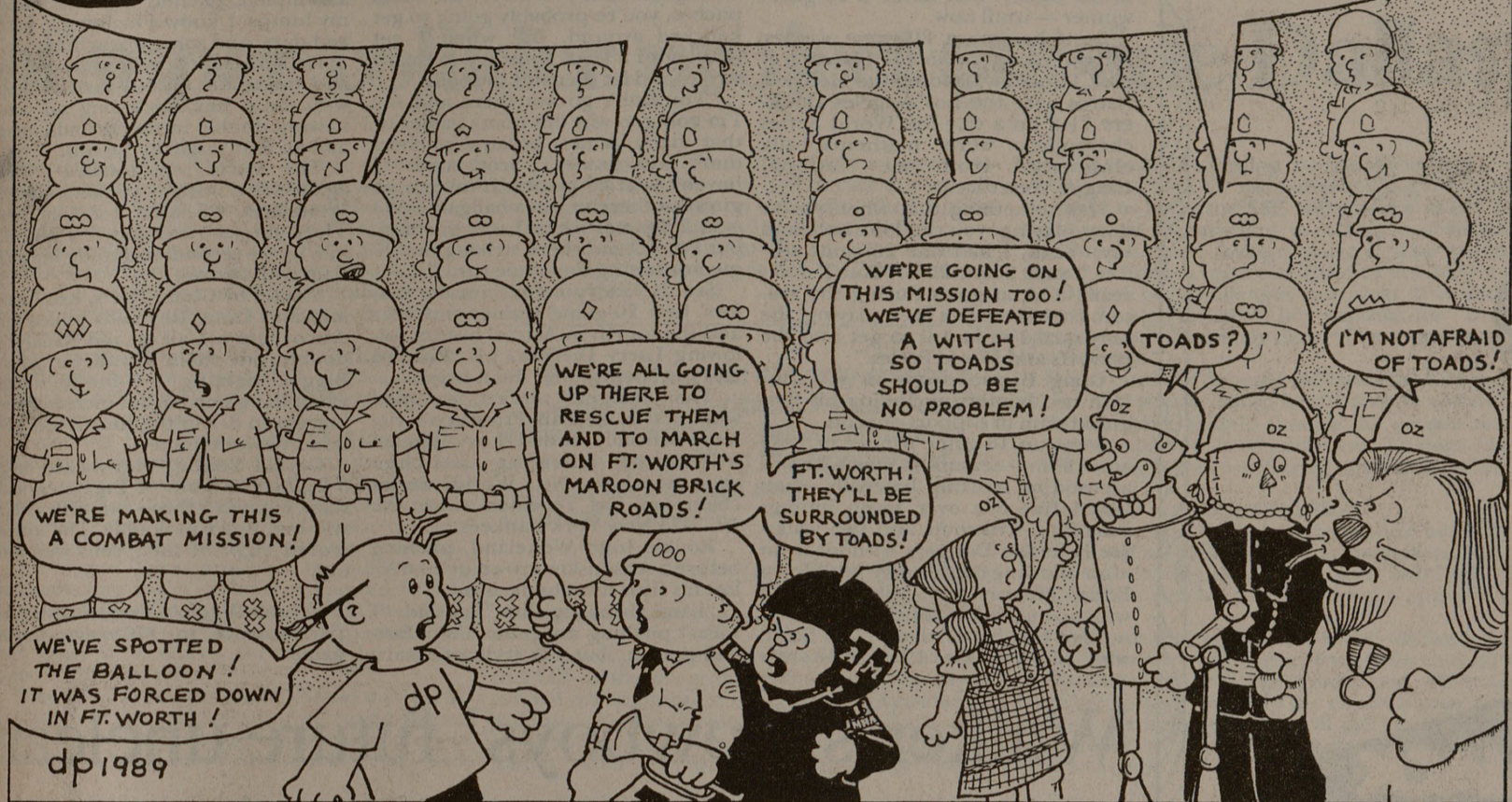


CORPS TRIP!



Offense

(Continued from page 9)

an offense where the burden was placed on his shoulders. I didn't want to put him in that situation. I've restricted what the coaches probably would have done without my input.

