

# Hanspard plans to run Texas Tech past the Aggies

By ROSS HEXOX  
THE BATTALION

After witnessing the numerous justifying turnovers, penalties and unfortunate circumstances that have befallen the Texas A&M Football Team this season, fans might be hoping for a little divine intervention in the Aggies' final games.

Whether or not higher powers play a role in A&M's remaining games this season, Texas Tech running back Byron Hanspard said it was God who kept him from playing for A&M.

"My junior year (in high school) I was going to come to A&M," Hanspard said. "But my senior year, the Lord directed me to Texas Tech."

Hanspard, an ordained minister and Heisman Trophy Award

candidate on the Texas Tech Football Team, chose to be a Red Raider in 1994 instead of playing for the Aggies, who rated him high on their recruiting list.

The Aggies have since acquired plenty of talent in the backfield, but Hanspard will display what A&M missed out on in 1994 when Texas Tech visits Kyle Field Saturday.

The DeSoto product frankly said he does not talk about Heisman topics in interviews. Red Raider senior linebacker Anthony Armour said Hanspard is not gunning for the award.

"Byron is the type of guy that doesn't even care about awards," Armour said. "He'd rather preach and spread the Word (of God) than win the Heisman. And a lot of the players respect him."

Although Hanspard is quiet about his own success, his statistics preach the truth about his ability. This season he is averaging 202 rushing yards a game, giving him a total of 1,413 yards. The junior is already second on Tech's all-time career rushing list with 3,548 yards. Hanspard said there is one

simple reason he has excelled.

"The Lord is the only reason for my success," Hanspard said. "And He has surrounded me with great people."

The Red Raiders have reaped the benefits of the talented running back. Their rushing offense gains 290.6 yards a game, which ranks fourth in the nation and has produced three Big 12 Conference wins — the most in the South Division. But after taking a loss to the University of Nebraska last week, Tech has left the division title up for grabs and fallen to third place with a 3-2 conference mark.

Armour said it is crucial for the Red Raiders to beat A&M to continue their quest for the Big 12 Championship game in St. Louis.

"If we want to get to the Championship (game), we need to get this win," Armour said. "This is one of the games that will determine the rest of our season."

Armour plays in a defensive unit that is 27th in the nation in yards allowed per game (308) and surrenders only 17.7 points per contest.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS TECH SPORTS INFORMATION DEPT.  
Texas Tech junior running back **Byron Hanspard** is averaging 202 rushing yards a contest. He is second on Tech's all-time list with 3,548 yards.

1996 Big 12 Conference Football Standings										
	Conference					Overall				
	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA	W	L	Pct.	PF	PA
<b>South Division</b>										
Texas	2	1	.667	138	54	3	3	.500	216	125
Oklahoma	2	1	.667	82	103	2	4	.200	151	205
Texas Tech	3	2	.600	130	89	4	3	.571	200	124
Texas A&M	1	2	.333	54	68	3	4	.429	231	151
Oklahoma St.	1	3	.250	58	164	4	3	.571	141	210
Baylor	0	3	.000	52	122	3	3	.500	128	161
<b>North Division</b>										
Colorado	3	0	1.000	79	30	5	1	.833	177	103
Nebraska	3	0	1.000	112	13	5	1	.833	232	55
Kansas State	3	1	.750	82	83	6	1	.857	210	93
Kansas	1	2	.333	76	74	3	3	.500	205	146
Iowa State	1	2	.333	93	83	2	4	.333	186	205
Missouri	0	3	.000	51	120	2	4	.333	132	188

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## Man on a Mission

Sophomore linebacker Warrick Holdman is earning reputation as a playmaker

By SARA DUESING  
THE BATTALION

He crouches down in a two-point stance, feet planted and eyes focused. He waits for the snap and concentrates on one thing — making the play. It is a goal Texas A&M outside linebacker Warrick Holdman sets every play in every game, and it is one he is accomplishing more frequently week by week.

A sophomore from Alief, Holdman has assumed a starting role this season, something that required a big adjustment for him.

"It's a big step," Holdman said. "Last year, I didn't go in until the second or third quarter. Now I have to be ready to play from beginning to end."

Standing 6 feet 1 inch tall and weighing in at 228 pounds, Holdman has proved himself as an effective force in the linebacker corps. In last week's match up against Kansas State University, Holdman recorded five unassisted tackles, bringing his total to 29 for the season, third behind sophomore Dat Nguyen and senior Keith Mitchell.

Carrying around a football since he was little, Holdman began competitive play during elementary school and finds motivation within his family to succeed in the game.

"My mother is a big inspiration," Holdman said. "She's proud when I do well, so I've always played to bring happiness to her and the rest of my family."

A quiet person, Holdman said he tries to lead his teammates by example. Playing hard, Holdman said, will help encourage his teammates to do the same.

"I go into each game relaxed and focused," Holdman said. "If you're too tight or too intense, you're going to make mistakes. I usually visualize what I know I have to do for the game."

Being a key part of the nationally famous Wrecking Crew, Holdman said the unit's talent comes from each player's drive and determination to be the one to make the play.

"The whole team is fast and I'm just a mi-

nor part," Holdman said. "I try to contribute to the overall speed and aggressiveness that is already there."

