Tras A&M Football

Twob Chart

Strong Safety 40 MICHAEL HENDRICKS

36 Steve Kenney Insidelintinebacker

38 Reggie Walker II

Outside Linebacker ARMSTRONG 46 Reggie Brown 43 Warrick Holdman

X erback Defensive End Left Cornerback 96 Brant 37 LARRY JACKSON 22 Billy Mitchell 98 David 45 Brad Crowley

> X **Right Tackle** 67 Hunter Goodwin 76 Chris Ruhman

0 0 Left Guard ight Guard 78 James Brown John Richard

GROCE

88 James McKeehan 73 Todd Math Robert Dankfels 85 Hayward Clay

> Flanker 18 BRIAN MITCHELL 17 Gene Lowery

Tight End

27 Donovan Greer

0

0



n, Todd



DEFENSIVE

The Aggies lost all starters and three reserves from the 1993 defensive line ... Senior right end Larry Jackson moves from inside linebacker where he had 60 tackles last year ... Sophomore left end Brandon Mitchell saw limited action last year in a reserve role ... Compared to Aggie great Sam Adams in terms of explosiveness ... Sophomore Eddie Jasper and red-shirt freshman Marcus Heard will both see action at noseguard ... Red-shirt freshman Brad Crowley will back up Jackson while freshman David Maxwell will play behind Mitchell ... Junior college All-American Pat Williams is also expected to play when he becomes eligible ... Freshman Steve McKinney will add depth to the line.



Jackson

LINEBACKERS

Senior outside linebacker Antonio Armstrong recorded 73 tackles and 8 1/2 sacks in 1993 ... Named defensive player of the game in 1994 Cotton Bowl after eight tackle and three sack performance ... Junior outside linebacker Reggie Brown will finally get a chance to start after seeing limited action the last two years ... Senior inside linebacker Reggie Graham finished last season with 44 tackles and four sacks ... Sophomore inside linebacker Larry Walker II saw limited action at linebacker but excelled on special teams ... Sophomore Keith Mitchell will back up Armstrong ... Sophomore Jason Andrus will play behind Graham while freshmen Trent Driver and Phillip Myers will see action behind Walker.



Armstrong

DEFENSIVE BACKS

Junior cornerback Ray Mickens tied Aggie great Aaron Glenn with 13 passes broken up in 1993 ... Thorpe Award Candidate ... Sophomore Donovan Greer and senior Billy Mitchell will both see action at the opposite corner vacated by Glenn ... Seniors Michael Hendricks and Junior White return to the safety positions ... Hendricks recorded 56 tackles with one interception last season ... White made 64 tackles and intercepted one pass in 1993 ... The Aggies led the nation in pass efficiency defense last season ... Sophomore Andre Williams will back up Mickens ... Senior Steve Kenney has fully recovered from 1992 knee injury and will play behind Hendricks ... Junior Dennis Allen will back up White.



SPECIALISTS

Sophomore Leeland McElroy returns with senior Billy Mitchell to give the Aggies the most dangerous kickoff return team in the nation ... McElroy led the nation with a 39.3 average and returned three kickoffs for touchdowns which tied an NCAA record ... He also tied a record by returning two kickoffs for touchdowns in the same game ... Mitchell had a 95-yard return against the University of Houston in 1992 ... Ray Mickens will field punts for the Aggies this season taking over for a departed Aaron Glenn ... James Bennett, Sean Terry and Bill Johnston are all in a battle for the starting punting position ... Either Kyle Bryant, Keith Waguespack or Manoli Venetoulias have the unenviable task of replacing A&M's third all-time leading scorer Terry Venetoulias.



McElroy

COACHING STAFF

The Aggies under R.C. Slocum are 28-1-1 at Kyle Field ... Offensive Coordinator Steve Ensminger still holds two passing records at LSU ... Defensive Coordinator Tommy Tuberville was on defensive staff at the University of Miami when they won three national championships ... Defensive line coach Bill Johnson was a four-year letterman at Northwestern State ... Wide receivers coach Les Koenning, Jr. was an all-state quarterback at Hamshire-Fannett High School in 1975 ... Defensive backs coach Larry Slade was the secondary coach for the University of Washington when they won the national championship in 1991 ... Outside linebackers and specialists coach Shawn Slocum was a member of the 12th Man Kickoff Squad



'Wrecking Crew' still on job

Tuberville will keep 'aggressive, attacking' Aggie defense style

By Drew Diener THE BATTALION

Despite the departure of former Texas A&M defensive coordinator Bob Davie, the swarm and attack mentality that has characterized the "Wrecking Crew" defense for the past decade will continue to exist under new coordinator Tommy Tuberville.