"But now we're to the point where we expand a bit and become a little more wide open with what we're doing. Let's let him make some big plays."

TCU seems like a good opponent to make some big plays against. A&M has won the last 16 games against the Horned Frogs, including last year's 18-0 shutout in College Station.

In 1987, Lewis set an A&M freshman rushing record with 194 yards on 16 carries, including an 80-yard touchdown run.

Slocum, who pointed out that Lewis is still ahead of where he was at this time last year, said he was worried opposing defenses might key on the running back with all the Heis-

man talk he received over the summer.

"I could see the prospect of something like this happening," Slocum said. "There's still time for him to have a good season and get a lot of yards. He would like to make more yardage, all of our receivers would like to have caught more passes, Lance would like to have thrown more balls and each linebacker would like to have made more tackles."

"I don't see anything wrong with Darren Lewis. Our offensive scheme and the way other people have defended us has had more to do with it than anything Darren's done."

Toledo stressed that Lewis is not the key problem — scoring touchdowns is. But obviously, Lewis remains the key to an Aggie offense that has to start producing.

"I talked to Darren and said, 'Hang tough and have some patience because it's going to happen,'" Toledo said. "I think he's played himself pretty much into playing shape. I think he realizes he's got to work hard in practice, and he does. I think it's time for him to open it up a little bit."

Jiles

(Continued from page 11)

the Triple Shoot was designed for a quarterback like Jiles.

"Ron Jiles has a good arm," Slocum said. He presents a threat in the passing game (as well as) the running game. . . he can do a lot of things."

Jiles' chance to finally lead the Frogs came last weekend in TCU's 14-10 loss to Missouri.

Throwing 40 times, Jiles completed 19 passes for a total of 204 yards. His numbers don't reflect his performance.

TCU receivers dropped 12 Jiles passes, three of those within the five-yard line.

"He had a good opening game and I think he executed well," Wacker said. "If we would have caught it as well as he threw it, we'd have won the football game."

"Our receivers are a question mark right now, but Ron is playing well."

Jiles will have his hands full this Saturday night when TCU's new offense meets a blitz-happy Aggie defense.

"We know they're going to blitz a lot," Jiles said. "We have to adjust and be ready and when they do blitz, make them pay."

As far as TCU's chances to make it to the Cotton Bowl this year, Jiles is even more optimistic than the normally irrepresable Wacker.

Wacker said TCU needed a miracle to beat A&M Saturday.

"A&M was picked to be the conference champions and I think at this point you still have to pick them to go to the Cotton Bowl," Wacker said.

Jiles, sounding more like Wacker than Wacker himself, is a little more confident in TCU's chances to win the Southwest Conference.

"If we go out and do the things we have to do, we can beat A&M, Houston or any other conference team," Jiles said. "If we can do that, then we have a chance to go to the Cotton Bowl."

Letters to the Sports editor

SPORTS EDITOR:

Few, if any, things I read in the *Battalion* get me really upset. But I cannot sit quietly by the side while people like Richard Tijerina are given valuable space in your paper; space that he chooses to use to spread his warped opinions to the easily-influenced masses.

In his Sept. 12 column, the assistant sports editor chose to write an article about some tennis greats. While most of the things he said about McEnroe are true and documented, I demand to know where Rich got the idea that Jimmy Connors "is ready to retire." Mr. Tijerina, do you know Jimmy personally? Has he told you of his plans to retire? I don't think so. In fact, Jimmy says that he has no plans to retire soon.

I just can't understand how you can berate the greatest tennis player ever (a man with more tournament victories than any other player living or dead) without the slightest idea of what you are talking about.

Craig Coates '90

SPORTS EDITOR:

In regard to "Mac is back and does the tennis world really care?" (Sept. 12) Answer me this — what kind of non-informed, tennis-ignorant, sports "authority" are you?

• Rule one: I was a Borg fanatic too — actually, I hated John, until he beat Borg at Wimbledon and he said, "I know people dislike some things that I do, but this means a lot to me. It's July 4th and this is for the U.S.A."

• Rule two: Who was the first to tell you that tennis has gone on and good players have arisen? This really has a lot to do with whether or not the tennis world cares about Mac's return, especially when. . .

