

Sports

Brooks doesn't deserve slam

On the opinion page of Monday's *Battalion*, a reference was made in a letter to the editor suggesting that former A&M football players Kevin Murray, Guy Broom and Chet Brooks were typical of the type of young men Jackie Sherill's program produces.

The problems that have plagued Murray and Broom are well-publicized. I'm in no position to comment on what type of people they are since I've never met them.

However, I did meet and interview Brooks numerous times last

season, and I can sincerely say that he is by far the most pleasant and helpful athlete I've encountered at A&M in the year I've worked for *The Battalion*. I was angered that someone who has probably never met Brooks would pass judgement on him based on what he's seen No. 27 do on a football field.

It's true that Brooks' behavior on a football field will never be mistaken for proper civilian etiquette. A 5-foot-11, 191-pound defensive back, Brooks may have been pound-for-pound the toughest football player in the nation last year.

When he puts on his game face, he's aggressive, intimidating and intense. For instance, after breaking his leg in the Texas game, he got up and hobbled to the sideline. Knowing Chet, it was probably a living hell for the trainers and coaches to keep him from going back in.

Coaches and opposing players may label Brooks a cheap-shot artist and his style of play as dirty. But ask

those same players and coaches if they would want him on their team and every one of them snatch him up in a second.

Brooks readily admits he plays rough. At a press conference before the Washington game this past season, Brooks described his bump-and-run style as "push them, hit them, intimidate them and a little word of mouth never hurt either. Of course it's nothing you guys could print."

That may sound barbaric, but that's football is a rough game. Football players expect that kind of behavior from their opponents on the field. It's just that Brooks has raised the art of aggravation to new heights.

And really, what's wrong with that? Brooks is simply an enthusiastic individual who truly loves to play ball. I never noticed anyone complaining about his attitude during

the fall semester. I wonder why? Because he was a major cog in a finely-tuned defense that propelled A&M into the Cotton Bowl perhaps?

Off the field, Brooks is an upbeat guy who doesn't mind speaking his mind. Personally, I wish his eligibility wasn't completed. Because when I asked Brooks a question, I knew I was going to hear what he had to say — not what some pabulum he thought the coaching staff wanted to hear.

Sure, Brooks was always more than willing to compliment himself after a good game, tackle or interception. He often boasted that he hadn't been beaten for a touchdown since he was at Dallas Carter High School (where besides being a blue-chip athlete he was also an honor student). I have no problem whatsoever with someone taking credit for his accomplishments as long as he also shoulders the blame for his failures.

Brooks rarely failed on the football field or in the classroom in his four years at A&M. (He will be two hours away from a sociology degree at the end of this semester.) However, when he did fail on the field, he took the heat like a man, refusing to shy away from the burden.

Basically, the person who wrote the letter shares an attitude about athletes that many people have: We expect the best of them on the field and the worst of them off the field. Frankly that attitude stinks like moldy tuna fish.

After meeting and talking with dozens of A&M athletes, I can assure you that they are basically like everyone else. On the whole, they're no dumber, smarter, richer, poorer, nicer or meaner than anyone else. In fact, on the whole, they're fairly average.

But because of the actions of a few "bad apples," the whole lot has been graded as spoiled. However, every group, including the Corps, frats, sororities, Fish Camp, student government and even *The Battalion*, has its bad apples.

So lighten up out there. If you took the time to get to know some of these guys instead of judging them immediately, you might find some nice guys. Like Chet Brooks.

12th Man Scoreboard

Deadline nears for state's biggest meet

Triathlon

Ironmen who want to test their endurance and strength in the grueling March 26 Texas Triathlon Seven hosted by the A&M triathlon club have until Sunday to enter the competition.

Bob Talamini, co-founder of the Triathlon Club, said it is the biggest event of its kind in the state.

Last year about 800 people participated, and this year the club expects as many 900 to compete.

The race starts at Wofford Cain Pool with a one-kilometer swim. Immediately after the swimming race, competitors will run 10 kilometers on campus and

then mount their bicycles for a 30-kilometer bike race along FM 2818.

