

Winder Garvin answers fans' sports queries

Due to circumstances beyond The Battalion's control, David Winder's sports column will not run today. We will run as a replacement Artie Garvin - Sports Genius.



DAVID WINDER
Sportswriter

Dear Artie: Back in 1981 when the Cowboys were about to play the Eagles in Philadelphia, my friend and I saw Tony Dorsett, Drew Pearson and Ron Springs over at Bookbinders (a famous Philadelphia restaurant) having dinner. We could see what Pearson and Springs had ordered but a stupid waiter kept blocking our view of what Dorsett was eating. I said it had to be a well-done steak, but my friend insisted that it was medium-rare. Artie please settle our dispute. Signed - What exactly is a Philadelphia Phillie.

Dear What: That waiter must have blocked more than your view of the food because Dorsett wasn't even at Bookbinders that night. It was Dana Plato of Different Strokes fame with Springs and Pearson, and she had a Caesar salad with no dressing. Gary Coleman had two shrimp cocktails.

Dear Artie: I know you still love me, how can you pretend that you don't after all we've shared? You just can't throw away the last five years. You told me yourself that your wife doesn't mean anything to you anymore, and I'm the only reason

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Pullig and A&M striving to recapture stride

Aggies' quarterback hopes to turn personal rut into groove

By William Harrison

THE BATTALION

For two weeks, A&M football has faltered under the reins of talented sophomore quarterback Corey Pullig - first in a deceptively easy 24-0 A&M victory over LSU, and then more alarmingly in last Saturday's 44-14 humbling loss to Oklahoma.

After a true freshman season when Pullig decisively took over A&M's quarterbacking duties from a struggling Jeff Granger, Pullig is struggling himself and failing to find open receivers.

Pullig said his inexperience with A&M's offense and recurring tendinitis in his shoulder have made it difficult to improve.

"It's kind of frustrating when I don't complete a pass and don't know whether it's making the right read or because I am not at full strength."

Pullig said the tendinitis, located along the deltoid area of his shoulder, has restricted him from his normal practice throwing routine and continues to bother him.

"It's (hung on) a little bit longer than I anticipated," Pullig said. "Before last game is when it's come on and it's been building ever since."

And Pullig said his friends and family have noticed another change in him.

"Over the weekend, I talked it over with my family and last year it looked like I was having fun and playing, and (this year) it just doesn't look like me out there," he said.

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said Pullig is feeling too much pressure from the expectations created last season and those Pullig has placed upon himself.

"I think he has gotten on a track where he has short-circuited his ability some by being overly concerned about negative outcomes," Slocum said. "You've got to go play - I don't think you can do anything very well if you worry about a negative outcome."

"Last year, he comes in and there's no pressure, and he's kind of loose and winging it - having fun," he said.

"He played amazingly well."

Pullig explained: "One thing that people don't realize is that I had to make things happen last year because I wasn't into the game mentally," Pullig said.

"I'm still pretty young, but I am picking up things a lot better."

A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said Pullig

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William Harrison/The Battalion

A&M junior free safety **Junior White** (5) tackles Oklahoma quarterback **Cale Gundy** (12) in the Aggies 44-14 loss to the Sooners last Saturday. A&M senior linebacker **Jason Atkinson** (43) assisted on the play.

A&M free safety White filling Bates' departed role with ease

By Matthew J. Rush

THE BATTALION

In Texas A&M's first two games, former walk-on Junior White has done exactly what the coaches expected of him.

He has filled the hole at free safety that was vacated by Patrick Bates' departure to the NFL. White has silenced any speculation about his ability by accumulating 12 tackles in two games, ranking him third on the team.

A junior from A&M Consolidated High School, he said replacing a

legend is customary in Aggieland.

"We're all playing in the shadows of former players," White said.

"Whether it be Ray Childress or Marcus Buckley, because of this school, we're all playing under shadows."

White thinks that as players, he and Bates are very different.

"I think the biggest difference is that I come out of coverage more," White said. "Patrick was more of a zone player and I'm a converted cornerback, so I like to play more man defense."

Because he is able to cover re-

ceivers one-on-one, White thinks that this gives the defense flexibility.

"I enjoy playing more man-to-man defense, I guess, because it gives us different looks," White said. "I don't think there are many safeties who like to play man-to-man."

For A&M to have a successful season, White said he thinks A&M's down linemen have to be successful.

"The defensive line is the biggest key for our defense," White said. "If

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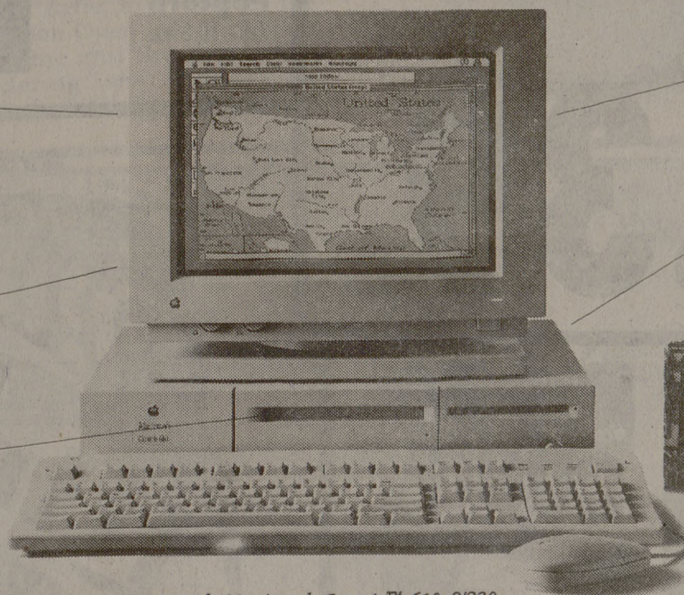
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