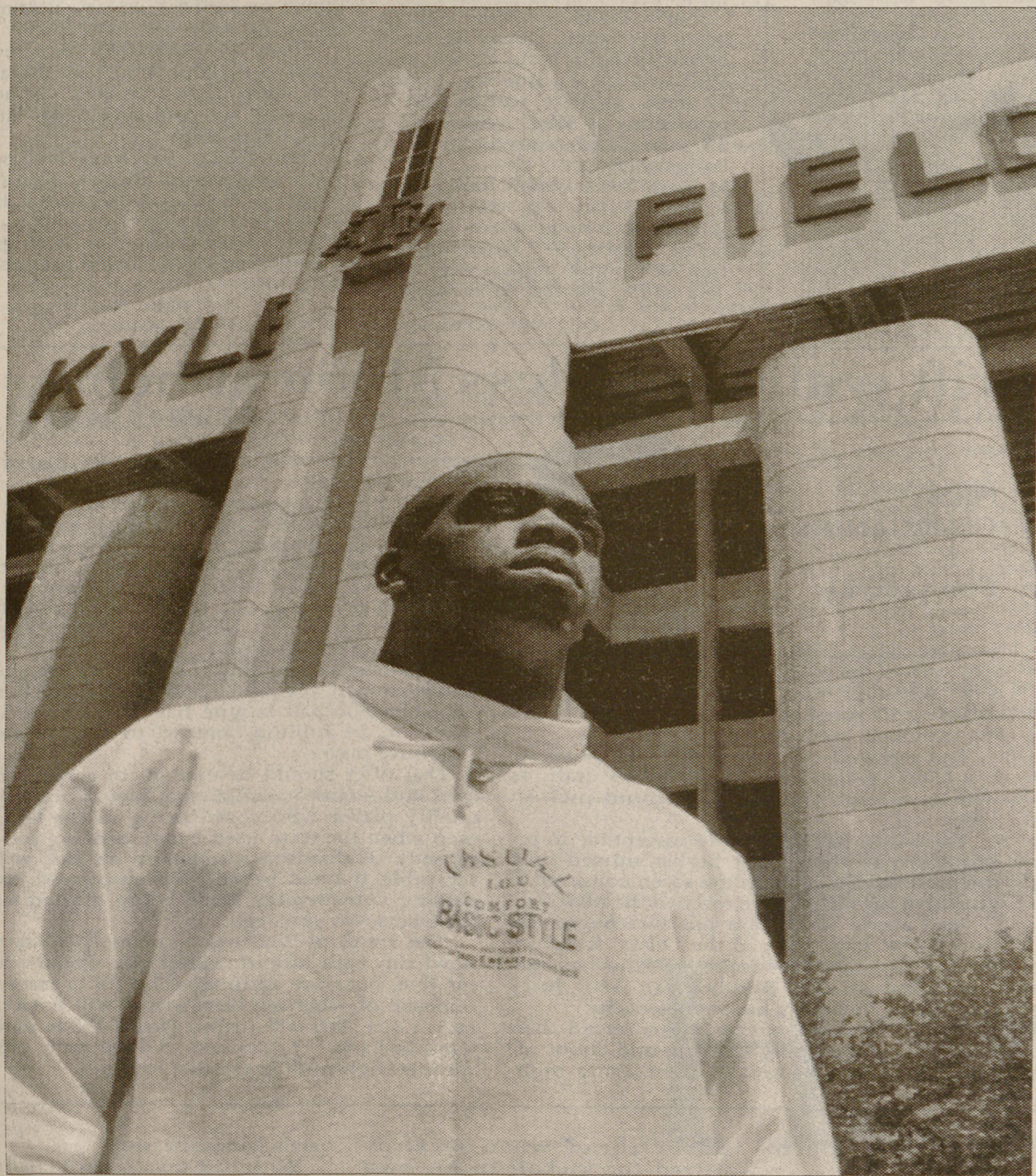


Sports

Friday, April 8, 1994

The Battalion

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Roger Hsieh/The Battalion

Leeland McElroy, tailback for the Aggie football team, stands in front of Kyle Field. The red-shirt sophomore from Beaumont led the nation in kickoff returns for the 1993 season and looks to take on a greater role for the 1994 squad as a kick off returner, tailback and slot receiver.

