

Sports

Batiste, attention mix well

Profile of the Week
Dana Batiste

By Hal L. Hammons
Sports Editor

There's no mystery about Dana Batiste. He walked into Tuesday's press conference at Cain Hall Dining Hall just like he belonged — like he was talking sports with some old buddies at the Dixie Chicken.

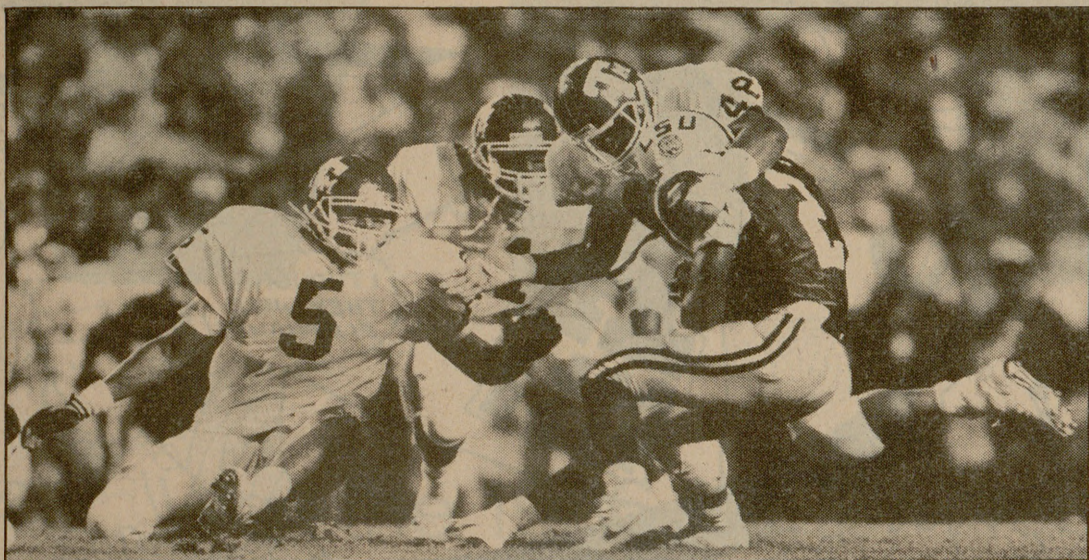
Truth to tell, he has gotten to know the Texas sports writers fairly well. He's the hands-down favorite interview on the Texas A&M football team. And so it would figure that he would get to know them pretty well.

It was Batiste who had the biggest crowd of all the players during the NCAA press conference a couple of weeks ago. It is Batiste who will talk when few others will. Need a good sports feature? Go talk to Dana.

As was pointed out in the interview Tuesday, it is "The Blitz Brothers" who usually get all the hype. It is John Roper and Aaron Wallace who opposing coaches say they have to structure their offensive attack around.

But it's Batiste who leads the team in tackles. In fact, he has almost as many as Roper and Wallace combined.

Maybe it has something to do with playing on the inside. You can run away from John



Dana Batiste (48) wraps up LSU tailback Slip Watkins for one of his team-leading 27 tackles.

Photo by Dean Saito

Roper fairly easily. Just put two or three blockers on him and run a toss sweep to the opposite side.

But you can't run away from Batiste. Not and still keep the ball in bounds.

And similarly, he doesn't run away from anyone else. And at Texas A&M, that's especially welcome. Remember, it was here that a

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OSU talented trio taxes Ag defense

Texas A&M's unexpected open week helped heal some of the wounded, but otherwise the team did not benefit from the weekend off, Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said at his weekly media luncheon at Cain Hall Tuesday.

While the return of running back Darren Lewis and split end Rod Harris should help the struggling A&M offense, the week off caused by the cancellation of the Alabama game may have hurt the Aggies.

"With one open week usually you can survive that," Sherrill said. "When you have two weeks open in a row it becomes very tough."

"You're very reluctant to scrimmage because you certainly don't want to lose a player, but, consequently, you're not going full speed in a lot of things you have to go full speed at in the game."

Sherrill said the Aggies lost a chance to get some game experience for younger players and are having a tough time keeping team morale up.

"It seems like we've had three spring practices in a row and now we're just getting to our season," Sherrill said.

A&M-OSU to air locally for \$20 fee

People who would like to see the Texas A&M-Oklahoma State game but don't want to drive to Stillwater, Okla. can watch the game on television — for a price.

Cooke CableVision will provide a live feed from Home Sports Entertainment on a pay-per-view basis.

The game will cost viewers \$20 if they notify Cooke CableVision before 6 p.m. Thursday. The charge is \$25 after that time.

For more information about the telecast, call Cooke at 846-2229.

Inside linebacker Dana Batiste, A&M's leading tackler, echoed Sherrill's as he said the team is angry

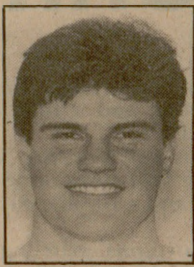
See Sherrill, page 12

How do sporting imports make it in America?