Making sure the team receives his full effort every day, Holdman said it is important that he keep his body healthy and practice smart.

"Starting on the Monday before the game, I start to learn the offense of our opponent, get my mind ready for competition and keep my body healthy," he said.

Holdman received gradual playing time last season as he competed for and finally gained the inside linebacker position, but he had to sit out because of an ankle injury. Holdman said his most memorable moment was getting to play against the University of Colorado last year on national television.

"I had a sack and a few tackles," Holdman said. "I was excited my friends at home got to see me play."

Deciding to come to A&M was not a difficult choice for Holdman, though there were a few surprises.

"I came here because of the traditions, because it's close to my home in Houston, and the history of great linebackers that went here," Holdman said. "[A&M is] bigger than I thought, and everyone is so good [at the college level]."

Holdman, however, has competed and played well against his opponents. The right attitude and physical preparation have helped him to work toward his goal of success.

"I want to be the best player I can be," Holdman said. "But I have to continually get better and always strive to improve on something. Learning every day and every week will help me get there."

**"I came here because of the traditions, because it's close to my home in Houston and the history of great linebackers here."**

Warrick Holdman  
A&M outside linebacker



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION  
Sophomore linebacker **Warrick Holdman** third on the Wrecking Crew with 29 tackles.

### Individual A&M Statistics

Rushing	G	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long
Sirr Parker	7	121	569	4.7	2	42
Eric Bernard	7	58	396	6.8	4	40
D'Andre Hardeman	7	46	289	6.3	9	74
Dante Hall	7	36	210	5.8	2	31
Albert Connell	7	2	63	31.5	1	63
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>1600</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>74</b>

  

Receiving	G	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Albert Connell	7	49	716	14.6	5	70
Donte Hawkins	7	26	312	12.0	0	27
Derrick Spiller	6	10	129	12.9	0	27
Eric Bernard	7	6	53	8.8	0	43
D'Andre Hardeman	7	6	39	6.5	1	9
Aaron Oliver	4	5	97	19.4	1	57
Sirr Parker	7	5	44	8.8	1	16
Leroy Hodge	7	4	78	19.5	0	29
Dan Cambell	7	4	44	11.0	0	15
Barry Johnson	5	3	59	19.7	0	25
Mike Williams	7	1	0	0.0	0	0
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>1571</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>70</b>

  

Passing	G	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct	Yds	TD
Brannon Stewart	7	118.97	213-114-7	53.5	1512	8
Brand McCown	3	86.28	10-5-1	50.0	67	0
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>116.98</b>	<b>224-134-8</b>	<b>53.1</b>	<b>1579</b>	<b>8</b>

  

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Rich Coady	3	93	31.0	0	64
Dat Nguyen	2	38	19.0	1	36
Donovan Greer	1	27	27.0	0	27
Andre Williams	1	0	0.0	0	0
Shun Horn	1	26	26.0	0	26
<b>Team Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>23.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>

  

Defensive Leaders	Tackles			Sacks	
	UT	AT	Total	For Loss	No-Yards
Dat Nguyen	55	32	87	7-20	1.5-12
Warrick Holdman	29	20	49	4-9	1.5-5
Keith Mitchell	32	17	49	15-86	9.0-71
Edward Jasper	21	14	35	8-36	2.0-20
Shun Horn	24	10	34	1-2	0-0
Donovan Greer	25	7	32	2-10	1.0-8
Pat Williams	16	12	28	5-12	1.0-3
Rich Coady	18	10	28	2-3	0.5-1
Philip Meyers	16	10	26	3-6	1.0-3
Bran. Mitchell	15	11	26	6-26	4.0-19

**Undergraduate Student Requirements:**

You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of **95 credit hours** reflected on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, **cannot** count as additional credit hours.)

30 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that prior to January 1, 1994, you were registered at Texas A&M University and successfully completed a fall/spring semester or summer term (I and II or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (as defined in the University catalog).

60 credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University if your first semester at Texas A&M University was January 1994 or thereafter, or if you do not qualify under the successful semester requirement. Should your degree be conferred with less than 60 resident credits, this requirement will be waived after your degree is posted on the Student Information Management System.

You must have a **2.0 cumulative GPR** at Texas A&M University.

You must be in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

**Graduate Student Requirements**

You are a December 1996 degree candidate and you do not have an Aggie ring from a prior degree, you may place an order after you meet the following requirements:

Your degree is conferred and posted on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System; and

You are in good standing with the University, including no registration or transcript blocks for past due fees, loans, parking tickets, returned checks, etc.

If you have completed all of your degree requirements and can obtain a "Letter of Completion" from the Office of Graduate Studies, the original letter of completion, with the seal, may be presented to the Ring Office in lieu of your degree being posted.

**Procedure To Order A Ring:**

If you meet all of the above requirements, you must visit the Ring Office **no later than Thursday, October 24, 1996**, to complete the application for eligibility verification.

If your application is approved and you wish to receive your ring on December 10, 1996, you must return and pay in full by cash, check, money order, or your personal Visa or Mastercard (with your name imprinted) **no later than October 25, 1996.**

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