

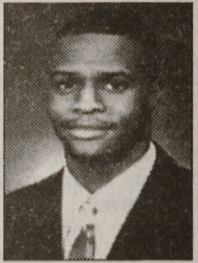
POSITION PROFILES

FRESHMAN SPOTLIGHT Greer's primary goal: help out secondary

By Drew Diener

THE BATTALION

On Saturday, freshman defensive back Donovan Greer steps on the football field for the first time as a college player when A&M meets Louisiana State in the season opener at Kyle Field.



Greer

The former prep All-American out of Alief Elsik in the Houston area possesses the tools A&M secondary coach Trent Walters said will make him a successful player on the college level.

"He's an instinctive-type player," Walters said. "That's good for a defensive back because you've got to be aware of everything happening in front of you and make quick-snap judgments and decisions."

If he continues to hone his existing skills and his confidence continues to grow, Walters said Greer is capable of making big strides early in his A&M career.

"He's made a great transition from high school to college and we've got him playing number two (behind Aaron Glenn at left corner) right now," Walters said. "I think next year he'll have an excellent chance of replacing Aaron Glenn as the starting left cornerback."

Walters also said Greer continues to become more confident in himself and his ability to help the team.

"When he first came in there were some apprehensions," he said. "He was unsure of himself at the time. But once he got into the system and got comfortable, he's been making strides and competing everyday."

That emerging confidence

Walters spoke of has helped Greer combat the obvious stress the heralded youngster has faced during his transition to the college game.

"Basically, there is a lot of pressure on me," Greer said. "The coaches have high expectations of me. They try to tell me what I did wrong so I can improve on the bad things I do."

Greer cited his teammates' support as an integral part of his adjustment and introduction to the new level of football at which he now plays.

"The players are real nice," Greer said. "If I have a question, they're eager to help me."

Adjusting to a higher level of football is not the only challenge Greer has faced since coming to College Station. Aside from dealing with typical freshman anxieties, Greer said he has had to tackle the overwhelming size of classes he has encountered.

"It's a lot different from high school, going to class with 200-300 people," Greer said. "But my professors are real nice."

Walters said Greer has the intelligence and desire to succeed both on and off the football field and is adjusting to life away from home.

"With all the football he's getting and the success he's having so far, I think that's kind of taken away from some of the homesickness," Walters said. "He came in and was able to grasp all the football terminology and our coverages and picked up really well."

"I think his goal was to come in and play early and he's going to be able to do that," Greer said he hopes to see himself starting this time next year if he continues to improve and make big plays.

Walters said he will get his chance and likes what he sees in the freshman.

"He's come in and really impressed us," said Walters. "He's like one of the boys right now."

A linebacker ready for contact

Shorter hoping to live up to big-play potential as rusher

By Nick Georgandis

THE BATTALION

Junior outside linebacker Antonio Shorter has two idols in life. On the outside, they couldn't be two more different people. But for Shorter they both instill the same desire to succeed.

"I have to idolize my mother," Shorter said. "She helped to get me where I am. As far as a football player, I have to say it would be Lawrence Taylor (of the New York Giants). His reckless abandon, the way he plays, just hit-up hard-nosed football, I want to be like that. I'm #56 for Lawrence Taylor." Shorter steps into the position vacated by stand-out Marcus Buckley who has since moved on to the NFL. Shorter, however, doesn't feel any pressure about stepping into the spotlight.

"I look at it this way," he said, "I've been waiting for my time, working hard, doing whatever I can do to help the team. Now it's my time, my opportunity. Regardless of who was here last year or who'll be here next year, now it's time to see what Antonio's going to do."

Outside linebacker coach Kirk Doll agreed and said, "Antonio's got a lot of ability. Obviously, he's been playing behind some pretty good players and hasn't got a lot of playing time. It's a matter of him getting some game experience and being comfortable with the added pressure of being out there in the Aggie defense."

Shorter said Steve Solari, the other outside linebacker, has helped him feel comfortable as he makes the change from back-up to starter.

"It's a different feeling when Steve's out there with me," he said. "It's having someone I can lean on if I have a problem out there. Closer to game time, we just go over what we do so we don't go out there and have any mental busts. We sit and go over and over our defense to make

sure we have everything together for our game plan."

"After this year, hopefully I will be in the position where I can help some of the younger guys out the same way," he said.

