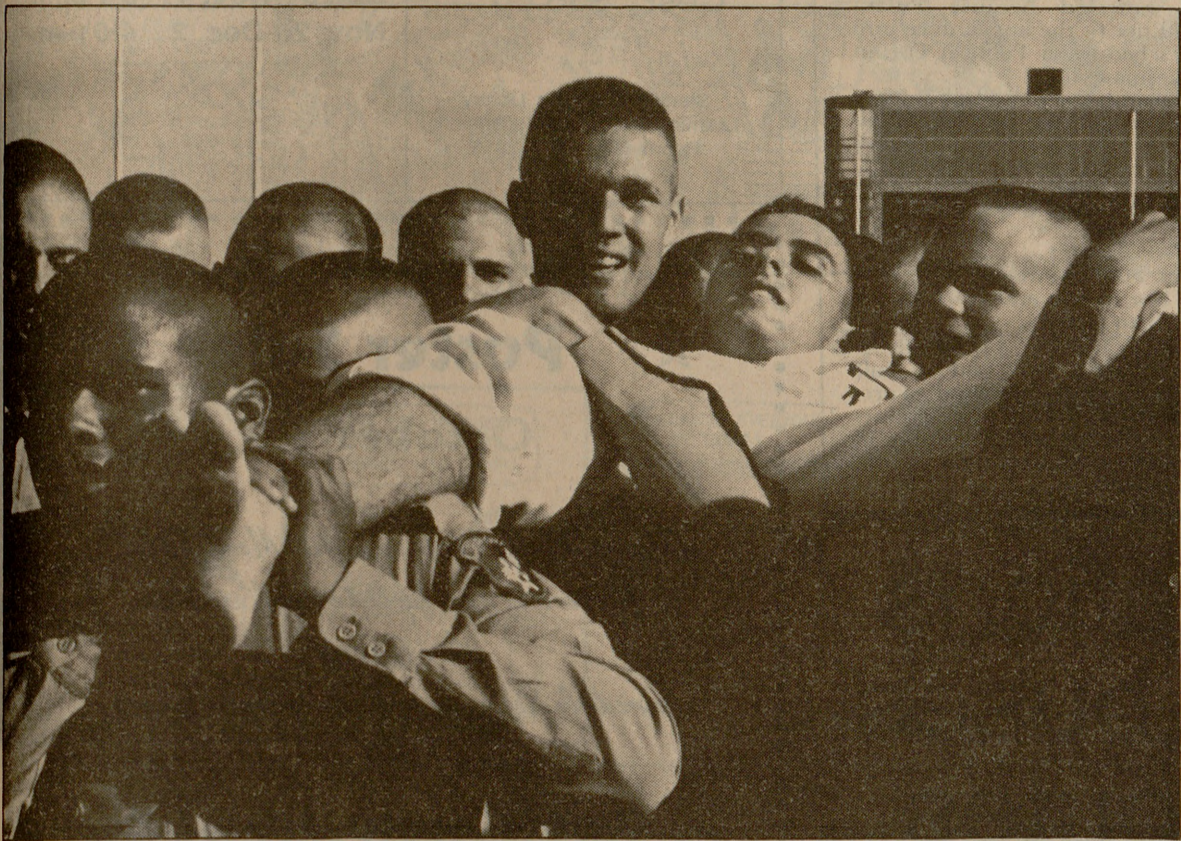


Yell leader suffers injury after A&M football game



Yell leader Steve Keathly hurt on Kyle Field after the football game.

Photo by Jay Janner

By Holly Becka
Staff Writer

Head Yell Leader Steve Keathly, who suffered a separated shoulder after Texas A&M's football game Saturday, is in good condition at A.P. Beutel Health Center after surgery Monday at St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan.

Keathly was injured Saturday when freshmen members of the Corps of Cadets tackled him after A&M's win over Texas Tech University.

After a win by the Aggie football team, freshmen cadets celebrate by running onto Kyle Field to capture the yell leaders and carry them to the Fish Pond. After the yell leaders are thrown into the fountain, a yell practice is held.

Keathly said, "I was tackled and I felt I twisted my shoulder. My shoulder hit first, the Astroturf

grabbed it and all the fish piled on. I could feel something wrong."

Keathly was taken to the health center after Saturday's post-game yell practice, where he remained for the night.

"It (the shoulder) was sore," he said. "I thought I had bruised it. After the yells, my shoulder wasn't giving me full motion and I was in a lot of pain. I was turning white doing those yells."

During surgery Monday doctors repaired torn ligaments and put a pin into Keathly's left shoulder. The senior speech communications major was then readmitted to the Beutel Health Center.

Keathly said the pin will be taken out when his shoulder heals, which should be within eight weeks.

"In four or five weeks, I'll put on a uniform and do a little of the yelling," he said. "Until then, I'll be out on the field in civilian clothes and a

sling. As far as going through the motions of yells, I won't be able to do that for four weeks. But my goal is to be able to yell at the Texas game."

Keathly said he thinks there won't be any change in the post-game tradition.

"It's a fun tradition and it can be as safe as we make it as long as we don't try to get too radical," he said.

"We also can exert some controls as upperclassmen," he continued. "We'll tell the freshmen the main thing is to not get hurt. The fact that I ended up with this is enough to make everyone calm down. But the mere fact that something happened to me shouldn't wipe out the whole tradition. The injury was an accident so let's not dwell on it."

Retired Maj. Gen. Thomas A. Darling, Corps Commandant, said the discontinuation of the 112-year tradition is not being considered.

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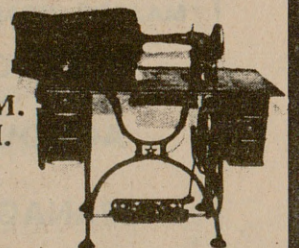
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