has always had the tools to be a good quarterback but did not always know what to do with them.

Last year Pullig was not able to learn all the details necessary to ex-

ecute a successful passing game. Toledo said, but he has seen improvements in Pullig since then.

"He has an understanding of the offense and an understanding of the defense," Toledo said. "He has a better understanding of what we're trying to do," he said.

This year, coaches have said they expect Pullig to read and adjust to defensive sets and make the adjustments at the line of scrimmage essential for a successful passing attack.

"He has a much better understanding of what people are trying to do against us," Toledo said.

The successful execution of the passing game relies on the receiver's end, as well.

Tight end Greg Schorp was the leading receiver last year — a distinction usually reserved for wide receivers.

Toledo said he wants to utilize running backs in the passing game as well. He said both Groce and Smith are considered to have above-average catching abilities. McElroy has been getting practice as a receiver.

Toledo said he views the Notre Dame loss as significant proof of the importance of the passing game in a successful game plan.

"It just goes to prove that you've got to have the ability to throw the football," Toledo said.

"I believe that if you don't have the ability to throw the football, the people gang up on you and if you're one dimensional it's pretty hard to win."

By Matthew...

THE BATTALION

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