Shorter came out of Houston's Kashmere High School as Max Emfinger's seventh best line-

"I have to idolize my mother. She helped to get me where I am."

- Antonio Shorter

backer in the Southwest. He said he had little doubt on where he wanted to continue his studies.

"A&M is close to home and it's a great education," Shorter said. "A&M is well-known, so once you get a degree here, there's a good chance you'll have a job sooner or later. Plus, there's a great football program."

"I came here to be a wild, loose rusher," he said. "That's the way I played in high school. That is the kind of defense they have here."

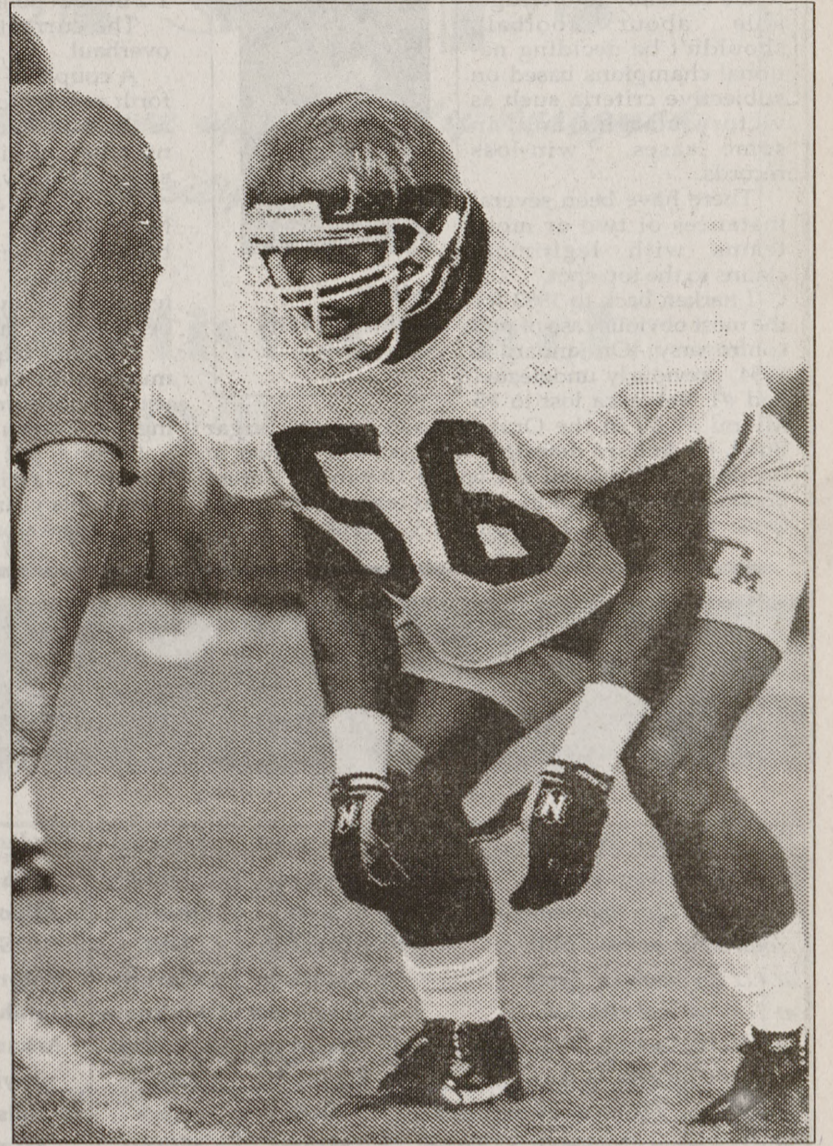
Playing behind so many talented players his first two years, a lot of fans don't know what type of player Shorter is. However, he has confidence in his playing ability.

"I am a balanced player," he said. "I can get down and play the run or I can line up outside and cover people. I would like to get at least one sack a game."

"Tacklewise, I'd like to be over the 60 or 70 tackle barrier," he said. "But, I still want to improve in both areas and bring my game up some."

Shorter said he is looking forward to his first game as a starter against LSU and is more than ready to face the challenge that LSU's offense will present.

"First of all, they're going to come out and try to run the ball," he said. "I don't think they're going to try and finesse us or pass on us. Hopefully, they won't be



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A&M junior outside linebacker Antonio Shorter wants to step up this year and fill the void created by Marcus Buckley's departure.

able to run the ball they'll look for the pass. That will open it up and give me a chance to drop inside on the pass rush."

