



BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

A&M Defensive Coordinator **Carl Torbush** and the Aggie defense will look to slow the Hokies' ground attack.

## Hokies

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Defensive coordinator Carl Torbush hopes to manufacture depth at the linebacker position in order to compensate for the loss of Morris.

"Scott Stickane will start," Torbush said. "But we are going to be rotating in about six different linebackers to fill those three slots."

Used mostly as a special teams player in the past, this will be Stickane's first start on defense.

While slowing Jones will be the Aggies' top priority, Tech has other offensive options that will

prove tough to stop. Returning quarterback Bryan Randall — who is being pushed by his highly touted backup, Marcus Vick — was a model of efficiency last year against the Aggies. In what was his first road start, Randall completed 10-of-11 pass attempts with no interceptions.

Randall's favorite target, preseason Belitnikof nominee Ernest Wilford, and two-way playmaker DeAngelo Hall will give the Aggie secondary its toughest challenge this season.

Wilford provided the only big play in last year's game and says he expects to have a big game despite the weather predictions.

"I play better in inclement weather," Wilford said. "The defense has to react to what we're doing. They play a little off because they don't want to get beat deep and when they're backpedaling, there's a possibility they might slip."

While recognizing Wilford's exceptional talent, Torbush reiterated the fact that stopping the run comes first.

"We really can't focus too much of our efforts to stopping Wilford because that would take another man out of the box on the running game," Torbush said.

"Stopping the run will be our number one priority in this game."

On the defensive side, the Hokies return nine of 11 starters to a unit that last fall held the Aggies' offense to just 156 yards and three points — a performance that led to the demotion of then-offensive coordinator Dino Babers.

Even though head coach Dennis Franchione was not around last year, he is well aware of that offensive performance.

"The offense has been reminded that they did not play very well in that game," Franchione said. "Any offensive kid that has any pride about him is going to accept the challenge to redeem himself."

## A&M falls to No. 8 Nebraska

## Big XII

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Washington State.

Kickoff for both games is at 2:30 p.m.

### Kansas Gets Offensive

Folks in Lawrence, Kan., are accustomed to offensive production from their Kansas Jayhawks, but the scoreboard often gets more use in basketball games than on the gridiron.

Kansas (2-1) has disproved that notion the past two weeks with offensive outbursts in their 46-24 and 42-35 victories against UNLV and Wyoming. The Jayhawks' high-scoring victories already equaled last season's win total.

Second-year head coach Mark Mangino, the offensive coordinator on Oklahoma's 2000 national championship team, appears to be putting his stamp on the program. With the Big 12 North Division weaker than previous years, the Jayhawks might be able to steal a conference victory this season, a feat they failed to accomplish in 2002.

### The Texas A&M volleyball team (7-3, 0-1 Big 12) came up just short in its Big 12 opener against the Nebraska Cornhuskers on Wednesday at Nebraska Coliseum.

After four games, the teams were even at two games won apiece. The Aggies rallied back from a 30-28 setback in the first game to take games two and three, each by a score of 30-26.

However, Nebraska proved too tough, as it rallied back with 30-26 and 15-9 wins to take the match, 3-2.

The five-time defending league champion 'Huskers improved to 9-1 overall and 1-0 in the Big 12 with the win. NU has now won 70 straight conference matches.

The Aggies will return to action on Sunday when they visit the University of Houston. Sunday's match will begin at 2 p.m.

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