SUPERMAC

A&M red-shirt sophomore looks to help A&M football with versatile skills

By Nick Georgandis
The Battalion

Leeland McElroy showed up a few minutes late for the interview on Thursday. He said he had just come back from performing a quadruple bypass heart surgery on one of his patients.

He was right on time, flying his private jet back to College Station, but on his way to Kyle Field, he stopped by at G. Rollie White Coliseum to help Joe Wilbert work on his jump hook.

Just kidding. But after the season McElroy enjoyed in 1993, who is to say there is anything that he cannot do?

"Well, I don't want to say I'm the master of all trades, because there's always some particular way you can make yourself a little bit better," McElroy said.

This spring, McElroy is bettering himself by taking punts in practice in an effort to help fill the Aggies special team's void created by All-Southwest Conference punt returner Aaron Glenn's graduation.

He is also joining the rest of the offensive unit in getting acquainted with a new offensive system, courtesy of new offensive coordinator Steve Ensminger, late of the University of Georgia.

McElroy said the transition has been an easy one so far for both the coaches and the players.

"As coaches coming from other places, the system is new to them too, so we're learning together," McElroy said. "We have a growing relationship. Coach Ensminger and (running backs coach Ken) Rucker are great guys, and they believe in hard work."

Ensminger returns McElroy's respect in his analysis of the young tailback, but is quick to mention that McElroy doesn't know everything, yet.

"He's very talented, and things come to him easy," Ensminger said. "He has to improve on his pass protection and he has to improve on his routes and things like that, but he's a very talented running back."

The new offensive system, coupled with the departure of junior tailback Greg Hill to the NFL draft, is sure to give McElroy more playing time this year, along with fellow tailback Rodney Thomas.

McElroy said the his relationship with Thomas, as well as the trio's relationship last season was not what some people might expect.

"It was very different then someone might think it should be with three guys competing," McElroy said. "You'd think there would be a lot of animosity and a lot of jealousy, but we actually helped each other and pushed each other."

"We were competing with each other but there wasn't anything

See Leeland/ Page 6

A&M baseball team to face DBU squad for three home games

From staff reports

Texas A&M's baseball team will battle Dallas Baptist University in a three-game non-conference series this weekend at Olsen Field.

The Aggies have won four of their last five games, and head coach Mark Johnson said a sweep against DBU might propel the Aggies (22-16, 2-6 in the Southwest Conference) out of sixth place in the SWC.

"We are at a point where we need to reach the next level," Johnson said.

Pitcher Trey Moore, who had a 12-0 record last year, has struggled with a 3-4 record this season.

"I haven't got a problem with his (Moore's) effort," Johnson said. "But I don't think he has been quite as effective as he was last year."

"We have struggled throwing strikes."

Johnson also said the rest of the team has not had a good season.

"I don't think we have done well in the conference in hitting, fielding or pitching," Johnson said. "We have hit below our average, fielded below average and hit below our average."

No. 9 Lady Aggies to face LadyKats in weekend series

From staff reports

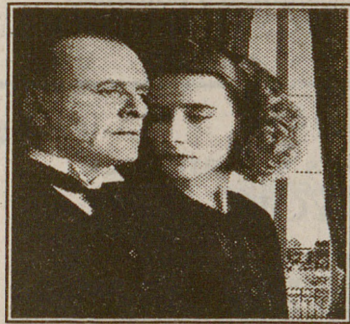
The Texas A&M softball team will face Sam Houston State University in a doubleheader today at 5 p.m. at the Lady Aggie Softball Complex.

A doubleheader scheduled against the University of Texas-San Antonio on Tuesday in San Antonio was rained out.

The Lady Aggies are ranked ninth in the nation and have a record of 38-16. The LadyKats are 12-28 for the season.

A&M took two games from the LadyKats on March 2 in a doubleheader in Huntsville.

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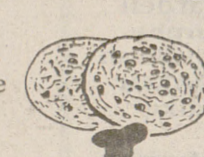
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