Although LSU is first and foremost on Shorter's mind going into the weekend, somewhere down the line the dream of the NFL looms for him.

"All college players come into college planning on going to the NFL," he said. "Playing college

football was a dream for me and now this dream is coming true.

Hopefully, the NFL will be the same way."

Right now Antonio Shorter is ready to step into the tradition of being an Aggie outside linebacker.

Perhaps, senior place kicker Terry Venetoulia's sums Shorter up best.

"He's a great person and he's going to be one hell of a player."

Touted McElroy ready to live up to expectations

By David Winder

THE BATTALION

Even though he has yet to play a down in his college career, great things are expected from running back Leeland McElroy.

As a senior at Beaumont Central, he was named the Southwest Player of the Year by SuperPrep Magazine. He was also an all-state selection after rushing for 1,532 yards and 21 touchdowns.

When he committed to A&M, it was considered a recruiting coup for the Aggies. Now, he is ready to start paying dividends.

This year, McElroy will have multiple responsibilities such as sharing time with juniors Rodney Thomas and Greg Hill in the backfield, returning kickoffs and play-

ing wide receiver.

The Dallas Morning News, Houston Post and Houston Chronicle all selected the redshirt freshman as their preseason Newcomer of the Year.

"In my situation, I'm needed right now but I also have a lot I have to prove," McElroy said. "I've already been written about and my name is already pushed out there even though I haven't played a game. It's a lot I have to live up to."

"It's not a lot of added pressure it's just something I have to think about. The media attention doesn't really make me nervous and I just try not to think about it too much."

"It's good that I've brought all this attention to myself before I've

even played. Hopefully I can do best and live up to everything."

A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said he can't wait to see McElroy perform in an actual game.

"He wasn't physical when he first got here," Toledo said. "But the things he's got better than all of them is he's got a little better quickness and he's got great vision which I think makes a great back."

Running backs coach Gary Kubiak has also been impressed with McElroy's efforts so far.

"Leeland's come in here and he's worked really hard," Kubiak said. "Of course he's had a couple of great football players ahead of him but he's gone about his business and prepared for this week."

"He's going to get a chance to get in there and play and we're expecting great things out of him. I think we'll see a lot of great things from Leeland."

Last year A&M head coach R.C. Slocum approached McElroy before the Cotton Bowl and asked him about possibly giving up his redshirt due to the suspension of Hill. McElroy ended not having to play against Notre Dame but was prepared if he had to.

"I had to think about it a long time," McElroy said. "I had sat out the whole season and to get in there the last game would have been heart-breaking but I was prepared to play if called upon."

This year, however, McElroy is expected to be called upon every game, even if he will be behind

Thomas and Hill.

"I'm hoping I'll be in the rotation and not just be sitting out," McElroy said. "I can pretty much deal with playing with Greg and Rodney but I wouldn't want to sit out the whole time."

According to former A&M All-American free safety Patrick Bates, McElroy will only have to wait for a while to get his playing time.

"Leeland's just got to be patient," Bates said recently. "He's got a lot of talent but until he plays he needs to be patient."

Former A&M fullback Doug Carter was also impressed with McElroy's abilities last year.

"He's very quick and talented," Carter said a couple of weeks ago. "He'll definitely see a lot of playing time this year."

DANCE

Beginning Country & Western

Wed. Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13 6pm
Wed. Sept 15, 22, 29, Oct 6, 13 7:30pm

Advanced Country & Western

Wed. Oct 20, 25, Nov 3, 10, 17 6pm

Jitterbug

Thurs. Sept 23, 30, Oct 7, 14, 21 6pm
Wed. Oct 20, 25, Nov 3, 10, 17 7:30pm

Ballroom Dance

Tues. Sept 28, Oct 5, 12, 19, 26 6pm

Registration Begins Sept 6th
in the University PLUS Craft Center
MSC Basement Level

AEROBICS

Beginning Aerobics

*M/W Sept 6 - Dec 1
5:30-6:30pm \$30/student

*T/Th Sept 7 - Dec 2
5:30-6:30pm \$30/student

*T/Th Sept 7 - Dec 2
6:45-7:45pm \$30/student

Registration Begins Aug 30th
in the University PLUS Craft Center
MSC Basement Level

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Look for a complete listing of Fall '93 classes in the blue boxes on campus.

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