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Athletes balancing school, sports

By JEANNE ISENBERG
Reporter

The pressures of playing college football were discussed by Texas A&M football players Craig Stump, Todd Howard, Jay Miller and Shea Walker at Wednesday's Sully's Symposium.

One of the major demands, the players agreed, is finding a way of balancing their time between school and football.

"Most of our afternoons are taken up by football," said Stump, A&M's quarterback. "We finish classes and at about 1:45 p.m. we head off for practice. We get back in the rooms at 7 p.m. It's tough, but we do the best we can-on and off the field."

Walker, who plays split end, says the players are given help, when they need it, just like any other student. He said they are provided with tutors if they need them and if their grades get too low, they have a required study hall to attend.

Another pressure the players have to deal with is the game itself, they said, especially those pressures that come with losing or not playing well. Stump said, though, at A&M it doesn't seem as bad for the players in that situation as it is at other schools.

"It's different here than at other places," he said. "The students are really good to us."

"They don't tell us how bad we played. Instead, they tell us not to worry about it. It helps knowing that the students are behind us."

Walker agreed, saying, "All we want to do is win. I have to be honest with you, like any other school, but not to the point where the students are against us when things go bad. They're behind us."

Muller, who plays defensive end, said students at A&M don't realize how much their support actually means to the team.

"It means so much to have a big crowd," he said. "Three decks full of

active people yelling for you does a lot for your attitude."

According to the players, the majority of the pressure from the games comes from the press and from within themselves.

Stump says that the media pressure can be difficult to handle.

"It's just not very easy after a bad game to handle the media," he said.

That's all some people hear. It's all they see. The best thing to do is to try not to listen to it or even read it.

Walker said one just has to remember not to look for blame.

"It's easy to be a critic," he said.

"Everyone thinks he knows why you're losing, but if we don't win, we have to look into ourselves, not to anyone else. You can't put blame anywhere."

Even though the game has many pressures, the players said, they have a great outlook for this season. Muller said the team has a much better attitude than in the past, and a lot of playing good football involves the proper mental attitude. Stump attributes the better attitude to the new closeness of the players.

"We didn't lose many seniors this year, and a lot of us have been together for two years now," Stump said.

"We know each other better and feel more comfortable with each other now," Stump said. "Knowing how the other people are going to play helps a lot. It's made us more confident, and we make less mistakes."

While the pressures and rewards the players deal with are different than those that students who do not play football face, the players said they as people are basically the same as any other student.

Stump said that too many people have a stereotype of football players that isn't true.

"Playing football is just like having a job to pay your way through school," he said.



Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Texas A&M football players, left to right, Todd Howard, Jay Miller, Shea Walker and Craig Stump.

We put a lot of time into football, just like the working student. We don't feel any different from other people just because we're football players. God gave us the talent to play and the opportunity to pursue

that talent. I just feel fortunate to have the chance to do this.

"Even though we're more in the public eye because of what we do, we'd like to be treated normal. We feel just like everybody else."

Gramm's wife given OMB administrative post

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Wendy Gramm, wife of Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, was appointed Wednesday to a position in the Office of Management and Budget that her boss described as being "regulatory czar."

"I guess I'm the 'regulatory czarina,'" said Gramm, who has been director of the bureau of economics in the Federal Trade Commission since 1983.

She has a Ph.D. in economics and

taught at Texas A&M University, where her husband also was an economics professor.

She said she was tickled by her appointment as administrator of OMB's office of information and regulatory affairs.

James C. Miller III, director of OMB, said he was the first to hold the job, which was created in 1981.

Gramm said, "I'm tickled about being in his old job reviewing all government regulations, paperwork

and red tape and making sure those things don't strangle the engine of economic growth."

Her new boss, Miller, also was her old boss. The former head of the FTC just took over as director of OMB, succeeding David Stockman, who resigned.

Miller said, "Dr. Gramm brings a rare blend of knowledge, talent and enthusiasm to this vital position, the holder of which — sometimes known as the regulatory czar —

exercises a broad range of authority throughout the federal government's regulatory system. I am delighted to have her aboard."

Gramm had been considered a possible candidate to succeed Miller at the FTC.

She said, "This is a terribly exciting job, and it's a job that I had wanted to have, and I'm delighted."

Miller said Gramm's new job includes preparing the administration's "regulatory program" each year.

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