

### What a difference a year makes in A&M-LSU game

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By David Winder  
THE BATTALION

The last time Texas A&M and Louisiana State met, Leeland McElroy was an unproven freshman, and the A&M offensive and defensive lines were considered two of the best units in the country.

What a difference a year makes. McElroy is now considered one of the most exciting players in college football while question marks abound on both Aggie lines. The offensive line returns one starter while the defense had to replace three starters and two reserves.

"It's not something where we can't do anything on offense," head coach R.C. Slocum said. "That's not the case, it's at what level we can perform."

"On the defensive line, I've got the same kind of questions. I think they'll be okay, but I just don't know. I'm anxious in a positive way to see them play, you love to get confirmation on the field."

Even with all the new players, Slocum is not treating this game different than any other.

"Each game that week is the biggest game you've ever played," Slocum said. "The so-called big one is no bigger than the one you won the week before against a team that hasn't won a game."

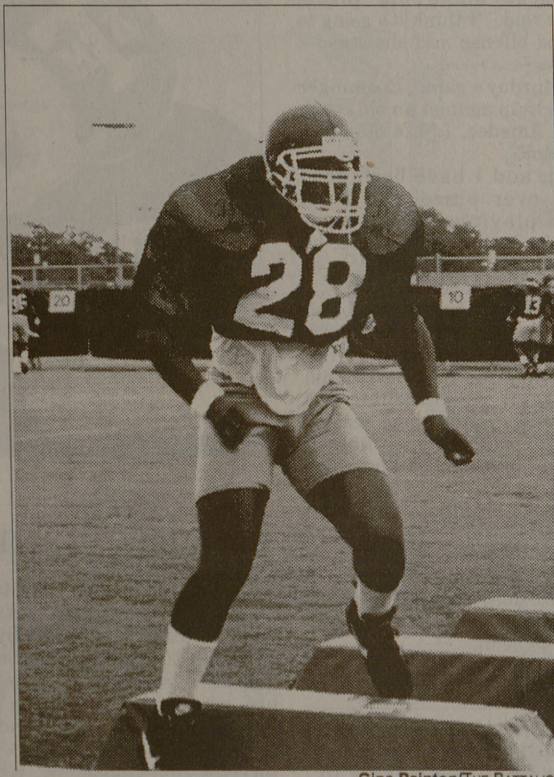
"Coaches worry about every single one. To me, this game is as big as the Cotton Bowl."

LSU will also be treating this as a bowl game as they try to determine how far their young players have come since last year's 5-6 season. The Tigers finished last season by taking four out of their last five,

See Winder/Page 6

## College game a new experience for Driver True freshman takes to field for first time

By Drew Diener  
THE BATTALION



Gina Painton/THE BATTALION

True freshman Trent Driver practices for this weekend's football game against LSU.

On Saturday, freshman linebacker Trent Driver steps on the football field for the first time as a collegian when Texas A&M meets Louisiana State in the season opener at Tiger Stadium.

Defensive coordinator Tommy Tuberville said the former prep All-American possesses the tools that will make him an impact player on the college level.

"He's got a great future in front of him," Tuberville said. "His overall speed is not outstanding, but he's a big guy with quick feet."

As a senior at Cleveland High School, Driver racked up an astounding 150 tackles, including 27 behind the line of scrimmage, en-route to earning Class 4A Defensive Player of the Year and All-American honors. In addition to putting up those hefty numbers, Driver also recorded six sacks and broke up 15 passes.

Since there is not much depth at the inside linebacker position, Driver should not have to wait long before getting the opportunity to start piling up similar numbers as an Aggie.

"When you have a blue-chip recruit like that, everyone expects him to be a great player right away," Tuberville said. "That's not going to happen. He will play and he's getting better everyday."

The degree to which Driver exerts himself in practice each day will play a big factor in the amount of time he receives in games. While holding down a re-

serve role at linebacker, Driver will have an immediate chance to contribute on special teams.

"We don't have a lot of experience (playing) in front of him," Tuberville said. "Practicing behind Reggie Graham and seeing (Graham's) work ethic will help him."

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said he is impressed with the strides Driver has made since two-a-days began in early August. "Overall, I am pleased with him," Slocum said. "Obviously he's a great talent and he's going to be an outstanding player."

On the practice field, Driver has received valuable guidance from veteran players and credits them for helping smooth his transition to the college game.

"All the linebackers (have supported me)," Driver said. "They are really nice and unselfish guys."

In addition to familiarizing himself with play books, Driver is also familiarizing himself with school books. He said that the adjustment from the high school classroom to the college classroom rivals the adjustment from the high school football field to the college football field.

"I have 275 people in my history class," Driver said. "I've got to get in there early or I'll have to stand up."

With things in the classroom put in proper perspective, the possibilities on the football field seem endless for Driver, who is expected to carry on the tradition of great linebackers at A&M.

"I see him as having a chance to be as good as the linebackers who have come through here in the past," Tuberville said. "He will start in the very near future and possibly be an All-American."

## Ensminger returns to 'Death Valley'

### Offensive coach faces alma mater after 15 years

By Nick Georgandis  
THE BATTALION

The last time Steve Ensminger ran onto the field at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, he was the starting quarterback for the 1979 Louisiana State Tigers and was in the process of winning the Percy E. Roberts Award as LSU's most valuable offensive player. When Texas A&M's offensive coordinator returns to "Death Valley" Satur-

day for the first time in 15 years, he will do so as the enemy.