• Rule three: Mac's back because he loves the game and most players do have some sort of respect for his ability. Damn him for raising a family.

In other words, what possessed you to write an article about John McEnroe, instead of why you are failing in your journalistic efforts to make a point? If there was a way, John McEnroe would get my vote for President. Go ahead and say he wouldn't be assertive enough.

And please — stop reminding everyone about the age of players. They'll retire when they're ready — Connors, Evert, Mac, heck — Nolan will tell you when. Just concentrate on keeping your ideas succinct.

Nick Jones '90

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer.

Eaton filling Donaldson's shoes Oilers' backup expected to start against Chargers

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers coach Jerry Glanville got a sick feeling when free safety Jeff Donaldson suffered an ankle injury Sunday against Minnesota.

He hopes Tracy Eaton can help cure the feeling.

"J.D. (Donaldson) is a special guy," Glanville said. "You get a sick feeling when you lose a heck of a player, but what happens is that you sometimes find another good one."

Eaton, a second-year player from Portland State, replaced Donaldson against the Vikings and is the likely starter for Sunday's game at San Diego.

"I'm excited, and I want to play," Eaton said. "Of course, I'll be a little nervous but I just hope I can help the team in some way. I'll probably be a little more prepared for this one than I was Sunday."

Eaton got an early call Sunday and was flagged for two personal fouls. After watching films of his penalties, Eaton believes they were close calls.

"Experience is going to help me out," Eaton said. "I think the toughest thing Sunday is to try to fill all those spots that J.D. has. He means so much to our team. He's on every one of our defenses and special teams."

Eaton spent most of last season on injured reserve with a partial shoulder separation that required surgery. He was activated late in the season and played in one regular season game.

"Tracy did a heck of a job," Glanville said. "He'll play until J.D. gets back. We love J.D., the way he plays and everything he stands for. We just have to go without him."

The Oilers also likely will face the Chargers without starting center Jay Pennison, who has a badly sprained ankle.

Pennison is listed as doubtful but he's hoping to continue his playing streak. "I haven't missed a start since my junior year in college," Pennison said.

Pennison would be replaced by veteran center George Yarno, a Plan B signee, who has worked with the first team in practice this week.

"It's helped me because I can concentrate on one position in practice," said Yarno, who played at Atlanta last season.

"When you know you're going to play one position, it especially helps because you can concentrate on the guy across from you."

Yarno also is a backup at both guard positions.

Lady Ags play in softball event

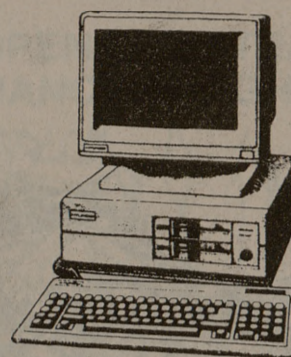
The Texas A&M women's softball team open their 1989 season this weekend when they travel to Brenham to compete in the ten-team Brenham Tournament.

Other teams competing at the tournament are Sam Houston State, Southwest Texas State, Stephen F. Austin, Mary Hardin Baylor, St. Edward's, Houston Baptist, McNeese State and two teams from Ranger Junior College.

Lady Aggie softball Coach Bob Brock said in a statement released through the A&M sports information department that the team will take 18 players to the tournament, and that all 18 will play because the tournament is set up with free substitution.

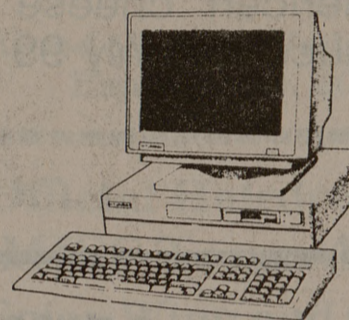
"I look for this to be an exciting Saturday for us, especially for the new kids," Brock said.

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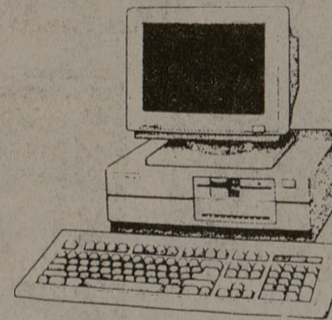
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