

Life's little lessons from Lombardi

DREW DIENER

Sportswriter



Motivation... When I woke up Monday morning, I felt like a steamroller had plowed over me in my sleep. I was hacking up crud and sneezing like it was going out of style. My head was throbbing, and I was sure I was going to die. Stumbling out of my bed, I tripped over it...

Cursing the day I was born, I picked it up and opened it. Marie Lombardi's husband "never missed a practice. Never." Wow, that sounded impressive. I read on...

"There were times that he went to bed with a high temperature and woke up with an even higher one. I'd tell the doctor, 'There's no way you're going to keep him off the practice field today,' and the doctor would say, 'I know.'"

Impressive. My brother gave me the book Sunday afternoon as a belated birthday gift. There has got to be something symbolic about getting a book about Vince Lombardi on a Sunday, the day of the week that he lived for.

I figured that I would wind up looking at it sometime soon. However, I had no idea that it would be so soon. A nice little hardback entitled "Motivation Lombardi Style" was going to help me battle through this day.

However, as I was getting into it, I looked at the clock and realized that I had better start moving and get to school. No time for Coach Lombardi. Would such neglect come back to hurt me?

After a ten o'clock tutorial with my Latin prof, I was off to African-American Literature. Midway

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Unranked Lady Ags challenge 12th ranked Lady Longhorns

By Kristina Buffin THE BATTALION

An intense rivalry and the chance to prove themselves against a top team will serve as the motivating factors when the Lady Aggies face the 12th ranked University of Texas Lady Longhorns at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Coach Laurie Corbelli said the traditional rivalry between Texas A&M and Texas is what sets this game apart from all the others this season.

"The expectations are higher," Corbelli said. "Every year the crowd is bigger for the Texas game and the fans expect strong performances and ultimately a win."

The Lady Aggies hope to use the crowd to their advantage. Junior setter Suzy Wente expects the same support from the crowd that the team received last year.

"I've never seen G. Rollie White so packed in my life," Wente said. "The support of the crowd made us play better."

The challenge for the Lady Aggies tonight is to control the play of a Texas team that is known for its athletic, strong and mobile players. In preparation, the Lady Aggies have been working on their passing and blocking skills.

"If our passing improves and we concentrate on our blocking, we will do really well," Wente said.

The Lady Aggies hope to put on a strong performance against a Texas team that they lost to in the second round of last year's NCAA Tournament.

"We have a really good chance of doing well," Wente said. "The more top ranked teams like Texas that we play and beat, will give us that extra push for a bid to the NCAA Tournament."

The team is concentrating on tonight's game as a test of their ability to compete with top teams.

"We are really confident," Wente said. "Many people could be surprised at the outcome."



Stew Milne/The Battalion

Line switch no problem for Vordenbaumen

Stewart Doreen THE BATTALION

For four years, Tim Vordenbaumen played on the defensive line waiting to assume his role in the "Wrecking Crew" defense and off the field worked towards his accounting degree. Now in his fifth year, he is assuming the role as the Aggies' starting offensive left guard and is looking over offers from accounting firms that came with his degree.

"He's already on the road for a bright future in his career," offensive line coach Joe D'Alessandris said.

Vordenbaumen, a senior from San Antonio Clark High School, was told midway through last year's spring workouts that he would be making the switch due to a void left by the four lost starters. His performance at the new position has pleased D'Alessandris.

"He has put in two solid performances this year," D'Alessandris said. "Each week, each practice and each game he is getting better."

Vordenbaumen, who backed up All-Conference defensive tackle Lance Teichleman, admits the move to offense was a big switch considering his desire to become an integral part of the A&M's famed "Wrecking Crew." The switch was made more difficult considering the complexity that comes with move.

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Lady Aggies victorious in home opener

A&M beats Lady Bears 4-1

Stewart Doreen THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's soccer team scored early and often in their 4-1 home opener Tuesday over Mercer University.

The Aggies, 3-1-1, got on the board right away when sophomore midfielder Allison Buckley took an A&M corner kick and headed the ball into the goal five minutes into the game. The Aggies would take that 1-0 lead into the half.

"Allison Buckley had a great game, starting with that goal, which was a great goal," A&M head coach G. Guerrieri said. "She's starting to be a solid organizational factor for us."

In the second half, the Aggies took their play to the next level. Thirty seconds into the second half, the scoring resumed when sophomore forward Yvette Okler headed a crossing pass from sophomore midfielder Kim Duda.

Following a goal by Mercer's junior defender Alane Crab-

tree, the Aggies took advantage of good ball movement when Okler's touch pass connected with sophomore forward Tina Robinson for a 3-1 lead over the Lady Bears.

Mercer's fortunes did not get any better as the Aggies put the final touches on their 4-1 win. Sophomore forward Kristen Koop knocked a deflected ball from Mercer goalie Amy Rudge into the goal to finish off the Lady Bears.

