

Past becoming distant dream for Graham

No matter where Texas A&M junior inside linebacker Reggie Graham goes, expectations from the past are constantly walking along with him.



MICHAEL PLUMER
Sports Editor

Last season, he took over for former A&M superstar Quentin Coryatt and struggled at times with footwork and technique. Then, he got hurt against Southern Methodist, which basically ended his year because he played only sporadically after that.

He was becoming the forgotten man. Expectations had passed him by the wayside. During spring practice, Graham was switched to outside linebacker, a move that he said made him unhappy.

Sophomore Jason Andrus and junior Larry Jackson were battling it out with junior Jessie Cox for the position once occupied by Graham.

"When I got to A&M, I was an outside linebacker and Coryatt helped me learn the nuances of playing the inside," Graham said. "Then I was moved, and it put pressure on me to learn the system quickly. I felt like a freshman."

But Cox was suspended by the NCAA. Andrus hurt his shoulder. Both will miss the entire 1993 season.

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A&M and Baylor gear up for Brazos battle

By Julie Chelkowski

THE BATTALION

Once again, the Texas A&M defense, ranked fourth in the nation, will be the center of attention as Baylor University (4-2, 2-1) presents a new offensive challenge this Saturday at Floyd Casey Stadium in Waco.

The Bear offense has featured a strong ground attack this season, rushing for an average of 266 yards and passing 155.5 yards per game. Baylor's meeting against Southern Methodist University last weekend epitomized their use of the run as they ran the ball 92 straight times for 482 yards.

A&M senior inside linebacker Jason Atkinson said the Aggies (4-1, 2-0) are not used to playing Baylor's ram-it-down-your-throat style of offense.

"They're kind of a smash 'em out football team," he said. "They don't run the finesse style offense that you see here in the (Southwest) Conference. In that respect, it's going to be different."

The pressure of the offensive attack will hit A&M's defensive line and linebackers the hardest. And the responsibility, Atkinson said, ultimately lies on their shoulders.

But Atkinson said he welcomes the challenge wholeheartedly.

"It's going to be a lot of fun," Atkinson said. "As a linebacker, I'd rather play a running team than a finesse team. I'd rather hit people than try to run people down."

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said the Baylor offense,

which he anticipates will run the wishbone formation at times, will test each player's abilities on the Aggie defense.

"Their style of offense really (demands) more individual responsibility," he said. "It's much harder to gang up on them than it is some offenses. Our success this year has come against teams we've been able to do a lot of blitzing against. This offense really singles out players more than other offenses."

One key to shaking up the Bear's attack, Atkinson said, is containing Baylor quarterback J.J. Joe. The Aggies were successful in intimidating Joe during A&M's 19-13 win last year, as evidenced by Joe's fumble on fourth and goal at the A&M one-yard line during the third quarter.

"He's really talented," Atkinson said, "but if he's not in his element and if he's playing a little scared about what the defense is going to do and we're keeping him unbalanced, then we'll have the advantage at that point."

While Baylor's offense has been successful over most of its opponents this year, its defense has been fighting a negative image due to a low national image.

Even though many critics regard this defense as non-threatening, senior A&M center Chris Dausin said he is not taking them lightly.

"Basically, they have a really strong front four," he said. "Our offensive line is trying to put as much pressure as we can on ourselves and not look at that (rankings) and say 'hey, they've got a bad defense.' To us

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Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A&M junior inside linebacker **Reggie Graham** (38) sacks Missouri quarterback **Jeff Handy** (11) in the Aggies' 73-0 victory over the Tigers at Kyle Field. Graham will play an important role against Baylor.

Lady Aggie soccer team ready to kick-off weekend of home games

By Drew Diener

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M soccer team puts its 8-3 record on the line this weekend as they host St. Mary's at 3:30 p.m. Friday and Hardin-Simmons at the same time on Sunday at Old Tiger Field.

Ranked ninth in the NCAA South region, A&M head coach G. Guerrieri said he hopes his team can rebound from their tough loss last weekend to Detroit

Mercy.

"We lost to a team that was inferior to us," Guerrieri said. "They were just a bunch of physical thugs."

Guerrieri said A&M's earlier success this season was due to team unity.

"I'd say a month ago we were an excellent high school team," Guerrieri said. "Now we've progressed into one of the better college teams in the country."

Guerrieri said senior captain Renee Rebee has been the strength behind the

team's togetherness.

"She's been a great role-model and a great big sister image to a lot of the freshmen who have come in," Guerrieri said. "She's been able to help them on and off the field."

Junior Anna Whitehead and freshman Jamie Cszimadia, have provided a spark on the field for the Aggies. Cszimadia has scored a goal in four consecutive matches.

"The players who have come into the

program as freshmen have really stepped-up," Guerrieri said. "They are making fast progress at becoming solid college players."

Guerrieri said the team's success is beyond what he ever dreamed.

"Anytime you come in to develop a new program, you're always saying 'it's gonna take a while,'" Guerrieri said. "Right now, people are looking at us and saying 'Holy cow! They are almost there; they've almost arrived as a power.'"

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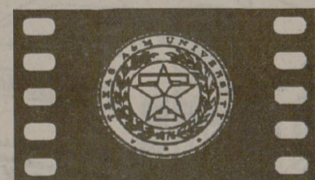
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