



Richard Tijerina
Sports Editor

TJ's Diary:
A day in the life of a sports editor

Honest. Yesterday's front page of the *Houston Chronicle* — right below the masthead and right above the story that should have led the paper, appeared **The Story**.

Headline:
Ware: 'I guess it still hasn't really hit me'

Yuck.
As if we hadn't been bombarded with enough Andre Ware hype this season; now we have to know of his "first-person account . . . Andre Ware describes the 24 hours after being named recipient of the award Saturday afternoon . . ."

Double yuck.
Actually, I cared about as much about Ware's day as what you're going to read.

Headline:
Tijerina: 'I guess it still hasn't really hit me'

Editor's Note (that's me) : In a first-person account written exclusively for *The Battalion*, newly named sports editor Richard Tijerina describes the 24 hours of his first day on the job. The Texas A&M junior also discusses next year's football season, and whether he'll still be an Aggie on academic probation. He was assisted by former Battalion sports editor Doug Walker.

The alarm clock rang. It was 2 in the afternoon on a bright Sunday. I turned on the television and noticed the Cowboys were beating the Rams, 31-21. This was a glorious day, I thought.

Then, I remembered.
In a few hours, I would have to go to work on my new job: *Battalion* sports editor. Wow. Me. I couldn't believe it. How could I be so lucky? I immediately thought of my mother — she was probably weeping at this very moment . . . so proud of her son.

Still feeling the effects of a large party that I hosted the night before, I went into the bathroom and swallowed three Alka Seltzers. Boy, the entire populace of Aggieland must be itching in their pants to know what I'm doing right now. I decide I won't tell them. They must never know.

I went to lunch at Schlotsky's. Medium original with no olives. Cheetos. Large Pepsi.

Then I went to work. My very first staff meeting. I showed the new sportswriters how to use the computers. But after that tiring job, I didn't have time to lounge around because I had a story to write about the A&M-Texas game.

You see, I always was a firm believer that you get what you work for. That's why I'm not going to accept any freebies from friends or sources now . . .

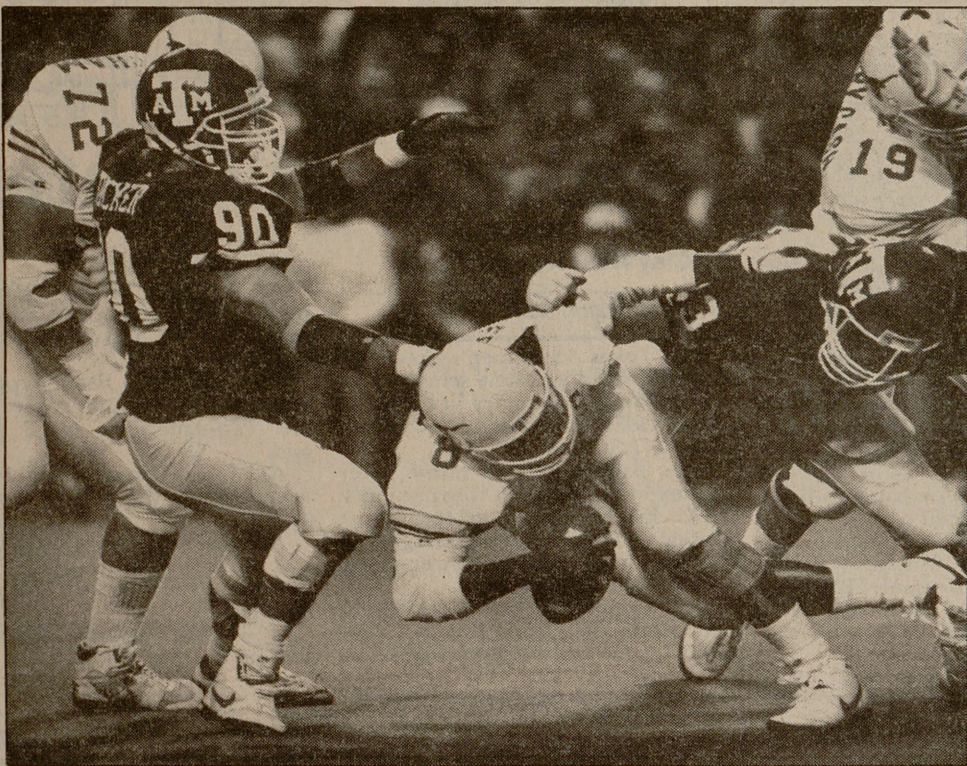
Throughout the Fall, I kept reminding myself whenever I got down, "You can do it, TJ — never give up." Well, I guess I never did give up, and now all my hard work has paid off.