You can have two kinds of philosophies," Tuberville said. "You can have one where you are going to be soft and use a reading technique or one that is real aggressive, attacks, and make things happen. That's what mine is and what (A&M head) coach (R.C.) Slocum's has been for the past ten years.

Tuberville inherits a unit that returns only five starters. After starting at inside-linebacker last season, senior Larry Jackson will replace Seattle Seahawks' first round draft choice Sam Adams at right defensive end.

Jackson's move arose out of necessity, as the entire starting defensive line, including top backup Kefa Chatham, entered the world of professional foot-

Joining Jackson on the line as starters will be sophomores Eddie Jasper and Brandon Mitchell. Jasper saw limited action as a red-shirt freshman last season while dealing with nagging back problems.

Mitchell, a former high school All-American, saw action in every single game last season, including the Cotton Bowl. Red-shirt freshmen Brad Crow-

ley and Marcus Heard, along with true freshman David Maxwell will also compete for time.

At linebacker, the Aggies return only one starter, senior outside linebacker Antonio Armstrong

Armstrong solidified his status last season as another in the long line of punishing Aggie linebackers, recording 74 tackles and eight and a half sacks en-route to earning All-Southwest Conference honors.

"These guys are going to come in and do even better than what we've seen in the past at line-backer," Armstrong "We're the same team, just a few different names, that's all."

Junior Reggie Brown, who posted the fifth best time in the 40-yard dash (4.4) in the spring, has the task of replacing Steve Solari at the other outside linebacker spot.

Senior Reggie Graham and sopho-more Larry Walker will take over at the inside-linebacker positions. Competing for playing time will be sophomore Jason Andrus and freshmen Phillip Meyers and Trent Driver.

The strength of the defense, however, lies in the secondary, where three of the four starters are back this season.

"We have more returners (in the secondary than elsewhere on defense)," Tuberville said. "Plus, we have a lot of speed and depth (there)."

Seniors Michael Hendricks and Junior White return at strong and free safety respectively, where they combined for over 100 tackles last season.

Hendricks said that he understands what Tuberville expects and is ready to get on the field and execute.

"The philosophy (of Tuberville) is basically the same (Davie's)," Hendricks said. "We're still blitzing, we're still having that reckless abandon, and

we're still having a lot of fun."

Junior Ray Mickens will continue to hold down the starting job at right cornerback. Last season, Mickens estab-

a threat to opposing offenses, picking off two passes and breaking up 13.

lished himself as

"I want to make a lot of big plays this year, Mickens said. "Last year that was not my goal, last year my goal

Aggie defense has recorded 398 sacks for 2,688 yards in losses equalling

Since 1985, the

AGGIE FACTS

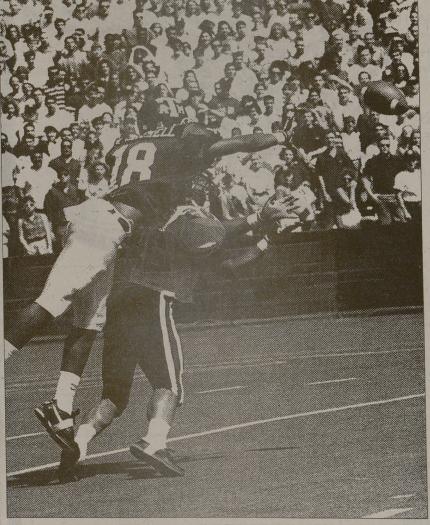
approximately 1.6 miles.

was just to have good games.' Starting at left cornerback will be senior Billy Mitchell, who replaces All-American Aaron Glenn, the first round pick of the New York Jets. Mitchell said that he is comfortable with that assign-

"The schemes are easier (this year)," Mitchell said. "Under Coach Davie, I

thought I might never catch on. Secondary coach Larry Slade, who replaced Trent Walters last spring, said this secondary compares favorably to the one he coached at the University of Washington, the team that won the 1991 national championship.

"The athletes we have here are a lot quicker," Slade said. "The common denominator is that both groups work really hard and are very talented."



Cornerback Billy Mitchell deflects a pass from a Texas Tech receiver during

last season's game in Lubbock.

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