

ports

Patterson recuperating from shooting

By NANCY ANDERSEN
City Staff

Before he left St. Joseph Hospital surgery to remove a .38-caliber bullet lodged in his head in December, sophomore Ed Patterson told his coaches he would be back and playing football at Texas A&M University.

Patterson, 19, is back, but he will not be able to play football for at least six months. That's how long the severe offensive guard said it will take for the bones in his nose to set, for the scar tissue to heal around the bullet fragment remaining in his head.

The injuries are the result of what started out to be a good time at a local dance hall, but ended in tragedy when Patterson said "a crazy idiot" had never seen before shot him.

At the time of the incident last week, Brazos County Sheriff Bob-

by Yeager said he thought Patterson was shot at a fairly close range with a .38-caliber pistol, but the details were sketchy.

Deputy Sheriff Dick Gulledge said Thursday, "At the time, we didn't know if a fight was involved or words were exchanged. But we found out there was no fight, no scuffle."

Patterson's friend and teammate Bryan Dausin was with Patterson when the shooting happened and told it this way:

"We were leaving the dance hall, and Ed was going to give a girl a ride home. I pulled up by the girl's car, and he got out to talk to her. Some guys — I couldn't hear because the radio was on — came up. I was waiting to see what Ed was going to do, and this guy just walked up and shot him."

Dausin said he "freaked out," but

he thought it was only a pop gun because Patterson didn't fall down. "I jumped out of my truck," Dausin said, "wondering what the crazy guy was doing to Ed. He had the gun pointed at me at about arms length, and I told him to give it to me. Then I grabbed it out of his hand and knocked it away."

It wasn't until he grabbed the gun and looked at Patterson that Dausin said he realized it was a real gun.

What Dausin saw was the work of a bullet which he said entered at an angle through the left side of Patterson's nose, traveled through his right eye and lodged in his head.

Patterson said, "I didn't realize I had been shot, I thought someone had hit me. I couldn't see out of my right eye. I walked to my friend's truck (Dausin's), and he drove me to the quack shack — the only place Bryan knew for sure was open. I

walked in the emergency room and just remember getting in the ambulance."

When Patterson woke up at St. Joseph he was in stable condition, but doctors said his right eye would have to be removed.

The operation was performed by two surgeons in Corpus Christi, near his hometown of Portland, Patterson said. It consisted of rebuilding the bone structure of his nose and removing the eyeball and bullet fragments. He said he spent three and a half weeks on his back in hospitals which gave him a lot of time to think.

"I was mad," he said, "and the longer I was in the hospital, the madder I got."

The day after it happened, friends said he was making jokes about his condition which Patterson said, "sure beat the hell out of crying about it. It's happened; now I've got to take it and go with it."

Going with it meant learning to make adjustments, especially getting used to seeing with one eye, he said. His depth perception needs practice, comparing sizes of objects at a distance is difficult and his peripheral vision is not what it was, he said, but he can drive a car.

Also, he can no longer smell which, he said, takes a lot of the fun out of eating. But he seems to have accepted the changes calmly.

"Taking it in stride is the only way it's ever crossed my mind to handle it," he said.

Patterson said he is taking 16 hours this semester, and he had to reschedule and study for four finals from last semester. He said he's even worked out one, but he got a headache and was told not to work out until he gets a release from his doctor.

"I feel like I can work out, it's just red tape," he said.

However, Pat Gerbach, coach Tom Wilson's secretary, said the University would be liable if anything happened to him now.

"He's a well-adjusted young man," she said, "and we knew he'd be back."

As to playing football, Patterson said it's up in the air now because he can't have any rough physical contact for six months.

"Then I will play if I can," he said, "if not then I can't — it's kind of cut and dried."

Patterson's attitude about his future is also cut and dried.

"If something comes along you just got to try and if you can't, you can't."

Even if he never plays Aggie football again, Patterson's education will be paid for by Texas A&M. If he plays he will remain on athletic scholarship, and if he doesn't he will be

on a medical scholarship, which allows an injured athlete to finish his education.

Gerbach said Patterson's football future depends on his surgeon.