Don't cry, Ma. I'll be home for Christmas.

Boy, next semester will be just great. True, *The Battalion* isn't exactly loved by the general student body at A&M, especially after all the shenanigans during last year's Jackie Sherrill escapade.

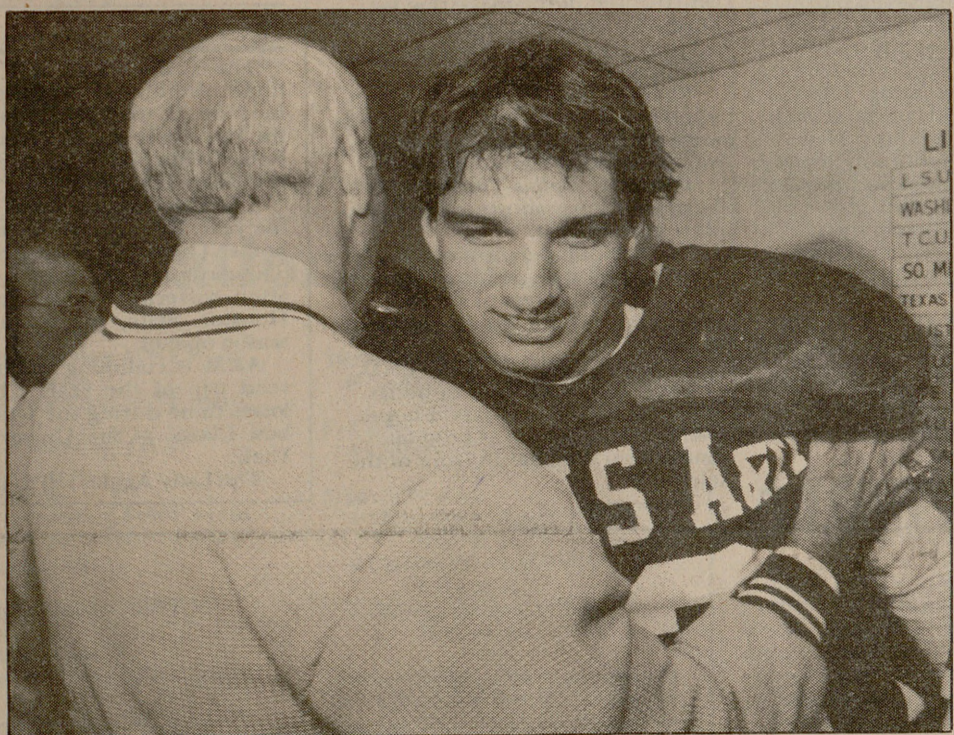
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Ags stay at No. 16; Miami moves to No. 2



Kevin Tucker (90) and Aaron Wallace (23) record a sack.

Photo by Eric H. Roalson



A&M Coach R.C. Slocum hugs quarterback Lance Pavlas in the locker room after the win over UT. Pavlas was named Player of the Game.

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenbach

John Hancock Bowl tickets on sale tomorrow for students at G. Rollie

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M enjoyed perhaps its sweetest victory of the season Saturday, but still came up sour in Monday's Associated Press Top 25 College Football Poll.

A&M, which defeated Texas 21-10 in front of 76,803 at Kyle Field, stayed at No. 16 in the next-to-last football poll of the season.

The Aggies will play No. 24 Pittsburgh Dec. 30 in the John Hancock Bowl in El Paso.

Tickets for the bowl game go on sale

AP Top 25 Poll

Team	Last Week
1. Colorado	1
2. Miami, Fla.	4
3. Michigan	3
4. Notre Dame	5
5. Florida State	6
6. Nebraska	7
7. Alabama	2
8. Tennessee	8
9. Auburn	11
10. Arkansas	9
11. Illinois	10
12. USC	12
13. Houston	13
14. Clemson	14
15. Virginia	15
16. Texas A&M	16
17. West Virginia	17
18. Penn. St.	18
19. Brigham Young	19
20. Duke	20
21. Ohio St.	21
22. Michigan St.	22
23. Hawaii	23
24. Pittsburgh	24
25. Texas Tech	25

Wednesday for A&M students at 8 a.m. in Ticket Windows seven and eight in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

John Hancock Bowl tickets cost \$24 each, and students must bring their student I.D. cards.

