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Aggies!**



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WILLIAMS

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stepped in front of an errant Brian Griese pass and made a game-saving interception to secure a 22-20 win.

While the outstanding play boosted his confidence, the unassuming cornerback dismisses it as something that goes with the job.

"That's what we're expected to do back here — make plays and stop the big plays," Williams said.

In an accurate illustration of the changing fortunes of a corner-

back, Williams endured a bitter end to a trying day in Provo, Utah against BYU. It was Williams covering Cougar wide receiver K.O. Kealaluhi on the game-winning touchdown pass.

"They had been running a lot of post plays and I kept telling myself to stay inside," Williams said. "Coincidentally, that was the first streak route they ran on me all day. When I turned around to look at the ball, I started stumbling and lost my footing, which allowed him to get another step on me."

"It was a play that I wasn't expecting, but it was a play that I should have covered. I was thinking about not giving up a certain play, which in turn opened up another one."

Despite the heart-breaking play, Williams has been able to keep his perspective.

"Playing cornerback means that you're going to get beat sometimes," Williams said. "I've put it behind me, but I haven't forgotten about it. It was just one of those games where I was totally out of sync with myself, the secondary was out of sync with each other, and they exploited it."

A backup for most of his career at A&M, Williams stepped into a limited starting role last season. He finished 1995 with 26 tackles while playing in all 11 games, starting in three.

"He's backed up some great cornerbacks, and he's been positive throughout."

Larry Slade
A&M defensive backs coach

A&M Defensive Backs Coach Larry Slade said Williams' ability to maintain his confidence and remain focused on the overall goal is what makes him a unique player.

"He's a team guy," Slade said. "As you go back and look through his career, he hasn't lined up and played a lot. He's backed up some great cornerbacks, and he's been positive throughout. He has a great deal of perseverance."

Perseverance is just what the green secondary needs, but Slade believes his players will see better days soon.

"Any time you're dealing with inexperience, it makes for a tougher situation, especially in the secondary," Slade said.

"We have some talented players who are going through a baptism by fire, but we're excited about their potential."

Though the secondary took its licks in the BYU game, Williams said it has learned lessons that will help its improvement.

"Staying with your technique and staying focused is the most important thing throughout a game," Slade said. "What we're trying to do now is get back to doing what we do best — flying to the ball and just having fun out there on the field."

No pressure.

COADY

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In preparation of the attack, the Aggies have spent the last three weeks working on eliminating mental mistakes and communication breakdowns.

"We've worked a lot on our discipline and communication," Coady said. "We've made sure that every play, everyone knows their assignment, trying to get everybody on the same page."

Coady has surprised not only himself as a walk-on, but his teammates with his vast improvements.

"I just went out and worked hard every day," Coady said. "All I could do then was to wait and see what happened from there."

Senior cornerback Donovan Greer said he cannot believe Coady was not recruited by A&M in the first place.

"It's like night and day," Greer said. "He came in as a walk-on and no one paid him much attention at first. He made a lot of big plays on the scout team and he was quickly noticed. Now it surprises me that he wasn't heavily recruited out of high school."

Born into a football family,

Coady went from high school standout to collegiate walk-on starting defensive back at A&M. What is next in Cinderella career?

If Walt Disney had a say, and the rest of the Aggie secondary would overcome a season adversity for a chance at the Big 12 Conference title.

Better make sure it is at midnight.

UP CLOSE

Name: Rich Coady
Year: Sophomore
Position: Strong safety
Height: 6-feet-1-inch
Weight: 200
Born: Jan. 26, 1976
Major: Management
Hometown: Dallas
Honors: J.J. Pearce High School MVP all-district and all-metroplex

VOLLEYBALL

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"We rose to the occasion [in a loss to] Wisconsin, who is undefeated now and went from 17th to 9th (in the polls). We're not discouraged at all."

Junior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud said the team is constantly citing weaknesses and improving them.

"After (the loss to) Colorado State we reevaluated our defense," Smedsrud said. "And we picked up our defense last weekend. Each match, we have stepped it up a notch. Our defense still needs some work."

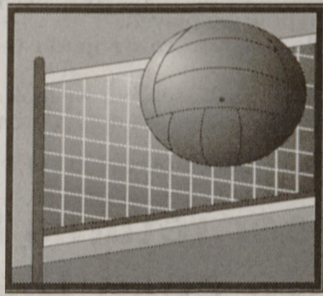
A&M is also still looking for a mainstay at the right outside position. Presently, freshman Summer Strickland, junior Jennifer Wells and junior Polak are battling for the position.

"We are trying to identify someone in that position and start using them more," Corbelli said.

"It was a key position for us last year. Summer Strickland will start in the match, then we'll see how it goes."

Corbelli said such a long tournament the Aggies need to be mentally prepared.

"We tend to sometimes react a little too much during competition," she said. "We need to maintain a high intensity level. We have to be in control of our momentum."



UP CLOSE

Name: Andre Williams
Year: Senior
Position: Cornerback
Height: 5-feet-9-inches
Weight: 178
Born: April 9, 1974
Major: Ag. Development
Hometown: Sherman
Honors: Prep All-American, earned all-district MVP honors in 1991

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Rudder Room 510

Engineering Majors Other Majors
5:00 p.m. to 6:45 p.m.

Casual attire

Casual attire

INTERVIEWS

October 30-31

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