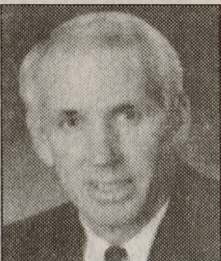


A&M enters season on tough schedule

By Michael Plumer

The Battalion

Last summer, former Texas A&M athletic director John David Crow and head football coach R.C. Slocum decided the fourth-ranked Aggies needed to make every attempt to upgrade their schedule.



Slocum

Their efforts will pay off this season.

After the traditional opening game against Louisiana State on September 4, the Aggies travel to Norman to battle the Oklahoma Sooners for the first time since 1951.

"Playing Oklahoma will be a heck of a challenge," Slocum said. "A team just don't roll into Norman and win. But right now we are worried about beating LSU."

"LSU will be a test for us just like Oklahoma will be tough."

After playing the Sooners, A&M will face another Big 8 foe, the Missouri Tigers at Kyle Field.

Then the fun starts with October's arrival.

A&M, which has won two straight SWC championships, starts the defense of their crowns against Texas Tech in Lubbock. The Aggies have historically struggled on the Texas plains but senior defensive end Eric England said he will feel confident playing the Raiders on their home turf.

"We play some big games this season like going to Baylor and Oklahoma, but

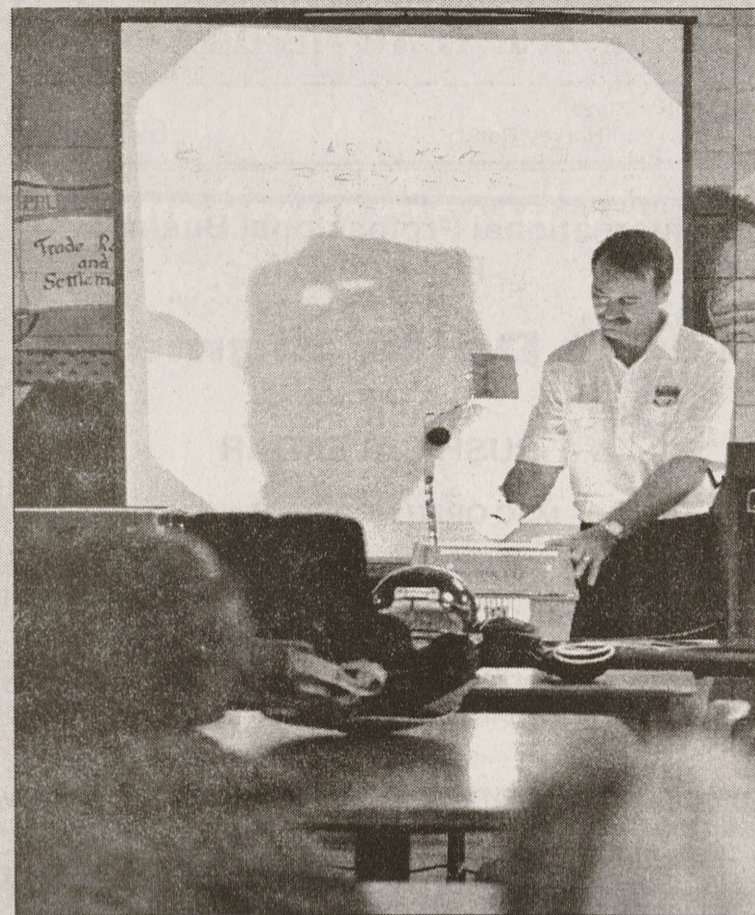
the toughest one might be going to Lubbock," England said. "Of course, we still have some games to play before then, but I think we will do all right out there."

As the month of October progresses, Houston and Southern Methodist will come calling to Kyle Field while A&M travels to Baylor and Rice.

A&M is off the first week of November and when play resumes, the Aggies battle the Louisville Cardinals at Kyle Field. A road trip is in the order for the next week as A&M hops to Ft. Worth to play Texas Christian

Finally, the game that will be circled on all Aggies' schedules, the grudge match with the University of Texas will get kicked off on November 25, as always. A&M will attempt to win its ninth victory in ten tries over the Longhorns.

Football for Moms?



