

RETURN TO GLORY

Senior Crowley does not want to let A&M football decline on his watch



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

Senior defensive end Brad Crowley sacks Sam Houston quarterback Chad Shramek during A&M's 59-6 victory over the Bearkats.

By JAMIE BURCH
Staff writer

In the fall of 1993, the Texas A&M Football Team was coming off three consecutive Cotton Bowl appearances. The Aggies were also in the midst of a 26-game Southwest Conference winning streak, and Brad Crowley was a freshman.

But since that prosperous year, the Aggies' fortunes have taken a turn for the worse. Probation kept the Aggies from a bowl appearance in 1994, even though they had the best record in the SWC. In 1995, the Aggies finished with a 9-3 record. Last year, A&M fell to a miserable 6-6 record, including a 51-15 drenching by the Longhorns.

But if Crowley has anything to say about it, A&M will reverse their fortunes this season.

"A lot of the older guys were real good friends of mine," Crowley said. "I'm partially getting the blame for last year. I don't want it being on my conscious leaving here with the program in shambles. I want to do my best to make A&M a better team."

And that is what Crowley has done since day one. As a freshman, he made the transition from a line-backer to the defensive line. By doing so, Crowley played behind current NFL prospects Sam Adams, Eric England, and Brandon Mitchell during his last three years.

Defensive line coach Bill Johnson said under his former teammates tutelage, Crowley has developed into an excellent defensive lineman.

"He's done a great job of transcending from a line-backer to defensive lineman," Johnson said. "But that's not uncommon. We had a kid here named Larry Jackson that did it prior to Brad."

"He's starting now, and even though he hasn't always done that, he's given us a lot of quality downs over the last three years. He's just developed and his time has come to lead the charge."

Starting at defensive end this season, Crowley has amassed eight tackles, including two for a loss and one sack. But even this quality start has not satisfied Crowley.

"I had some high expectations for myself and I haven't reached them yet," Crowley said with an obvious hint of disappointment in his bellowing voice. "I hadn't been making a lot of the big plays I thought I would be making."

"You lay in bed at night before two-a-days just thinking, 'oh, I'm going to wreckshop this year.' And it just hasn't happened."

But regardless of how Crowley feels about his own performance, the bottom line is wins and losses. And the Aggies have posted back-to-back wins with a wide margin of victory to start the season.

Crowley said the 2-0 start is a good feeling.

"Since I started playing football through junior high and high school, I played in a real good program and we won a lot of games," Crowley said. "I'm used to winning. Last year really hurt me. It's the first time I really ever experienced losing that bad."

"It makes you appreciate a win now."

Those early wins are hopeful signs of what is to come, a foreshadowing of a return to 1993. And if the team listens to the wisdom of the Aggie veteran, the team should be able to learn from its previous mistakes.

PLEASE SEE CROWLEY ON PAGE 10.

Women Golfers set to battle top-ranked field

By JASON WHITCOMB
Staff writer

The No. 12-ranked Texas A&M women's golf team will enter the Dick McGuire Invitational this weekend as one of the favorites.

The Aggies are the second-highest ranked team in the 18-team field that features No. 9-ranked UCLA, No. 14 New Mexico, No. 18 TCU, No. 20 Texas and No. 25 Oklahoma State.

"This tournament has a strong field," Coach Jeanne Sutherland said in a press release. "And with six other Big 12 teams competing, it will give us a good early look at our conference competition going into the Big 12 Preview (October 6-7)."

A&M is coming off a successful trip to the Rolex Fall Preview two weeks ago, where they finished eighth against a field that included 15 teams ranked in the preseason top 25. The Ags will be looking at this tournament to improve on any inconsistencies in their game.

"Realistically, we have shot at finishing in the top three," Sutherland said. "We're going there to win but we also want to work on certain things, especially our course management skills. It's a good course for us to play because it makes you think about all aspects of your game."

The Aggies will be led by one of the hottest players in country, Senior Isabelle Rosberg, who is the highest rated individual player in the tournament. She moved into eighth place in the individual rankings after finishing tied for sixth at the Fall Preview. Rosberg, along with senior Jamie Hullet, was also recently named to the third-team Preseason All-American Team.

Seasoned veterans Rosberg and Hullet will lead A&M's lineup which also consists of senior Aurora Kirchner, sophomore Anna Becker and freshman Mimi Epps. Freshman Amanda Rayford will also be competing in the tournament as an individual.

"I think our team realizes that it can play as well as anyone," Sutherland said. "We just have to have to be more consistent and be ready to play every day. Our older players are not intimidated by anybody and if our younger ones can gain that mindset, we'll be ready."

Volleyball drop five set heartbreaker to Texas

The twelfth-ranked Texas A&M Volleyball Team lost to the tenth-ranked University of Texas in five sets Wednesday night at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin.

Texas rallied to win the last two sets and won the match 7-15, 16-14, 8-15, 15-12, 15-12.

The loss breaks A&M's seven game winning streak. The Aggies fall to 7-3 (0-1) on the season. The Longhorns improve to 6-3 (1-0).

Aggies hit the road to take on upset minded UNT



CHRIS FERRELL
Sports editor

coming off of a huge upset win over Texas Tech and are looking to play the role of spoiler once again.

Hit the road Jack

With a majority of A&M's roster composed of freshmen and sophomores, the team does not have a lot of experience traveling to large stadiums. This week A&M will play at Texas Stadium outside of Dallas. Coach R.C. Slocum wants to make sure his team is not in awe of the building which is said to have a hole in the roof so that God can watch the Cowboys play.

He said that on Friday the Aggies will go check the stadium out so that the players can get the "gollies" out of their

systems, something he rarely does.

"We're going on the road for the first time and that will add something to it," Slocum said. "This team is young and really hasn't traveled much."

One player who has been on the field before is junior quarterback Brannndon Stewart whose Stephenville High School team was involved in a playoff game at Texas Stadium his freshman year.

Look whose No. 1

Sure the Aggies haven't been playing the toughest competition around, but they are among the NCAA's Top 10 in nine different statistical categories.

The Wrecking Crew is once again es-

tablishing itself as one of the nation's top defensive unit. The Aggie D leads the country in scoring defense and is ranked No. 6 overall.

While the defensive success is not much of a surprise, the Aggie offense has been. Used more as a punch-line to jokes than in conversations about college football's most potent scoring threats in the past, the Aggie offense enters the week as the fourth ranked unit in the nation. A&M is also No. 1 in the country in scoring offense, averaging 62.5 points per game.

The Aggies also lead the nation in turnover margin, averaging +4 turnovers per game.

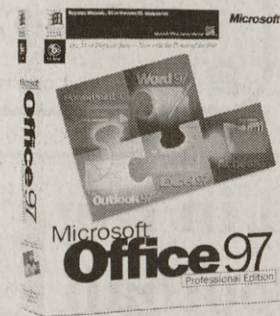
PLEASE SEE FERRELL ON PAGE 8.

NOTEBOOK

The Texas A&M Football Team hits the road for the first time this season to take on the University of North Texas Mean Green. North Texas is



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