

Sports

THE BATTALION

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Wednesday, November 14, 2001

Aggs await UT in 'second season'

By TRUE BROWN
THE BATTALION

After seeing its chance at a Big 12 championship disappear into the Memorial Stadium turf Saturday, the Texas A&M football team enters phase two of its season.

A win over cross-state rival University of Texas-Austin on Nov. 23 would not only give the Aggies bragging rights, but it would also boost the bowl bid the Aggies will receive. "As far as we're concerned, our season ended [after the OU game] and now one starts against Texas," said A&M offensive coordinator Dino Babers after the Aggies' 31-10 loss to the Sooners. "It's a totally different story. We need to get ready, get going and try to get after those Sooners in our place."

Both the Aggies and No. 5 Longhorns have this weekend off to prepare for the upcoming showdown. UT will enter the contest 9-1, while the Aggies are 7-3 after dropping their last two games.

A&M will use the off weekend to try to heal some of the injuries that have plagued the team.

Freshman running back Derek Farmer, A&M's leading rusher, suffered a hyperextended knee because the knee popped out last week and had only limited practice time the week before the OU game because of a prior injury.

The Aggies have also been

without the services of two of their most dependable wide receivers this season in senior Bethel Johnson and junior Greg Porter.

In addition, A&M lost junior Michael de la Torre and senior Lonnie Madison who were the No. 1 and 2 tight ends coming into the season.

The injuries also have affected the Aggie offense as it has managed just one field goal in its last two games.

"Their confidence can't be too high right now," said football head coach R.C. Slocum of the offense. "They have scored a total of three points in two ball games. They are struggling in the terms of the identity they have."

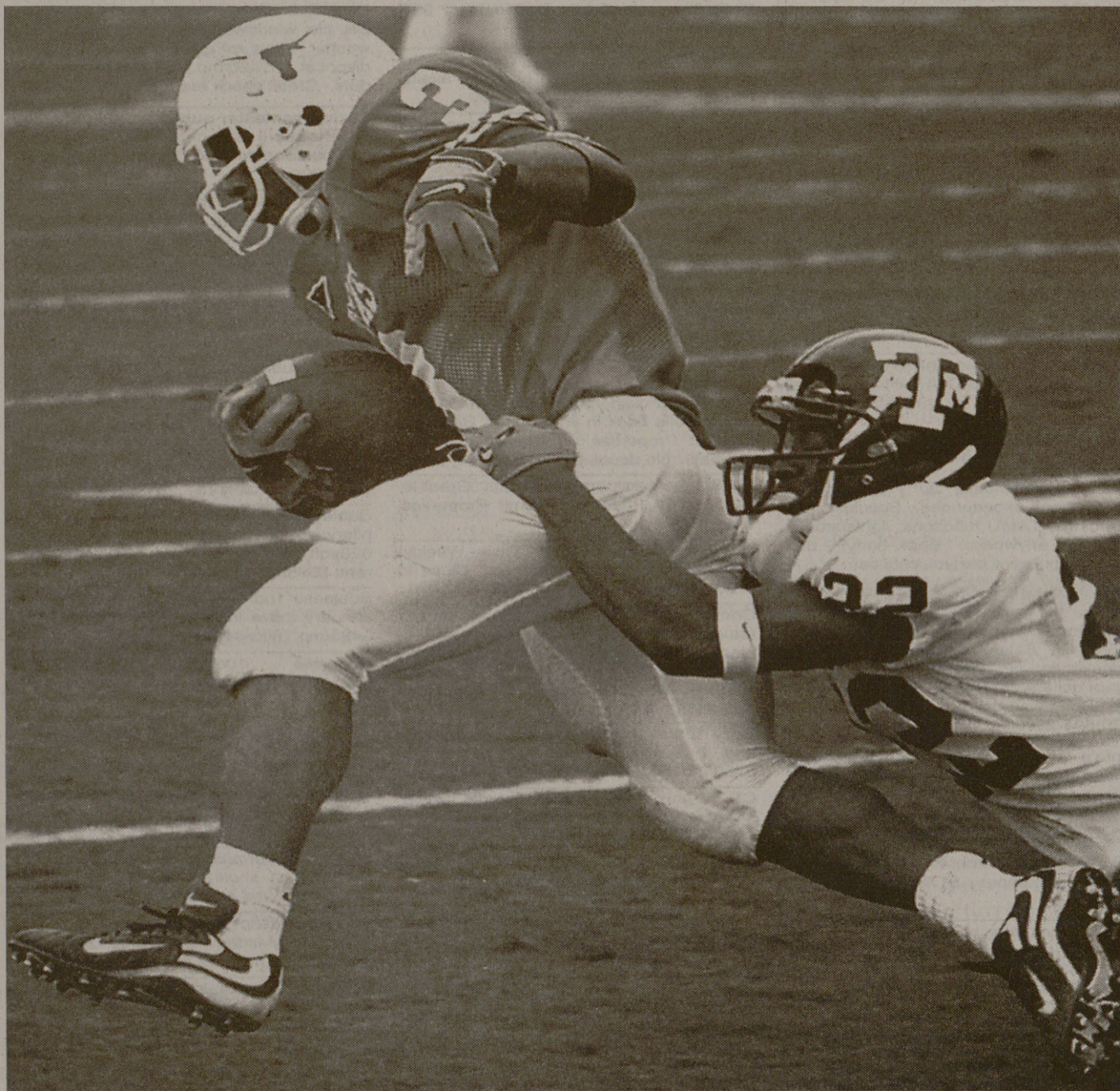
A win over Texas and a win in a bowl game would salvage what is left of the season for the Aggies.