"I thought Mercer outplayed us in the first half," Guerrieri said. "In the second half, we had to simplify and speed up our play and play within our abilities, and take those abilities to the limits. We stressed getting the game back to our style at halftime."

The victory over Mercer, ranked 10th in the South Region was an important one for A&M. The Aggies, ranked eighth in the same poll, won a contest that could have playoff implications down the line.

"After the loss and the tie this weekend, we didn't want to feel like we were going downhill," Okler said. "This was an important game for us because they were up in our region's rankings. We want to keep going up and up to the sixth position so we can go to the playoffs."

The Aggies continue their three-game home stand on Friday when they host the Tulsa Golden Hurricane, a preseason top 20 team, at 5 p.m.

"We want to keep going up and up to the sixth position so we can go to the playoffs."

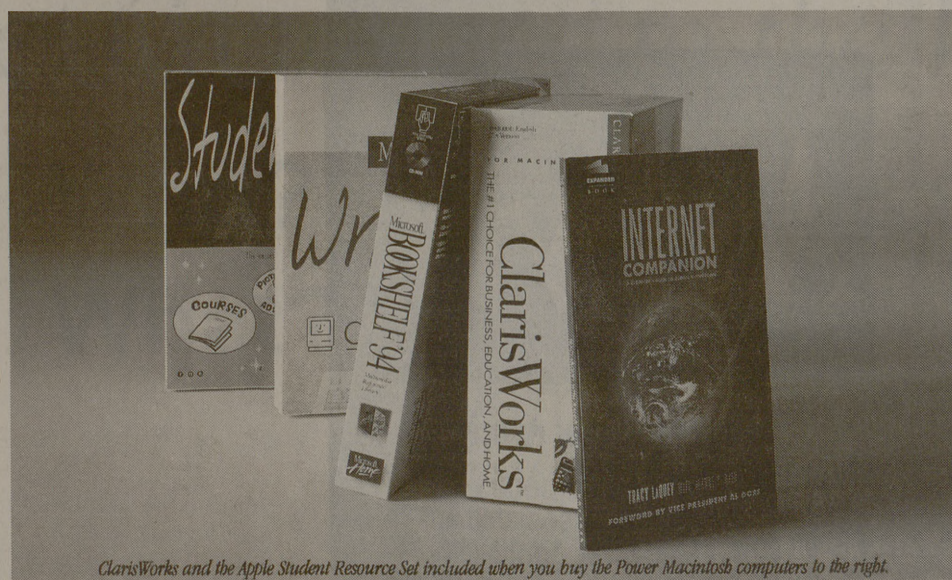
-G. Guerrieri, head coach

This date in Aggie football

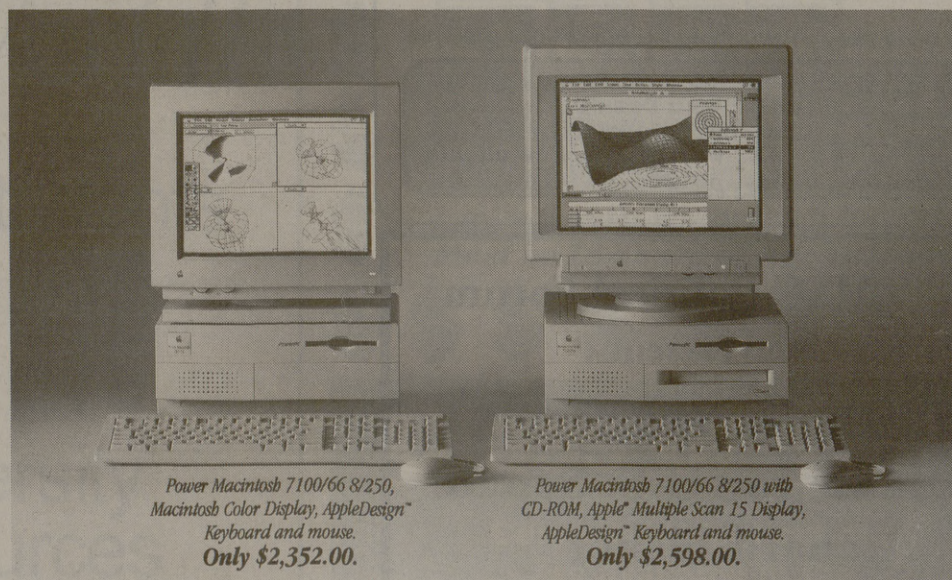
September 14, 1991: The 20th-ranked Aggies, led by 212 yards rushing by redshirt freshman Greg Hill, pummel LSU at Kyle Field, 45-7. Hill's performance set an NCAA record for a freshman in his first game.

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