

# SPORTS

Thursday, September 9, 1993

THE BATTALION

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## An Eagle's eye view of Smith versus Dallas

Watching the Dallas Cowboys and Washington Redskins on Monday night confirmed suspicions that I've had since day one of the Emmitt Smith hold-out.



**MATTHEW J. RUSH**  
Sportswriter

Let's face it Cowboy fans, without Emmitt, the thought of back-to-back championships stops at "re" in repeat. One can't fathom "the Boys" getting back to the Super Bowl, or even making the playoffs unless number 22 is in the backfield.

Derrick Lassic is indeed impressive, and he put together a very nice game on Monday. Unfortunately, I've seen Emmitt run, and Derrick Lassic, you are no Emmitt Smith.

Wide receiver Michael Irvin and tight end Jay Novacek are two imposing pass receiving threats, but unless the Cowboys can establish a running game, the passing game will not fully open up and the offense will be a far cry from where it was last year.

In a sense, I am smiling that Emmitt is not on the field (I guess, in part, because I am a Philadelphia Eagles fan).

On the other hand, Emmitt needs to return to the Cowboys to make it an enjoyable season for ALL football fans. The sad fact is that the once dominant NFC East is slowly falling in stature. Not because the division that has captured three straight Super Bowl Championships is any less competitive, but with big name losses from nearly all five teams, the Smith hold-

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## Thomas rushes with respect

By David Winder

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M running back Rodney Thomas has what might be called a Dr. Jeckyl and Mr. Hyde type of personality.

Off the field, he's been known to help the A&M equipment crew and shake the opposing player's hands after every game. Thomas even goes as far to thank reporters for their time after they are finished interviewing him.

But he's got as many moves on the field as he does manners off.

Offensive coordinator Bob Toledo once called him a "violent runner" when he is between the goal posts. Usually, Thomas is the one initiating the contact and not the defense. He's not the type of back to step out of bounds to avoid a tackle.

"You have to turn one switch on and the other one off," Thomas said. "Football is a very intense game, a very tough game. Your personality has to change because it takes a lot of intensity and mental preparation."

He said much of his off the field demeanor comes from the way he was brought up.

"It's just the way I was raised," Thomas said. "I had good people raising me and was always surrounded by good people."

Toledo has always been impressed with Thomas' temperament.

"His character, his attitude, he's humble, he's a very gracious person," Toledo said. "He's an extremely hard worker. He always plays hard but he's still a nice guy."

"He's the kind of guy you would want for your daughter to marry. He's just a great human being that happen to play football."

He is also proved once again that he is a great football player. Against Louisiana State last week, he rolled up a career high 201 yards which included an 80 yard touchdown run.

His performance made him the



Darrin Hill/The BATTALION

Texas A&M running back **Rodney Thomas** (20) congratulates Louisiana State free safety **Ryan Huffman** (15) after A&M beat LSU 24-0. Thomas gained a career-best 201 yards and is the NCAA Division I's leading rusher.

top rusher in the NCAA Division I and put his name in the Heisman trophy race.

"Rodney gets stronger as the game goes on," Toledo said. "I was really happy to see him do what he did. He's not a back-up in our opinion, he's a starter."

Even after his performance against LSU, Thomas still does not feel he is the feature back.

"I never thought as myself as a premiere back," Thomas said. "I always thought of myself as complet-

ing a role."

Exemplifying his team first attitude, Thomas does not consider his performance or touchdown the high point of the 24-0 win last Saturday at Kyle Field.

"I don't think there were any plays that were really highlights," Thomas said. "But I know one of the highlights that I'm going to remember is the way that we stuck together as a team. The way we came together, kept after it and worked things out as a team."

## A&M awaits NCAA word on suspensions

By William Harrison

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Vice President for Finance and Administration Robert Smith said Wednesday that the A&M football program can only wait on the NCAA's decision regarding the status of five suspended players: Greg Hill, James Brooks, Billy Mitchell, Brian Mitchell and Jessie Cox.

Smith confirmed that he, A&M interim Presi-

dent E. Dean Gage and A&M System Chancellor William Mobley met with NCAA officials in Overland Park, Kansas Tuesday to discuss facilitating the decision.

"We expect to receive a communication from them regarding our earlier request for agreement on the institution-imposed penalties," Smith said.

"We're seeking from them a decision: you either agree with our

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## OU's Beavers hopes to bust out against A&M

By Julie Chelkowski

THE BATTALION

Norman, Oklahoma may not be the most appealing vacation spot. The land is flat, the air is dry. In fact, there is not much to do and not much to see.

Except for one sight in Memorial Stadium that cannot be missed.

Oklahoma outside linebacker Aubrey Beavers is one Norman attraction that many football teams would rather avoid. "The Beav" is not easily forgotten, especially by those who run in his direction.

This Saturday, the Aggies will test the defensive strength of the Sooners, and Beavers said he is ready.

"I've been waiting on this game for a while," he said. "They're a great team. But they need to watch out because I'm coming in and they're coming to 'oner' d."

Texas A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said he is very much aware of Beavers' playing abilities and potential on the field. Beavers had considered coming to A&M, but opted for Oklahoma in an effort to leave the Southwest Conference.

"He can run like a deer and he's big," Slocum said. "I don't know what you do about it. If you run away from him, he tracks you down, and if you run at him then he wrecks things."

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