

Musical coordinators

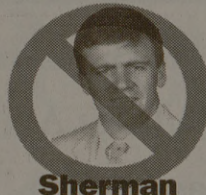
shall latest offensive coordinator to jump A&M wagon



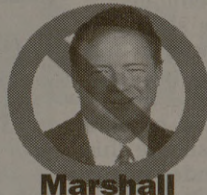
Toledo



Ensminger



Sherman



Marshall

With all of the recruiting hysteria and attention finally winding down, perhaps it's time to take a look at an issue completely different in nature that is every bit as important — the departure of Steve Marshall from North Carolina, the Aggies are again looking for an offensive coordinator — their fifth in six years. With terms such as longevity and continuity being deemed necessary for a successful program, A&M must again fumble to fit another piece into their coaching puzzle. Whether or not this transition will hinder the Aggies remains to be seen, but its continual existence has raised a question all its own: Why does Texas A&M continue to lose offensive coordinators?

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With the resignation of the next offensive coordinator, Mike Sherman, and the resignation of Steve Marshall, maybe the question has answered itself. Perhaps Sherman and Marshall used this position strictly as a launching pad for their careers, choosing not to wait around for the next sub-par offensive performance they would undoubtedly shoulder the blame for, deserved or not.

For those die-hard Aggies who by now have become completely enraged with the very fabric of this article please realize that I'm not decimating the Aggies' coach. Slocum's record stands by itself. He has been known as a defensive genius since the early '80s, and upon his promotion to head coach following the 1988 season, he has led the Aggies to an astonishing record of 83-25-2.

However, I am bringing into question two points. First, are the offensive coordinators ultimately responsible for the success or failure of the offense? Second, if they are not,

running football team. The focus has strayed at times, trying to incorporate a more pro-style offense into the already present structure, but it has always returned to the one-dimensional running game at the first sign of trouble. It's not by any means the most exciting strategy to watch, but has obviously been sufficient for Texas A&M's competition.

Then why is it Texas A&M is becoming synonymous with Linebacker U and producing All-American defensive backs, but losing offensive coordinators? With the ultimate decision regarding play-calling falling in the hands of Head Coach R.C. Slocum, this question becomes even more interesting.

Bob Toledo, the current UCLA head coach, was fired following the 1993 season. His replacement, Steve Ensminger, was fired following the dismal 1996 offensive campaign. In these instances, were the coordinators used as scapegoats, or did they hold the ultimate responsibility for unproductivity in the offense?

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obviously the responsibility of over-riding those calls should be saddled on the head coach, rather than passed off to others.

If Texas A&M ever plans on achieving an offensive balance strong enough to compete with the nationally-ranked teams that have given the Aggies constant problems, perhaps they should hire an established offensive coordinator who can revamp the offense. However, in order for this to occur, he must be allowed to change the structure and philosophy of the offensive game plan, rather than try to fit new plays and formations into the existing structure — much like fitting a square peg into a round hole.

At the moment, the Aggies are in complete contrast to that scenario. When outside coordinators are brought in, they still appear to be running the same offense that has been run for years. For the most part, however, Texas A&M has relied on the promotion of assistants to offensive coordinator.

John Mackovic ran his program in a similar fashion at the University of Texas. With basically an unlimited budget granted to him to hire a top defensive coordinator after the 1996 season, he chose to promote from within his organization. This eventually led to a Texas team that struggled with its weakest opponents last season and to Mackovic's firing. This is the only comparison I will ever make to the University of Texas, but it shows that responsibility can eventually catch up to the top.

R.C. Slocum is the head coach of the Texas A&M football team, and a tremendously successful head coach at that. As the head coach, he has the right and authority to run whatever sort of program he sees fit, including delegating authority concerning the offensive philosophy. However, if he reserves the final authority regarding the play calling, he should also reserve the final criticism.

—Michael Ferguson is a senior business management major

ZARUS

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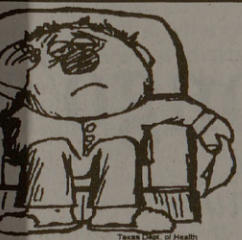
12 courts will allow two matches to take place simultaneously, and it should room for almost 1,500 spectators. It has already been chosen to host next year's Big 12 Championships.

Florida's Finest

Florida is a hotbed for junior tennis, thanks to countless tennis academies and prestigious competitions like the Orange Bowl International Tennis Championships. Fortunately for the Aggies, two of Florida's finest junior tennis players, Rafael de Mesa and Shuon Madden, opted to come to Texas A&M.

National Rankings

The men's team is currently ranked 33rd in the nation, and the women are No. 38. Individually, senior Carlos Tori is No. 66, and freshman Rafael de Mesa is No. 37. De Mesa's ranking has steadily climbed since he won several big matches in the fall, including a 6-2, 6-1 victory over University of Texas' No. 1 player Paul Martin.