The Triathlon Club was organized almost a year and a half ago to help athletes prepare for races. Talamini said the club is open to anyone. However, most of the members are students.

The club members travel around the state to compete and members help each other improve their techniques.

The entry fee for the triathlon is \$32.50 for individuals and \$55 for teams.

Aggies breeze into championships

Sailing

The Texas A&M sailing team blew away the competition at the district qualifier regatta last weekend at White Rock Lake in Dallas.

A&M nosed out ninth-ranked archrival Texas, which placed second. SMU finished third in the nine-team field. The Aggies will advance to the district championship on March 26-27 against 13 teams. The district championship determines who gets a berth to the national championships in May.

"Realistically, we have a shot at the top two in district

championship and that will get us there," freshman team member David Hiebert said. "We're right up there on the top level and our team has a lot of depth."

Sailing club president Jeff Wheless agreed that the team has depth and said the team's success has been surprising.

"We did a lot better than people expected us to do," Wheless said. All 18 team members have good sailing skills, he said.

Aggies bowling for championships

Bowling

Ten Aggies will be hoping to "strike" it rich today and Saturday at the collegiate sectional bowling competition in Amarillo.

The Texas A&M bowling team hopes to burn up the alleys against teams from Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah. The event's top two teams advance to the National Collegiate Bowling Championship April 16-17 in Denver.

Six men were chosen from the 12 players on the team, and the women's team will send all five of its players, club president Paul Slater said. A bowling team consists of five players and one alternate.

The men's team consists of Slater, David Dover, Paul Janish, Bill Gibson, Richard Duncan,

and Mike Shoemaker. The team is a few places out of the top 20.

Shoemaker is ranked in the top five nationally in the individual standings. Shoemaker, who has bowled a perfect 300 game this year, is one of nine players in the nation nominated for Bowler of the Year.

The A&M women's team is ranked No. 20. Alix Brown, Traci Johannes, Patti Kellerman, Susan Evans and Renee Smith comprise the team.

"We are going to have to have a really good tournament by everyone," Slater said. "With a little luck and good bowling, I think we have a pretty good chance to make it to nationals."

Bad luck stymies volleyballers again

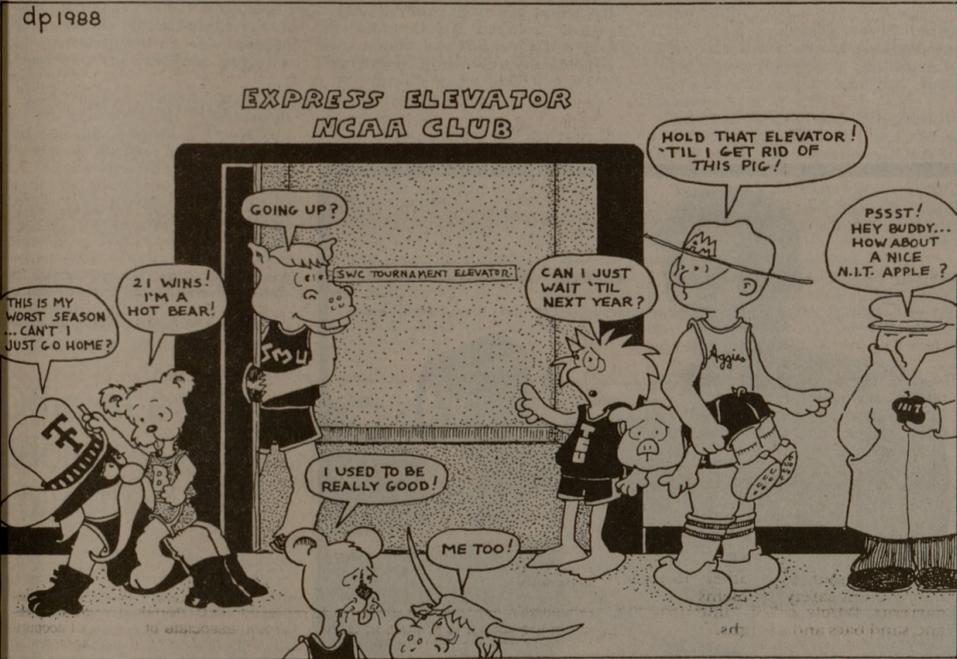
Men's Volleyball

The Texas A&M volleyball team ran into a major kink and got dinked for a fourth place finish in a tournament at San Antonio College last weekend.