Marty Criswell/The Battalion

Bryan High School head football coach and athletic director Marty Criswell teaches offensive line positions to some of his players' mothers during a football clinic for women at the Bryan High School cafeteria, Saturday morning.

SWC teams have no defense against Aggies

Okay, so the last time Texas A&M was seen on the football field, Notre Dame was mugging them 28-3 in the Cotton Bowl.

But that was last season and at this point, what happened previously does not matter.

Some pre-season talk has been about how the Aggies are going to roll through the South-west Conference and then stub their toe again on New Year's Day.

For instance, check out Sports Illustrated's football preview. They picked A&M at number 13. But not just good, old 13. That would be too easy. No, A&M's

ranking is in outline form. Nebraska is 13A while the Aggies check in at 13B. Think A&M's players consider 13B unlucky?

There will be competition for A&M this season from two places: the NCAA and the Texas Tech Red Raiders. The NCAA was supposed to hand down the eligibility rulings on the five A&M players involved in the Warren Gilbert affair before the Louisiana State. That has been pushed back to possibly next week.

The Red Raiders are the best bet to challenge A&M's supremacy in the SWC this season. While the conference schedule does not start for a month, here is a look at each team in no particular order.

Houston- Can the Cougars win with a head coach named Kim? Kim Helton took over for the embattled John Jenkins and promptly started to dismantle the run-and-shoot offense. Quarterback Jimmy Klingler and NCAA reception leader Sherman Smith return - but those two don't play defense.

Rice- Running back Trevor Cobb flew the Owls' coop for the

National Football League. His replacement, Yoncy Edmonds, is supposed to be bigger and faster. Quarterback Bert Emanuel returns with his fleet feet. Rice is improved and there is a possible bowl bid to be had. But it won't be of the Cotton variety.

Baylor- Just how seedy is Bears' coach Chuck Reedy? Reedy's supposed recruiting pitch was to badmouth and downgrade A&M last spring. Paybacks are hell Chuck, even though strong-armed signal caller J.J. Joe is back along with fullback Robert Strait. The Bears are like A&M two years ago. They have a lot of young, "green" talent, but still lack the impact player to push them over the hump.

Southern Methodist- The Mustangs lost 30 seniors from last year's team which prompted Mustangs' coach Tom Rossley to declare that SMU should contend for the SWC crown. Just how does that old Aerosmith song go? Dream on, or something along those lines. SMU, four years removed from the death penalty, finished last season at 5-6, an ac-

complishment that by no means should be taken lightly. Defensive end Chad Patton returns and he should push for all-conference honors. Beyond that, it should be a bleak season up on the hill.

Texas Christian- A tough team to figure out. The Horned Frogs beat Texas by a score 23-14 for the first time in 25 years at Amon Carter Stadium. But they also lost to SMU 21-9. SWC interception leader Greg Evans bolsters a defense returning eight starters, including freshman sensation, linebacker Lenoy Jones. Head coach Pat Sullivan has had two good recruiting classes but overall depth is lacking. TCU could be a spoiler and pull off an upset or two.

Texas- Stop me if this sounds familiar. The Longhorns have a great middle linebacker, Winfred Tubbs, but have a question mark at quarterback. Shea Morenz has gotten the nod, but he has looked shaky in spring and summer drills. Longhorn coach John Mackovic will find out just how good his team is in the first two games, meeting Colorado and Syracuse. They could be 0-2 early.



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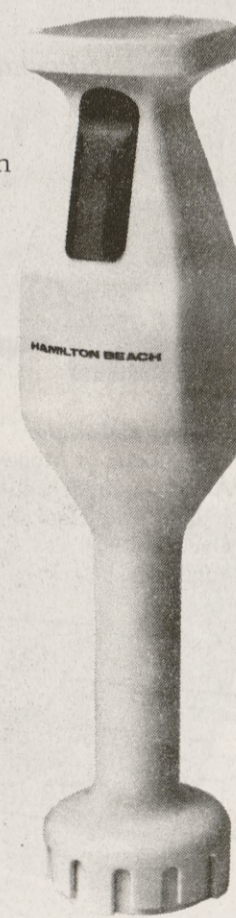


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