"The key is to stay focused on the job at hand," Ensminger said. "That job is to win the football game. That's what I plan on doing."

In his four-year career at LSU, Ensminger was one of the most prolific signal-callers that school has ever known. He still ranks sixth in career passing yards with 2,770 and seventh in career total yards with 3,274. Ensminger holds two single-game LSU records: most touchdown passes in a game (4 vs. Rice in 1977 in a 77-0 shellacking) and longest touchdown pass from scrimmage (82 yards vs. Georgia in 1978).

Despite a career record of 30-16-1 at LSU, Ensminger said his favorite moment as a player came in a loss.

"My favorite (game) was when we played USC (in 1979), when they were ranked number one. They had Charles White at the time, and we lost 17-12 in the last minute," Ensminger said. "The stadium was packed and the tackles, who were three feet away from me, were coming back to the huddle saying 'Look, we can't hear you!'"

After graduating from LSU, Ensminger played a year in the Canadian Football League with Hamilton. He then began a coaching career that included stops at Louisiana Tech, McNeese State and Nicholls State. He came to A&M from the University of Georgia, where he served as offensive coordinator and quarterbacks coach.

It was three years ago at Georgia

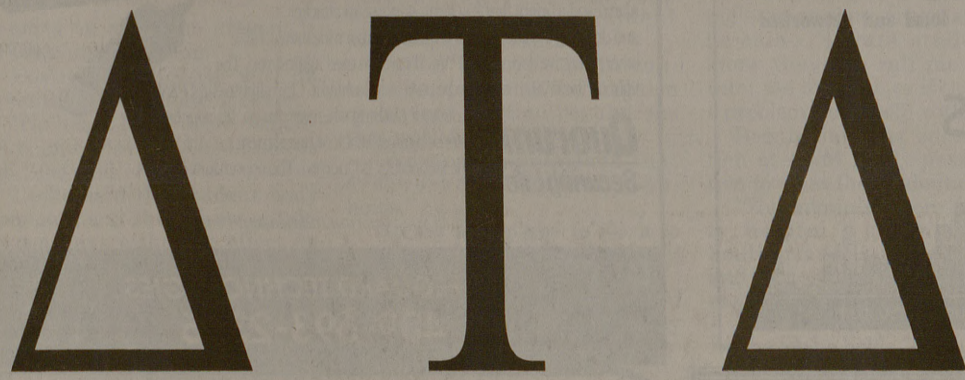
See LSU/Page 6

### This day in Aggie football...

September 2, 1989: Larry Horton returns the opening kickoff 92 yards for a touchdown to start the R. C. Slocum Era with a 28-16 upset of #7 LSU at Kyle Field before a national television audience.

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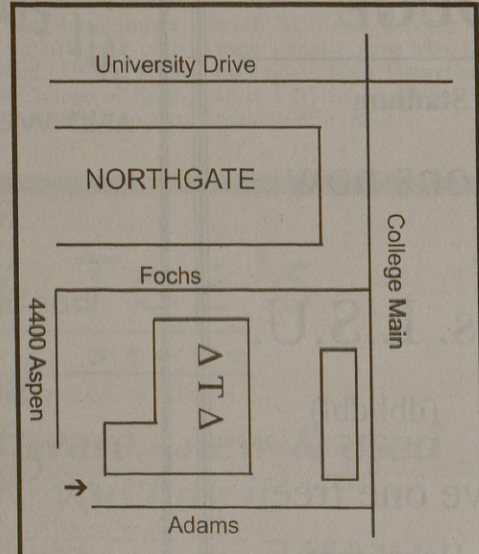
### SCHEDULE

- Fri, Sept 2 **Backyard BBQ** w/ live music by Jason Manning  
Delt House, 7 pm
- Sat, Sept 3 **Smoker\***  
Kyle Field Pressbox, 3 pm
- Mon, Sept 5 **Monday Night Football**  
Big Dogz, 500 S. Texas, 8 pm
- Tue, Sept 6 **Skeetshoot\*\***  
Arrowhead Gun Club, 1pm til dark
- Wed, Sept 7 **Date party\*\***
- Fri, Sept 9 **Bid House**  
Systems Building, 5 pm

\*Coat & Tie  
\*\*Invitation Only  
\*\*\*South on Hwy 6, 1 mile past TWS

Any Questions, call Lou 696-4105 or the Delt House at 846-7646

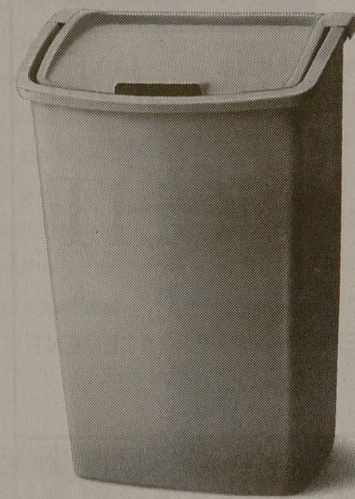
# DELTA RUSH '94



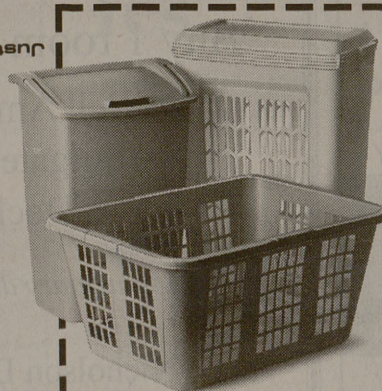
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