Are You Sick
and Waiting?

CALL FIRST & Reduce Your Wait

make an appointment at A. P. Beutel Health Center:

Call our Appointment Line at 845-6111, on Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

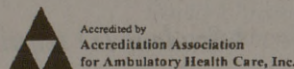
After hours, call Dial-A-Nurse at 845-2822.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Ambulance service is available 24 hours for on-campus emergencies by calling 9-911 from a campus phone.

Student Health Services
A.P. Beutel Health Center
Division of Student Affairs
Texas A&M University



Health Center Hours
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday

www.tamu.edu/shs



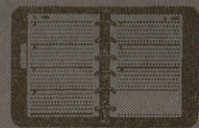
Tuesday Nite: Beat the Clock
Time You Call is the Price You Pay!
(from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.)

On a Large 1 Topping Pizza
Tips are appreciated

College Station
764-7272
1100 Harvey Rd.

Northgate
846-3600
601 University

Bryan
268-7272
3414 East 29th St.



It's Time Again Ags!!!

Spring Business Career Fair '98!!

February 16-19
Schedule of Events:

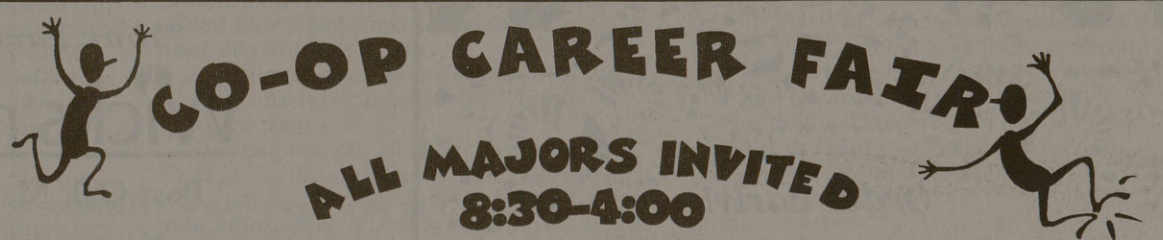
- 16th: Evening Reception @ The Hilton, 7 p.m.
- 17th: Company Booths; Evening Reception @ Pebble Creek Country Club, 7 p.m.
- 18th: Company Booths; Evening Reception @ Briarcrest Country Club, 7 p.m.
- 19th: Company Booths

- * Dress in business attire when speaking with companies at their booths
- * Prepare and bring resumes. Resume help? Contact the Career Center: 845-5139
- * Inquire about the appropriate attire for receptions when purchasing tickets to the reception

Have questions on how to get the most out of Career Fairs? Attend the Career Fair Networking Seminar on February 12, at 7 p.m., in Wehner 159.

<http://wehner.tamu.edu/BS>

Companies attending the Career Fair and their corresponding days will be posted in the Battalion each day of the Career Fair.



Tuesday February 10

Company

ABB Lummus Global
ABB Vetco Gray
Alcatel
ARCO
Cryovac
Decibel Products
Eastman
Energy
Flowtronex International
Fluor Daniel, Inc.
Fujitsu
Halliburton
Hewlett-Packard - Convex
International Research Institute
International Paper
Lockheed Martin Vought
Marathon Oil
Metrowerks Corporation
Midas Rex, L.P.
Nokia
Nordstrom Valves, Inc.
Pratt & Whitney Eagle Services
Printpack, Inc.
Siecor
Solutia Inc.
SGS-Thomson
Southdown, Inc.
Stewart & Stevenson
Tellepsen Corporation

Majors

CEEN CHEN ELEN PHYS
MEEN
CPSC CSEN ELEN INEN MEEN
ELEN MEEN
CHEN ELEN MEEN
INEN MECH MEEN TELE
CHEN
CVEN ELEN MEEN
CHEN ELEC ELEN MECH MEEN
CECN CEEN CPSC ELEN FINC MGMT
ACCT CPSC ELEN ENTC
AGEN CPSC ELEN INEN MEEN PETE
CEEN CPSC ELEN MEEN
CPSC
CECN CHEN ELEN MEEN
AERO CPSC ELEN MEEN
CHEN CVEN ELEN INEN MEEN
CECN CEEN CPSC ELEN
BIEN MEEN
ELEN INEN MEEN
ENTC INEN LBAR MEEN MKTG
INEN MEEN
CHEN MEEN
CHEM CHEN ELEN INEN MEEN
CHEN ELEN MEEN
CHEN CPSC ELEN MEEN
CHEN ELEN MEEN
ELEN MEEN
COSC ENDS



DON'T MISS IT!!

ZACHRY ENGINEERING CENTER