

# DiNardo wary of Aggie line, McElroy

**A&M will be DiNardo's first opponent as head coach at LSU.**

By Kristina Buffin  
THE BATTALION

In the off-season, Louisiana State University hired Gerry DiNardo to rejuvenate its football team. DiNardo promptly hired Morris Watts from Michigan State as his offensive coordinator and Carl Reese as his defensive coordinator. These changes have Texas A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum worried.

"I think it's a major factor, because you have to just guess," Slocum said. "In the opening ballgame, one of the biggest concerns is the execution of your offense and defense. You haven't had time to get oiled up, and you worry about being able to execute what you're trying to do."

LSU's primary concern is A&M's improved offensive line

and Heisman Trophy candidate Leeland McElroy.

"We are definitely concerned with Leeland," DiNardo said. "The offensive line is much better and is well-coached at A&M. Right now, the Aggies are where the rest of the country wants to be. We are concerned with the entire team. Leeland is the real deal."

A&M has had its coaching changes as well, with Phil Bennet taking the job as defensive coordinator and Mike Sherman becoming the offensive line coach. Slocum said Sherman's return has directly resulted in the offensive line's improvement.

"I don't think there's any question," Slocum said. "I'll make a bold statement right now — we're better on the offensive line. I have total confidence in Mike Sherman. I think he's a plus. He knows these kids, and he knows our system."

LSU's best shot for beating the Aggies Saturday may come with freshman running back Kevin Faulk. Faulk was highly recruited out of high school after being named to numerous All-American teams. DiNardo said Faulk will definitely be given playing time to showcase his talents.

"He has played well," DiNardo said. "But we have not made a decision yet. We are cautious to bring him out too fast, but he has intangibles that are necessary for freshmen. You never know until they get into camp."

Slocum believes that both Faulk and LSU's senior quarterback Jamie Howard will be the players that the A&M's "Wrecking Crew" defense will have to stop.

"I think he's (Howard) a good player," Slocum said. "They had

Auburn down 26-10 last year, and Jamie Howard had a lot to do with that. He can throw the ball, and he can move."

"(Kevin Faulk) was a great high school player. A lot of people thought he was the best running back in the nation last year. He was a national recruit that could have gone anywhere in the United States."

No matter how much attention A&M's run at winning the national championship is drawing this year, Slocum and his team are not looking past anyone.

"I see through all the haze, and I see them as the same team that played us an even game last year," Slocum said. "They have more of their guys back than we do. It was an even game last year, and we lost 11 guys who signed NFL contracts. If they were even with us last year with a couple of big plays making the difference, then you have to say they have the advantage going into this ballgame."



McElroy

# McClelland gains overseas experience for '95 season

**The senior played on a team of All-Stars that toured Belgium.**

By Robin Greathouse  
THE BATTALION

Belgium is not always the first place that comes to mind when people think about basketball, but for A&M center Martha McClelland it has become like a second home.

For two weeks in August, McClelland and 11 other Division I basketball players represented the U.S. in exhibition basketball games against teams in Belgium.

The all-star team included players top ranked teams such as Tulane, Western Kentucky and Marquette. McClelland said

that although the players' styles were so diverse, they were still able to be a tight group.

"We worked really well together as a team," McClelland said. "The coach did a good job of giving everyone equal playing time, and we really made it work."

The U.S. team went four and three against Belgian women's professional teams as well as some club teams.

McClelland said that the team's won-loss record was not a good indication of its overall performance.

"Even though we lost to one of the top women's teams in the world, it was only by one point," McClelland said. "It really made us feel good that we could play at the same level as the professional teams."

A&M Women's Head Basketball Coach Candi Harvey said

that the trip was positive for the school, as well as for McClelland.

"It was a real honor for our basketball program," Harvey said. "It was also a real confidence builder for Martha. It gave the girls a chance to play against some high-caliber competition."

When she was chosen for the team, McClelland said she was a little nervous.

"I had a lot of questions," said McClelland. "But the idea of playing basketball in another country was really exciting."

A&M Associate Athletic Director Lynn Hickey said that McClelland was a good choice for the team because of her professionalism both on and off the court.

"She is a great person to send out to represent Texas A&M," Hickey said. "She has really proven herself on the collegiate level. She's probably

our most physical player under the basket," Hickey said. "When she gets on a role, you just have to give her the ball, and she'll come through for you."

McClelland said that the trip gave her an opportunity to work on her overall game.

"It let me see where I was, physically, in the off season," said McClelland. "I have been working on some new moves, and this gave me a chance to try some of them out."

The Lady Aggies will begin their season by hosting the WNIT preseason tournament.

This year will mark McClelland's final season. Last year, she led A&M in shooting accuracy at 58.6 percent and averaged 6.1 rebounds a game. She was second in scoring for the team with 10.9 points a game.

## CORBELLI

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will only make us better."

The Lady Aggies lost only one senior, Jennifer Bronner, to graduation, but the loss will be significant. Bronner averaged 3.85 kills, 10.1 assists and 2.42 digs per game.

"It's a pretty big loss," A&M Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "She was our go-to player in most of our rotations. She was very difficult to stop, and we will miss that attack."

Although Bronner graduated, the freshman class may be one of the best recruiting classes that A&M has had. The crop of talent includes outside hitters Stacy Sykora from Burleson and Kim

Tipton from Arlington. Both are expected to make an immediate impact on the team.

"They are going to be able to contribute right away," Wentz said. "They are a threat to other players on the team. They want to play just as bad. This keeps practices at a higher intensity, and the starters know that if they don't play well, their spot can be taken."

With the addition of Sykora and Tipton, the Lady Aggies have been able to implement faster and more difficult offenses.

"We're going to run quicker and more complicated offenses," Wentz said. "We'll have three hitters in the back row, and it will be more

difficult for the opposing defenses."

Sykora is perhaps the most important addition to the team. She is an all-around athlete who has a 30-inch standing vertical leap that will be a welcome addition to the Lady Aggies.

"She's exciting," Corbelli said. "She's a unique type of player in her approach to the game. I think she's going to see the court a lot."

This season will be special for the three seniors on the team, All-American Suzy Wentz, Dana Santleben and Andrea Williams. Wentz and Santleben have been chosen as captains of



Corbelli

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Aggie Men's Club Selections 1995

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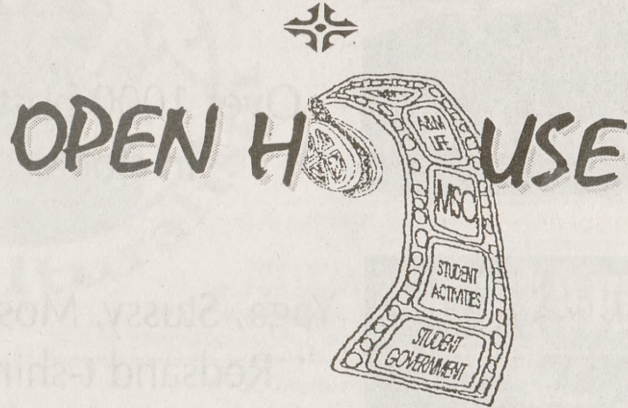
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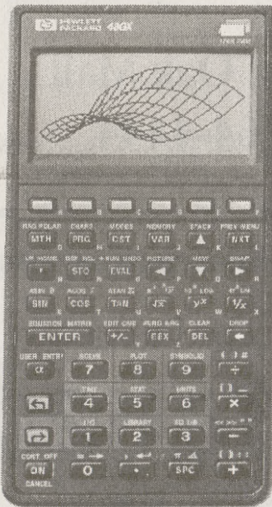
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