"This season isn't a disaster," said junior linebacker Brian Gamble. "It's our role now to play the spoiler and try to set ourselves up for a good bowl game."

A win over UT would help the Aggies move up to the Insight.com Bowl in Phoenix or the Alamo Bowl in San Antonio.

For A&M's crop of seniors, a bowl game victory would be especially sweet because none of the present players have been part of a team that has won a bowl game.

"I want to play for these seniors," Gamble said. "They've done a great job all year with their leadership and I want them to go out with a bang and win over Texas."



Junior corner back Sammy Davis and the Texas A&M Aggies are out of the Big 12 South race, but are looking for a win over Texas to move up in the Big 12 ranks to close out the season.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggies to close exhibition schedule against EA All-Stars

The Texas A&M men's basketball team will close out its exhibition schedule tonight when it takes on the Electronic Arts Sports Midwest All-Stars at 7:30 p.m. at Reed Arena.

The Aggies are coming off a 96-78 victory over Australia's Team Ezybonds last Thursday night.

Junior guard Bernard King scored 17 points to lead a group of six Aggies who scored in double figures against the Ezybonds team. Sophomore forward Nick Anderson added 14 points, and senior guard Andy Leatherman chipped in with a 12-point performance.

The All-Stars are composed of 10 former college players, and are currently 0-9 on third preseason tour.

Desperados to be Dallas' newest professional team

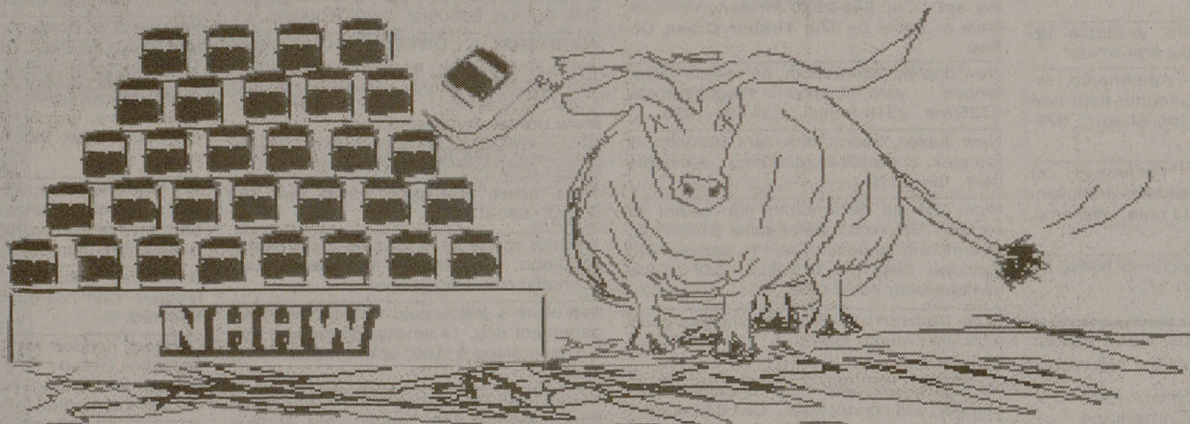
DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and his family launched another team Tuesday — the Dallas Desperados of the Arena Football League.

Jerry Jones Jr. is president and general manager and Cowboys' special teams coach Joe Avezzano is head coach. The Desperados, the 20th AFL team, are scheduled to begin play in April.

A contest was used to adopt the team name.

One Can...Make a Difference

Feed The Hell Outta t.u.



National Hunger and Homelessness Week

When: November 15th - Noon-6:30 pm

Where: The Grove

*Feed the Hell Outta t.u. is an annual food drive competition between Texas A&M and t.u.

*If every student on campus were to bring one can to The Grove, we could present the Brazos Valley Food Bank with over 44,000 canned goods!

Sponsored by: Volunteer Services Center, Alpha Gamma Rho, TSEA, Delta Xi Nu