

Today's pro quarterbacks can't cut it

With only a quarter of the National Football League's season completed, it has come apparent that the league is facing a talent shortage at the most important position of the field: quarterback.

JASON HOLSTEAD
Sportswriter

With the exception of Troy Aikman, the starter of the two-time Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys and a certain future member of the Hall of Fame, something is wrong with the talent level of the "new generation" signal callers.

In fact, of all the quarterbacks who have entered the league since 1987, Aikman remains the only one who has become a franchise player.

In the 1990s, scouting has evolved into an industry, a major branch of the NFL. But, when it comes to selecting quarterbacks, little has changed for the new high-tech NFL. In other words, the misses far outweigh the hits.

For every Troy Aikman, there are the Dan McGwire's and Todd Marinovich's of the world. The latter two are just a sample of the growing number of quarterbacks who were picked high in recent drafts, but have failed to produce and win football games. Check out this list of recent failed quarterbacks:

Jeff George, picked number one overall by the Indianapolis Colts, pouted his way out of town and is trying to start over in Atlanta.

Timm Rosenbach, plagued by injuries year after year for the Arizona Cardinals, abruptly quit the team before trying to re-surface in the Canadian Football League.

And probably the worst mistake made so far in the 1990's by an NFL general manager, the drafting of the University of Houston's Andre Ware as number seven overall pick in the 1990 draft. The Detroit Lions gave up on the former Heisman Trophy winner after four seasons of moving in and out of the lineup. After the 1993 season, Ware signed with the Minnesota Vikings where he is the back-up quarterback to Warren Moon.

The NFL's last two drafts may be the turning point in terms of quality quarterbacks in the league. With the additions of Drew Bledsoe and Rick Mirer in 1993 and Health Shuler (if he can survive his rookie season with the Redskins) and Trent Dilfer (if he ever starts for the Buccaneers) in 1994, the NFL outlook might be improving.

Mirer, the promising quarterback for the Seattle Seahawks, and Bledsoe, the signal-caller of the New England Patriots, had impressive rookie seasons in 1993. They finished with a combined 5,327 total yards and 27 touchdowns on two non-playoff caliber teams.

As for the other two quarterbacks, Shuler and Dilfer, they have all the talent to win in the NFL (of course, so did a lot of the other people on this list) but let's wait until they have more experience in game situations before judging their place in football history.

Because of the sudden drop-off of younger talented quarterbacks, teams like the Kansas City Chiefs and Minnesota Vikings have looked to the old guard of aging NFL signal-callers (i.e. Joe Montana and

See **Holstead**/Page 6

'94 Wrecking Crew dominates SWC

Texas A&M leads conference in four defensive categories

By **David Winder**
THE BATTALION

After losing two All-Americans, three starters and two reserves from the defensive line, and defensive coordinator Bob Davie, the 1994 Texas A&M defense quickly became the "No-Name" defense.

After four games under new defensive coordinator Tommy Tuberville however, the Aggies' Wrecking Crew defense is back, at full force.

"Right now, we're playing as well as we possibly can," Tuberville said. "We're going to continue to get better though because we haven't finished putting in all of our defensive alignments."

"We feel we're going to get better technique wise, too. Right now, we're playing as good as we can because we are playing with a lot of effort."

