

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Season is not what Fran, Aggies had in mind

Seniors to salvage what they can in their last year with Aggies

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

For Texas A&M, having a disappointing football season is not desirable by any stretch of the imagination, but the younger players on this team know brighter days are on the horizon.

For seniors such as offensive lineman Alan Reuber, this season is the end of a long journey, and Reuber said he definitely doesn't want to give up.

"It's a disappointing deal, especially for the seniors and the older guys on the team," Reuber said. "We really need to grind down to get our three wins to get to a bowl right now, and that's really negatively affecting the seniors on the team because this is our last chance."

Giving up is not in Reuber's nature. During his redshirt freshman season, Reuber broke his right leg in a spring scrimmage that resulted in having a titanium rod embedded from his knee to his ankle which is still there.

For most, that type of injury could cause the end of a career, but for Reuber it presented a challenge he was able to overcome, eventually starting for the Aggies.

"It was a tough deal rehabbing," Reuber said. "I just kept working hard and did everything the rehab guys told me to do, and eventually everything worked out."

A 3-5 record with Kansas and a gauntlet of top 25 teams including a visit to No. 1 Oklahoma awaiting the Aggies are just further challenges for Reuber. On a team that draws leadership from sophomores and freshmen, a booming senior voice such as Reuber's may be just what the doctor ordered.

Keeping a senior voice on the field has been hard all season. Two of those voices,

linebacker Jared Morris and wide receiver Jamar Taylor, have both been lost for the year due to injury.

"Reuber has always been a good leader," said sophomore offensive lineman Aldo De La Garza. "When we're inside the 20 you can just hear Reuber, 'C'mon guys you've got to focus and let's punch it in there.' He really steps it up big time."

For Reuber and the rest of the seniors this season may have been disappointing so far, but there is still a lot left on the schedule to make the season a success.

"The strongest thing you ever play for is pride in each other," said A&M coach Dennis Franchione. "Those seniors want to go out on a good note. We've got a lot of things left on the slate, and they've got to realize that. I think they do."

Although the Aggies are looking down at the moment, A&M is on the brink of a bright future with so many young playmakers and game breakers. This is not lost on Reuber and the rest of the seniors. The knowledge that they are part of the foundation may make the disappointment so far in 2003 worthwhile.

"Right now that's what I'm striving on, that's my gasoline," Reuber said. "What we do now can positively affect this team in the future, and will. We're going to be very, very competitive next year and in the years to come."

Reuber said he is confident that Franchione will right this ship, but it will take some time.

"Coach Fran will not quit," he said. "He will not stop working hard. We're not going to change anything we're doing, and we're going to continue to get better. It helps me, as a senior, to know that these young guys are going to win a lot of games in the future."



Senior offensive lineman Alan Reuber celebrates with freshman running back Courtney Lewis after a Lewis touchdown against Pittsburgh earlier this season. Reuber is one of many seniors on the Aggie squad trying to make the most of their final season.

Dotson returns to Waco to face charges

By Angela K. Brown
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WACO, Texas — Former Baylor University basketball player Carlton Dotson was returned to Waco on Tuesday, three months after he was arrested in Maryland in the shooting death of a former teammate, an official said.

Dotson, dressed in a white inmate uniform and sitting in the back seat of an unmarked gold police cruiser, looked toward the floor when reporters clustered around the car outside the McLennan County jail.

Dotson, 21, was indicted in August in the death of Patrick Dennehy, 21, who had been missing six weeks when his body was found July 25 in a field near a rock quarry south of Waco. The 6-foot-10 player, who shared his apartment with Dotson since April, had been shot twice in the head. Dotson will face

another arraignment and bail review hearing in Waco.

Dotson had been fighting extradition since his July 21 arrest in his home state, where he returned in June after leaving Baylor.

Early Tuesday, Dotson left the jail in Chestertown, Md., 55 miles from his hometown of Hurlock on Maryland's Eastern Shore, said Joseph Flanagan, assistant state's attorney in Kent County. Texas authorities arrived in Maryland earlier this week to prepare for the transfer of Dotson, Flanagan said.

Dotson has appeared in court three times as officials shuffled extradition paperwork between Texas and Maryland. Last month, Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich signed a warrant agreeing to turn Dotson over to prosecutors in Texas.



DOTSON

A Kent County district judge served Dotson with the governor's warrant in court earlier this month, and Dotson's attorneys faced an Oct. 17 deadline to file their next appeal. But attorneys said Oct. 16 that they would no longer try to keep Dotson in Maryland.

Filing the appeal would have further delayed extradition, but officials in both states have said Dotson probably would not have been successful.

McLennan County Sheriff Larry Lynch said Texas authorities had 10 days from the Oct. 17 appeal deadline to pick up Dotson.

The case has rocked the Baptist school and its basketball program. Coach Dave Bliss and Baylor's athletic director resigned in August amid revelations of NCAA violations. School investigators said they discovered that two players were receiving improper financial aid and that staff members did not properly report some players' failed drug tests.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Bryant fined for comments made about O'Neal

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Kobe Bryant was fined Tuesday by the Lakers for critical comments he made of teammate Shaquille O'Neal, and was listed as doubtful for their season opener against Dallas.

Bryant's remarks Monday exposed the degree of rift between the two superstars. The amount of the fine wasn't disclosed.

The Lakers held a 20-minute team meeting in their locker room before their shootaround Tuesday morning. Teammates said Bryant, O'Neal, Karl

Malone and coach Phil Jackson were the only ones who spoke.

Bryant and O'Neal didn't speak to reporters after the shootaround.

McKeon will return as Marlins coach in 2004

MIAMI (AP) — Jack McKeon will return to manage the Florida Marlins next season, owner Jeffrey Loria announced Tuesday during the team's World Series celebration party.

"I have some good news and a little bad news. The good news is Jack is coming back. The bad news is there's no bad news," Loria said, promising not to purge the team of star players next season.

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