

THE BATTALION

Monday, December 1, 2003

Question

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McNeal from being the one and only starter, what is keeping McNeal from seeking other options? McNeal would be welcomed by most teams across the country...

The bottom line is that this quarterback carousel isn't helping either Long or McNeal. Neither one has been able to become the leader the

Aggies so desperately need on and off the field.

With the addition of incoming freshman Stephen McGee, who has orally committed to play for the Aggies next season, the position could become a three-man race.

Neither Long nor McNeal can lead the prospect of having to fend off a third gunslinger this offseason. Oh, what a tangled web has been weaved.

Slocum

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first two games of the season. He was 4-for-4 from behind the three-point arc in the first half as his 14 points along with Slocum's 16 first half points lifted the Aggies to a 10-point lead at halftime.

"Wright's a great player," said Prairie View coach Jerome Francis Jr. "We made him make plays, and great players make plays. It's all an attribute to Wright because we pushed him."

The Aggies scored the first three points out of the locker room to push their lead to 13, but Prairie View fought back to bring the deficit back down to single digits, coming as close as six points with seven minutes remaining.

The Panthers were led by senior point guard Kevin Cooper, who contributed 25 points and seven assists. The effort was not enough as the Aggies held on behind nine second half points from Wright, who finished with 23, and 15

from senior forward Jesse King.

"I don't care what people say, Prairie View is a scrappy team," Wright said. "Any team that is scrappy and is willing to get down and play defense is going to get in the game. Whether it looks bad on our part or it looks good on their part it doesn't really matter. I think they're a decent team."

Despite injuries and off performances from key players, the Aggies are still averaging 90 points per game with one of the most explosive offenses ever seen at A&M.

They will take that offense, along with their undefeated record, to Tennessee as they begin a two-game road trip Tuesday night in Knoxville.

"I don't think we had the focus we needed initially, but once we started playing and realized we were in a battle our kids stepped up enough to get the win," Watkins said. "We've got to mend and get ready to go to Tennessee and play better than we did today and go down there and get us a 'W.'"

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