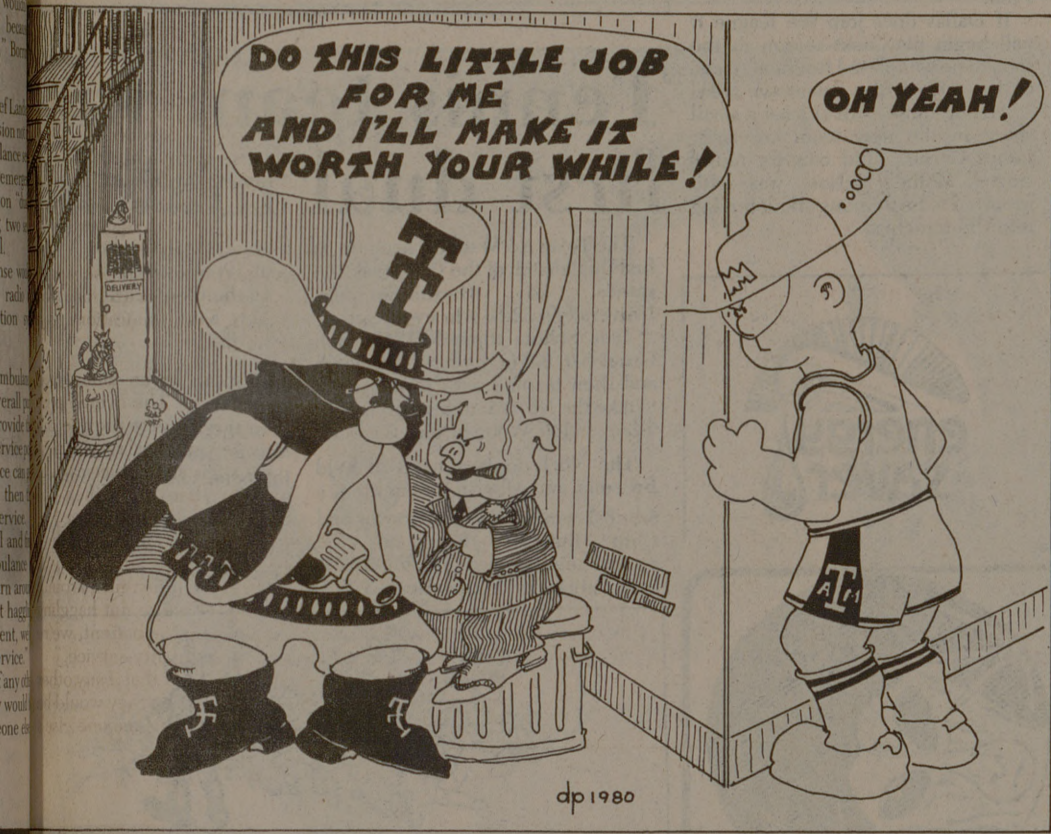
"Right now he (Patterson) only has a covering over the eye socket and will have to have an artificial eye put in," she said.

A grand jury has indicted William Jennings Brannan Jr., of 1501 North Sims in Bryan, on a charge of attempted murder Jan. 17 in connection with the incident.

Brannan, 21, was originally charged with aggravated assaulted and posted bail of \$1,000 last Dec. 6.

Brazos County Assistant District Attorney Jim James said Brannan probably will be arraigned at his docket call Feb. 20. A docket call gives the defendant a chance to decide if he wants a jury trial or one before a court and other related matters.

The docket call was set for Feb. 6, but it was reset due to a conflict with Brannan's attorney.



Dickey runs unofficial record in dash

United Press International
INGLEWOOD, Calif. — Ron Dickey shattered the American indoor triple-jump record, Craig Masopust Dr. Thomas Wessinghage in the mile and Curtis Dickey in the open and special 60-yard dash to highlight the Los Angeles Indoor Games.

Dickey jumped 55 feet 9 1/4 inches in his final try to break the previous record of 55-5 1/2 set by Tommy Jones of the U.S. Army in 1976.

Masopust produced the biggest upset of Friday night's meet, outkicking Wessinghage of West Germany the final 100 yards of the mile to win by 10 yards in a time of 4:10.63. Wessinghage finished second in 4:06.47.

Dickey, star running back for Texas A&M University's football team, was clocked in a world indoor record 6.0 in the open 60-yard

dash but the time will not be recognized as a record because it was timed by hand.

Dickey came back less than 20 minutes later to outprint Darrin Nelson of Stanford by two yards to win the special 60-yard dash in 6.25.

About 15 members of the Muhammad Ali Track Club, including world-class sprinter Houston

McTear and hurdler Greg Foster, picketed outside the Forum to protest the appearance of seven Russian athletes.

There was a faint booping for the first Russian competitor because of the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan, but the Russians were not booped afterward.

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