Welcome to this weeks look at the weird world of un-American sports. The topic: Tennis and golf.

I don't want to be dosed mind, but how did these sports get so popular?

Golf as a Scottish import sport has somehow taken over acres and acres of choice grazing land in the U.S. I've played golf once, but thinking back on the experience, I was kind of lost. Only Europeans could thoroughly



Jerry Bolz
Sports viewpoint

enjoy dominating a small white ball around a large, finely cultivated expanse and "putting" it into a cup. That sounds as American as drinking hot tea on a hot Texas afternoon.

Somehow, though, golf entered the United States — somewhat like fireants are doing now. Some Americans just didn't fully understand that we beat the English in the war and are free to participate in our own pastimes now.

Something in some Americans, though, wants to hold onto the haughtiness of the European spirit on the weekends and Wednesdays (doctors), while being natives the rest of the time.

Besides that, golf is confusing. Have you ever tried to explain golf to a small American boy.

"You walk around all day, carrying this

big bag, swinging at a little ball and trying to get the lowest score." It just doesn't work well in an Americans mind to win with the lowest score. Even small children know that you have to have the highest score to win in games.

Another thing about golf is the clothing. There's no uniform. Athletes in sports and preppy shirts just don't seem real sportsy.

The clincher, though, is seeing a male golfer wearing knickers and one of those convertible-driver's hats. That's when I know the European thing has gone too far.

When I was growing up, my Dad used to watch golf on the weekends. I'm pretty sure that's how he learned to go to sleep in what he estimates as seven seconds.

The poor man. It has grown to be such a pattern that now he can even be caught resting his eyes through a Yankee or a

Steeler game, his favorite teams.

Tennis is also gaining acceptance as a big-time sport. It has long been a weekend sport for many Americans. And, although golf is more strictly than tennis, the sport seems to also attract an elite group of participants and fans.

Although tennis players generally sweat, they can't really be compared to a hockey or basketball player. Tennis players, especially professionals, are great athletes. They have a great amount of agility, good conditioning, and lots of stamina.

Really doesn't allow the athlete to really let go. They're called-up on a tiny court and can only hit the ball so far. What would Jose Canseco do if he was told he could only hit the ball in the infield?

But it's the tennis fan that really is confused.

The mentality of tennis is related to that of golf. I'm sure it has something to do with the large European roots.

Fans pay outrageous prices to go cross-eyed watching a fluorescent green ball being slammed back and forth. While at a match, fans dine on extravagant dishes at more extravagant prices.

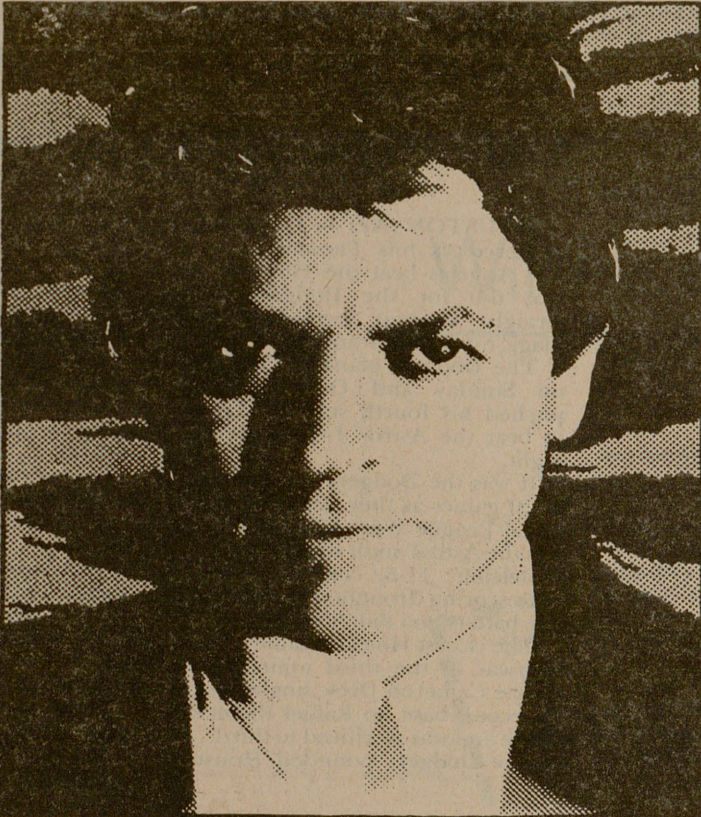
Only at a tennis match would you see fans eating strawberries and cream. Who forgot to order the hot dogs and mustard?

Scoring in tennis is a little strange too. The guy with no points is love. Love suddenly turns to 15 when one point is scored. Fifteen goes to 30 with another point, so logically, three points would make 45. Unfortunately, that's not how it goes.

One good thing has come from tennis, though. Shoes.

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