

# A&M QB says Aggies ready for Husker hostility

**Randy McCown** has taken a larger than expected role on the Texas A&M offense this season.

**BY DARREN IVY**  
Senior staff writer

After being upset by Texas Tech and thrashed by Oklahoma, Texas A&M comes into Lincoln knowing it must win the rest of its conference games to have a chance to defend its Big 12 Championship.

Standing in its way this week, said senior quarterback Randy McCown, is a "sound Nebraska defense with very few weaknesses."

But McCown said the Aggies, 6-2 and 3-2 in the Big 12 Conference, can move the ball against the No. 5 defensive team in the country.

"We are confident in what we can do on offense," said McCown, who completed two out of eight passes for 93 yards in last year's 28-21 A&M win over NU. "I feel we will be able to get some big plays."

Last year the Aggies got an 81-yard touchdown reception from Chris Taylor, a 71-yard run by fullback Ja'Mar Toombs and a 33-yard scramble from McCown that set up 21 points. All three players are back this year.

But unlike last year, the Aggies are a more pass-oriented team this year, averaging 255 yards per game and 153 on the ground.

McCown has been the big surprise, averaging more than twice as many passing yards per game this season. His 237 yards per game is on pace to break A&M's school record.

But he knows that he must get some help on the ground.

"We are definitely going to have to be balanced," he said. "Being in their place, we will need to have long drives to take the crowd out of it."

Running the ball has been a problem this year for A&M. No back has gone over 100 yards, and last week's 80-yard performance by Eric Bernard was the best this season.

Toombs leads the Aggies with 340 yards. Last year against NU, Toombs was one of two backs who rushed for more than 100 yards. The other was Dante Hall, who has missed the last three games with an injury.

A game-time decision will be made this week about Hall, McCown said. A healthy Hall could give a jump-start to the Aggie offense that has been struggling.

In the last two weeks, A&M has averaged 13.5 points per game as opposed to the 36 points per game it was putting up in its first six contests.

### A&M Offensive Leaders

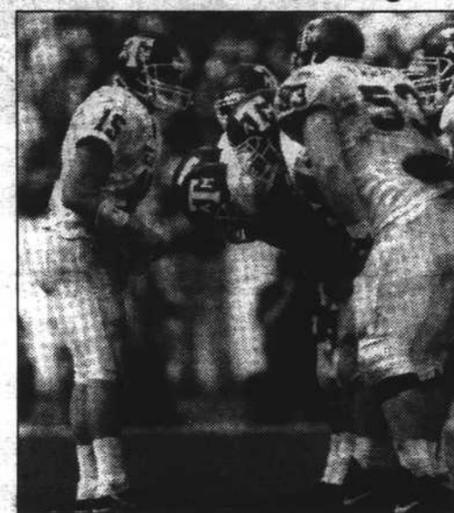
Player	G	Att	Comp	Int	Yds
Randy McCown	8	222	121	6	1901

Player	Att	Yds	Avg	TD
Ja'Mar Toombs	70	340	4.4	4
Eric Bernard	57	292	5.1	1
Dante Hall	52	178	3.4	2

Player	No	Yds	Avg	TD
Chris Taylor	29	552	19.0	4
Bethel Johnson	22	414	18.8	2
Leroy Hodge	20	222	11.6	2



TEXAS A&M SPORTS INFORMATION  
**QUARTERBACK RANDY MCCOWN** may be the difference Saturday if Texas A&M is to upset Nebraska on national television. McCown averages 237 yards passing this season.

"We are starting to get the guys back that have been injured," McCown said. "That is going to give us a big boost."

McCown said he expects an "exciting and really intense" game, but he didn't think the Memorial Stadium crowd would affect the Aggies.

"We have played in many hostile environments, so we are going to be relaxed," McCown said. "That is one of the main things we have learned from all our big games."

And this definitely will be a big game for both teams.

"There is no lack of luster in this game," McCown said. "It is a huge game for us, and I am sure it is for them too."

# Frontcourt players dominate Big 12 list

From staff reports

According to the media who cover basketball in the Big 12, the top five players in the conference all have one thing in common - height. With two centers, three forwards and no player under 6-foot-8 on the All-Big 12 preseason teams, it appears the conference's strength this season will be post play.

Headlining the media team was 7-foot center Chris Mihm of Texas. A preseason All American, the junior was tabbed as the conference's preseason player of the year. Mihm led the nation with 19 double-doubles last season.

Other players on the first team included Eric Chenowith of Kansas, Marcus Fizer of Iowa State, Eduardo Najera of Oklahoma and Desmond Mason of Oklahoma State.

Najera, the only senior in the group, led the Sooners to the Sweet 16 last season. Fizer led the Big 12 in scoring last year, averaging 18 points per game in

the conference. Mason, like Fizer and Mihm, was also a preseason pick last year.

Chenowith helped to lead the Jayhawks to the Big 12 Conference Tournament title last year. KU, which lost fewer than 20 points of scoring per contest from last year's team, was the media's pick to win the conference.

Texas finished a close second. The Longhorns, who won the Big 12 regular season title in 1999, got eight first-place votes to the Jayhawks' 17. Oklahoma State, with six seniors, was the only other Big 12 team to earn first-place votes and finished third in the balloting.

Nebraska was tabbed as the sixth-place conference team behind the Sooners and new Coach Quin Snyder's Missouri Tigers. No Huskers merited votes for the All-Big 12 squad, but junior college transfers Steffon Bradford and Danny Walker both received consideration for the newcomer of the year award, won by Baylor's Terry Black.

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Check out the *Crew Erg - A-Thon*  
Nov. 5 7:00 a.m. thru 8:00 p.m. Nov. 6  
City Union Plaza

**Club Results**

**Climbing - Pump-kin Pulldown Thornton, CO**  
Recreational (Men) First Dustin Clements  
Second Bill Barritt  
Recreational (Women) First Angie Wilhemi  
Intermediate (Men) Second Justin Reese  
Third Kyle Hansen

**W. Soccer - NU lost to Drake University 3-0**  
in Des Moines, Iowa this past weekend.

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**At Home this Weekend**

NU Women's Soccer takes on Kansas State this Sunday at 2:00 p.m. The game will be played at Whittier Field (22nd & W Streets).  
-Rain site - Cook Pavilion-

**Upcoming Meetings**

**Climbing - Wednesday, Nov. 10 at 8:00 p.m.**  
Campus Recreation Center Outdoor Adventures Conference Room.

**Tae Kwon Do - Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 7:00 p.m.**  
Campus Recreation Center TV Lounge.  
Informational meeting for new members.

For more information regarding any of the UNL Sport Clubs events - Please contact the Office of Campus Recreation 472-3467

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