A&M finished fourth by winning two games, each by a score of 15-12. The Aggies did manage a win against the second-place team.

Club president Eddie Whitter

said the club experienced the same bad luck it has faced in other tournaments. A&M planned on taking two teams to the tournament but lacked enough players to do so. Players from both teams, who were not used to playing with each other, were combined to form one team.



Aggie men's tennis team easily takes care of Miners

The Texas A&M men's tennis team continued to play well, defeating Texas-El Paso 7-2 Thursday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

The Aggies are now 9-4 on the year after a 2-2 performance in the HEB Collegiate Tournament in Corpus Christi.

In singles play, A&M's No.1 seed Dean Johnson continued to have a tough year, losing to

UTEP's Patrick Ekstrand 7-6, 6-2. In other action, A&M's Shaun O'Donovan defeated Richard Dopson 6-2, 6-3; Steve Kennedy beat the Miners' Anders Skold 6-2, 6-3, and Craig Whitteker of A&M defeated Faisal Rahman 6-3, 6-4.

Also in singles play, the Aggies' Mike Chambers defeated Oyster Ulleberg 6-3, 6-4, and A&M's Mike Campbell beat Rick Avey 6-2, 6-3.

Henderson powers Yanks to 8-6 win over Rangers

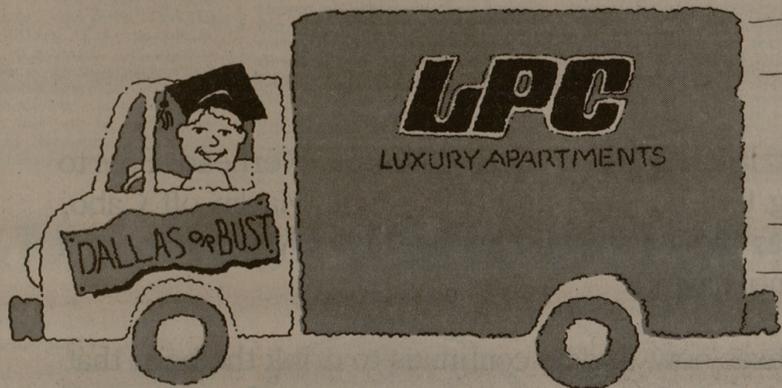
PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (AP) — Rickey Henderson hit two home runs, singled and scored another run to lead the New York Yankees to an 8-6 victory against Texas Rangers.

Henderson led off the game with a home run off Edwin Correa, and broke a 4-4 tie with a bases-empty home run against Jose Guzman with two outs in the fifth. He also singled after Joel Skinner had walked in the third, both of them scoring on a sin-

gle by Willie Randolph.

Pete O'Brien hit his second home run of the season leading off the second inning for Texas, and Pete Inca-viglia followed a lead-off walk to O'Brien in the fourth with his first home run of the spring, tying the game at 4-4.

Richard Dotson, who gave up four runs in four innings including both home runs, was credited with the victory. Steve Shields got the final two outs to earn the save.



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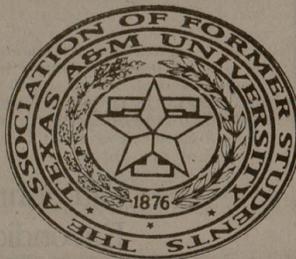
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Attention Seniors!

Interested in representing the Class of '88 as Co-Class Agent? Responsibilities for Class Agents include writing Class letters, attending Association of Former Students Council meetings twice yearly and planning your five-year Class reunion. Class Agent elections will be held at the Senior Induction Banquets April 4 & 5.

- **Pick up descriptions of Class Agent responsibilities and an application at the Clayton W. Williams, Jr. Alumni Center.
- **You must fill out an application to be eligible to run.
- **A MANDATORY informational meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, March 22 at the Clayton Williams Center.
- **For more information, call Frances Jones, 845-7514.

Battalion Classified
845-2611