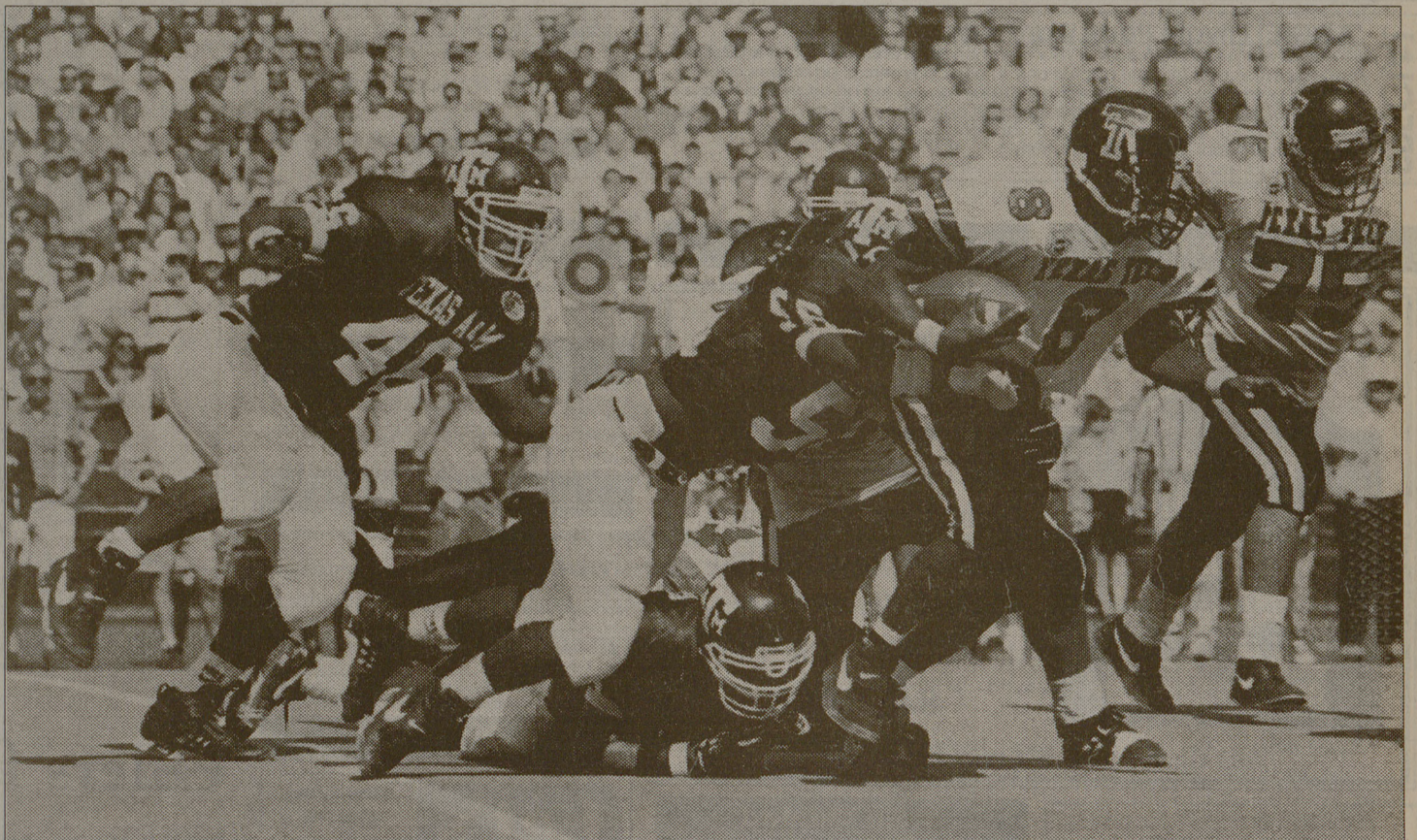
The Aggies lead the Southwest Conference in total defense (241.3 yards allowed per game), rushing defense (53.8), passing efficiency defense (a 91.7 rating) and scoring defense (15.3 points per game).

"I think the defense should be better than it is right now," linebacker Antonio Armstrong said. "We keep making little simple mistakes in certain areas."

"There's no lack of size or speed on this defense. Mental errors are the only thing holding us back from being the best defense in the country."

This year, the Aggies have yet to allow more than 100 yards rushing to an opposing team. They have also racked up 22 sacks and 42 stops behind the line of scrimmage. Cornerback Ray Mickens however, feels the defense has yet to reach its full potential.

"In the new system, there are new signals, so we're still getting adjust-



Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Linebackers Antonio Armstrong (56) and Reggie Brown (46) converge on Texas Tech's quarterback during Saturday's game at Kyle Field.

ed," Mickens said. "We've been going on Coach Davie's signals for years, it was like second nature."

"We're making errors now as far as lining up and getting the calls. Once we get all our calls together, there won't be too many busts and big plays."

Even if the alignments are not always correct, Tuberville has been pleased with the Aggies' effort so far.

"I think everybody who has played a

lot has improved in one form or another," Tuberville said. "They improved their technique, their effort, and the mental part of their game."

"They're really a bunch of unselfish guys, also. You got a guy like Larry Jackson who is playing on the defensive line now, and Reggie Graham has made a lot of improvement since he has moved inside. Michael Hendricks has also improved his tackling."

Armstrong, whose five sacks tie him with Keith Mitchell and Brandon Mitchell for the team lead, would like to bring back another defensive tradition.

"Earlier this year Keith (Mitchell) and I were talking about bringing the 'Blitz Brothers' back to A&M," Armstrong said. "We were just joking about it then, but now it looks like it is becoming reality."

Olajuwon suffers headaches after headbutt

Injury not serious but Rockets star will miss first day of NBA training camp

HOUSTON (AP) — League MVP Hakeem Olajuwon, still ailing from a collision that occurred during a pickup basketball game, may miss the first day of preseason training camp Friday.

Olajuwon received a minor injury to a sinus cavity on the left side of his face when he bumped heads with teammate Tim Breaux on Monday. He was treated and released from a local hospital.

Olajuwon missed Thursday night's media day event because he went home to rest after taking a physical.

"He went through the physicals but he wasn't feeling well," Rockets coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "He didn't get

much sleep last night. He won't be here tonight and I don't know if he'll be in Galveston for the start of workout."

