

Freshman Spotlight Lineman Ruhman making big impression

By Nick Georgandis

THE BATTALION

Making the big switch from high school to college athletics is enough to make most athletes' heads spin, but freshman offensive lineman Chris Ruhman already knows what he wants and how he will attain it.

"I want to be an All-American, All-SWC, all that good stuff," Ruhman said. "Basically by my senior year, I would like to be in contention for most of the major awards for offensive linemen."

"To do that, I've got to be in the weight room and doing what I need to do on the field."

Ruhman's talents are easy to see. The consensus high school All-American from Nimitz High School in Houston stands tall and wide at 6 foot 6 inches and 285 pounds. He was rated the number four offensive lineman in the nation last year by Superprep magazine but had no doubts about where he would continue his gridiron career.

"I wanted to stay in Texas. There's as good a program here as anywhere else in the country. Plus, a Texas A&M degree is pretty highly touted."

Ruhman said he knows he can't do it all by himself, however. He credits his teammates - especially fellow lineman Jason Mathews - and coaches with helping make the transition easier.

"Jason Mathews has been



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

True freshman offensive tackle Chris Ruhman (76) is preparing to take his best shot during a pass blocking drill. Ruhman made collegiate debut against Louisiana State on September 4.

helping me out. I can ask him all the questions and he helps me with any problems I have," said Ruhman.

Offensive line coach Mike Sherman praises Ruhman's play-

ing style but concedes that

Ruhman has and will continue to make first-year mistakes.

Commenting on Ruhman's debut against LSU two weeks ago, Sherman said Ruhman has

the right attitude for working on the offensive line.

"He lived up to a freshman's expectations. He made some mistakes, but they were aggressive mistakes and we can handle that," Sherman said.

"As long as he is aggressive and is trying the best he can, those mistakes will work themselves out."

Although he did not see action in the loss to Oklahoma, Ruhman said he noticed a definite change in the team's attitude as practice resumed this week.

"We're a lot more keyed up about what we have to do. It's a lot more intense now," Ruhman said.

Ruhman said his ultimate aspirations is a chance to play in the NFL and someday be in the position of his football idol, former Bengal All-Pro offensive lineman Anthony Munoz.

"Anthony Munoz is the master of the tackle position. He's got the strength and the brains and he knows what he has to do."

The challenges are many for Ruhman but much like blitzing linebackers, he's ready to meet them head on.

"A lot of the pressure has been put on me now," Ruhman said.

"I'm the one who has to get up and go to class; I'm the one who has to crack down and study; I'm the one out working on the field."

"I'm my own motivator now. That's the way it is and that's the way I want it."

Adams

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This season Adams has five tackles behind the line of scrimmage and has become a top contender for the Outland and Lombardi Awards.

"I'm happy with my performance so far this year," said Adams, whose goal for the year is to get 20 sacks. "I know I can do a lot better though. I'd like to get in better shape and be able to come off the ball quicker."

Johnson is still amazed at some of the plays that Adams makes.

"He had a sack against LSU that slowed down one of their drives," Johnson said. "The play that I remember, though, was the interception he had against SMU (in 1992)."

"He had the ability to jump up and knock down a pass, control it with one hand and started to run with it. He looked like a basketball player on that play because of his great athletic ability."

Because of an anxiety disorder that Adams said does not affect him any longer, he missed a lot of practices before his sophomore season. "Sam ended up missing a lot two-a-days,"

Johnson said. "He did not play much football between his freshman and sophomore years."

"When Sam was a freshman, the hardest thing for him was becoming a sophomore. But the thing about Sam he has always had positive growth."

Adams is also expecting more positive outings from the defense.

"We're a tight-knit group, we all have a love for each other," Adams said. "We have a certain camaraderie with each other."

"You have to trust and believe in every other player out there because you are not just playing for yourself. To be successful you have to have that trust and we do."

Dausin

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improvement in his level of intensity.

"I just need to go out there and play my heart out," he said. "(I need to) come in the locker room and look myself in the mirror and say 'Did I leave everything on the field?'"

(If I can) say 'yes' then I have

no problems."

Dausin said his intensity can lead to frustration when situations make a turn for the worse - like last weekend at Oklahoma. But Dausin said he tries to turn that frustration into something positive and encouraging for his teammates.

"I don't really try to get down on the guys," Dausin said. "(For example) I'm a senior and Corey's just a sophomore, so when he kept on throwing inter-

ceptions I went over there and said, 'Hey Corey, come on, we need you. Don't get down on us now.'"

"I try to use those type of situations to pick up people and not try to be down on them."

Dausin is the third member of his family to play football for A&M. His oldest brother, Bryan, received All-SWC honors when he played in the late 1970s and early '80s.

Randy, his middle brother, re-

ceived All-SWC honors and the 1985 Aggie Heart Award, which is given each year by the team to the senior player who exemplifies leadership and determination on the field.

Dausin said he wants to follow in his brothers' footsteps and make his own mark, as well.

"Of course I want to achieve the goals that my brother's achieved - that's a big goal in my life and my career, but (I want to) go beyond that."

THE BATTALION WRITERS	PLUMER	HARRISON	CHEKOWSKI	RUSH	WINDER	CLAY	DIENER	GEORGANDIS	CORRINGTON	WHITLEY	ORTIZ	CONSENSUS COMMENTS
Missouri @ #16 Texas A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M - Pulling forced to produce
#6 Syracuse @ Texas	Syracuse	Texas	Syracuse	Syracuse	Texas	Syracuse	Syracuse	Syracuse	Syracuse	Syracuse	Syracuse	Syracuse - Ride the Graves Train
Texas Tech @ Georgia	Tech	Georgia	Tech	Tech	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Tech	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia	Georgia - How about that Tech defense
Baylor @ Utah State	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor - Tough little schedule there. Bears
Sam Houston State @ Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice - Emanuel will de-claw Bearhous
#5 Tennessee @ #9 Florida	Tennessee	Tennessee	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Tennessee	Tennessee	Florida	Tennessee	Tennessee	Florida - Haven't lost at home in years
#7 Colorado @ #20 Stanford	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado	Colorado - Buffs stampede Cardinal
By League game of week - Brown @ Yale	Brown	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale	Yale - Emeritus Whocaresam
#8 Nebraska @ UCLA	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	UCLA	Nebraska	UCLA	Nebraska - Cornshakers rolling offensively
#14 Penn State @ Iowa	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St.	Iowa	Penn St.	Penn St.	Penn St - Iowa falls down, can't get up
Houston Oilers @ San Diego	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Chargers	Chargers	Oilers	Oilers	Chargers	Chargers	Oilers - Marshall short-circuit Chargers
Dallas Cowboys @ Phoenix	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cardinals	Cowboys	Cardinals	Cowboys	Cowboys - Who plays? Emmitt or Listic?
RECORD FOR PREVIOUS WEEK	4-8	7-5	7-5	6-6	5-7	5-7	6-6	8-4	6-6	7-5	7-5	68-64 (515) Tech - off week
CUMULATIVE RECORD	10-14 (417)	17-7 (708)	16-8 (667)	14-10 (583)	11-13 (458)	14-10 (583)	12-12 (500)	17-7 (708)	14-10 (583)	17-7 (708)	7-5 (583)	149-103 (591) Respectable

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