The defending NBA champions begin preseason workouts Friday at Texas A&M-Galveston.

Team physicians said Olajuwon's injury was not serious, but that he would not have any contact work for seven to 10 days or until he gets medical clearance.

"As a coach, you learn to expect the unexpected," Tomjanovich said. "I get a call late at night and Hakeem has been hurt. It's one of those things we have to deal with. It won't upset what we're going to do."

The Rockets, who beat the New York Knicks in the seventh game of the championship series, will open their preseason Oct. 14 against Philadelphia in Austin's Frank Erwin Center.

The Rockets maintained their eight-man rotation during the off-season and Tomjanovich expects the Rockets to make a run at repeating.

"There will come a time when we are not the champions anymore, but there's no reason it has to be this year."

Tomjanovich said. "I know you have to be lucky and we can't stay where we were. You have to get better and already I see ways to improve."

This day in Aggie football...

Oct. 7, 1994:
In a game at Kezar Stadium in San Francisco, A&M defeats two-time Sugar Bowl Santa Clara, 7-3, when Jim Thomason catches a touchdown pass from Marion Pugh.

WEEKLY MATCH UPS	Dave Winder	Nick Georgandis	Drew Diener	Stewart Doreen	Tom Day	Mark Smith	Rob Clark	Kim McGuire	Heather Winch	Stew Milne	Commentary...	George W. Bush	Reveille VI	Belinda Blancarte
Houston vs. #10 A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	<i>What is this, some kind of joke?</i>	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M
#15 Texas vs. #16 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Texas	Oklahoma	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Oklahoma	Texas	<i>No rushing 'D' vs. No passing 'D'</i>	Texas	Oklahoma	Oklahoma
Baylor vs. SMU	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	<i>Bears ram Ponies into wall ...</i>	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor
Rice vs. Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	<i>Raiders shoot down Owls ...</i>	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech
#13 Miami vs. #3 Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Miami	Miami	Miami	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	<i>Foot Locker vs. Luther Campbell</i>	Florida St.	Florida St.	Miami
Miss. St. vs. #9 Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Miss. St.	Auburn	Miss. St.	Auburn	Miss. St.	Auburn	Auburn	<i>They castrate Tigers, don't they?</i>	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Fresno St. vs. BYU	BYU	BYU	Fresno St.	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	<i>Wacky WAC game of the week ..</i>	BYU	Fresno St.	BYU
Boston College vs. #6N. Dame	B.C.	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	Notre Dame	<i>No miracle this time ...</i>	Notre Dame	B.C.	B.C.
#7 Michigan vs. Michigan St.	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	<i>Just try to do that Hail Mary now</i>	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan
Cowboys vs. Cardinals	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	<i>Buddy needs to invent '46' offense</i>	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys
Bills vs. Dolphins	Dolphins	Bills	Dolphins	Dolphins	Dolphins	Dolphins	Bills	Dolphins	Dolphins	Dolphins	<i>Dolphins vs. Bills in Trials of Life</i>	Dolphins	Dolphins	Bills
Oilers vs. Off Week	Off Week	Oilers (Larry)	Off Week	Off Week	Oilers (Curly)	Oilers (Woe)	Off Week	Off Week	Off Week	Off Week	<i>Off Week just too strong ...</i>	Off Week	Off Week	Off Week
Last Week	10-2	7-5	8-4	9-3	8-4	9-3	9-3	9-3	10-2	9-3	88-32 (733)	Last Week's Guests: Dr. Ray Bowen 10-2, Collective Soul 8-4, Marlin Fitzwater 7-5. Total: 32-16 (.667)		
Overall	40-20 (.667)	35-25 (.583)	38-22 (.633)	44-16 (.733)	38-22 (.633)	38-22 (.633)	43-17 (.708)	40-20 (.667)	43-17 (.708)	41-19 (.683)	400-200 (.667)			

SOUTHWESTERN BLACK STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

AWARENESS WEEK

Monday, October 3 - Friday, October 7
in the Commons Lobby and the MSC

also

First Host and Hostess Meeting
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THIS WEEK

	Mon. 10/10	Tue. 10/11	Wed. 10/12	Thu. 10/13
7 - 9 p.m.	BANA 303 Part I	BANA 303 Part II	BANA 303 Part III	BANA 303 Practice Test
9-11 p.m.	MATH 152 Part I	MATH 152 Part II	MATH 152 Part III	MATH 152 Practice Test
9-11 p.m.	FINC 341 Part I	FINC 341 Part II	FINC 341 Part III	FINC 341 Part IV

TUTORS IN: ACCT 229, ACCT 230, BANA 303, MATH 151, MATH 152, FINC 341
FOR QUESTIONS, CALL: **846-TUTOR (846-8886)**