Bowl tickets may be purchased for any section of the Sun Bowl. Students may purchase as many tickets as wanted.
A&M and Pittsburgh will meet for the first time. It's the 17th bowl appearance for the Aggies, and the fourth in five seasons.

A&M is 10-6 overall in bowls with its last appearance coming in the 1988 Cotton Bowl — a 35-10 win over Notre Dame.

The Aggies have played once before in El Paso, a 37-14 win over Florida in the Sun Bowl played on Jan. 2, 1977.

Pittsburgh was the school where former A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill was hired from in 1982.

A&M had been ranked as high as No. 14, but dropped two spots in last week's poll after its 23-22 loss to No. 10 Arkansas. A win in the John Hancock Bowl might jump the Aggies a couple of spots in the final poll of the season after all the bowl games.

A&M could have been playing Jan. 1 in the Cotton Bowl against No. 8 Tennessee for a Top 10 spot in the final polls, but Arkansas clinched the Southwest Conference

championship and Cotton Bowl berth with the victory.

Elsewhere, the University of Miami moved two steps closer to its third national championship this decade.

After the Hurricanes (10-1) improved two places to second in the poll to No. 2, first-year coach Dennis Erickson quickly assessed his team's chances of overtaking No. 1 Colorado.

"We're excited about that," Erickson said, "because it puts us in a position where, if we focus in and take care of business at the Sugar Bowl against Alabama, we've got the opportunity to win the national championship."

"If we're able to beat Alabama . . . and Notre Dame were to beat Colorado, then I would say that because of where we're ranked right now, our chances are pretty good."

Miami will play in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1 against Alabama (10-1), which fell from second to seventh following a 30-20 loss at Auburn Saturday.

The Buffaloes (11-0) will play in the Orange Bowl against Notre Dame (11-1), which moved up one spot to fourth.

Michigan (10-1) still is No. 3 and will play No. 12 Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl.

If Miami loses and Notre Dame wins, the Fighting Irish stand to win their second consecutive national championship.

Miami finished No. 1 in 1983 and 1987 and No. 2 in 1986 and 1988.

The Hurricanes' only stumble this year was a 24-10 loss at Florida State. They ended Notre Dame's 23-game winning streak with a 27-10 victory Nov. 25.

Miami received four first-place votes and 1,407 points, while Colorado received 55 first-place votes and 1,492 of a possible 1,500 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Michigan received the other first-place vote and 1,374 points. Notre Dame's point total was 1,323.

Rounding out the Top 10 are Florida State, Nebraska, Alabama, Tennessee, Auburn and Arkansas.

Florida State, winners of nine in a row since opening the season with two losses, moved up one place to fifth after beating Florida 24-17 Saturday.

Nebraska, which was idle, advanced from No. 7 to No. 6. Tennessee remained eighth after defeating Vanderbilt 17-10.

Auburn jumped two places to No. 9 following its victory over Alabama, and Arkansas fell one spot to No. 10 following a 38-24 win over Southern Methodist.

Illinois is 11th, followed by Southern Cal, Houston, Clemson, Virginia, Texas A&M, West Virginia, Penn State, Brigham Young, Duke, Ohio State, Michigan State, Hawaii, Pittsburgh and Texas Tech.

Other than Illinois, which dropped one spot, all of those teams held the same position as the previous week.

Sooners face new charges, may get death penalty

DALLAS (AP) — National Collegiate Athletic Association investigators were told that improprieties continued within the University of Oklahoma football program after it was placed on probation last year, according to a newspaper report.

In a copyright front page story in Tuesday's editions, *The Dallas Morning News* reported new charges have been brought against the university by Otha Armstrong III, a friend of former Sooner quarterback Charles Thompson.

If the violations are substantiated, the Sooners could face the NCAA's "death penalty," a suspension of up to two years.

Oklahoma was found guilty of several recruiting violations last December and prohibited from post-season play for two seasons and banned from live television appearances this season. A team becomes eligible for the death penalty if the NCAA finds a major rules violation within five years of such penalties.

Armstrong, 24, is serving two years in a federal penitentiary in Big Spring, Texas, for stealing 25 championship rings and other items from the home of former Sooner coach Barry Switzer.

Armstrong says he served as a middleman through which a Tulsa booster sent

cash to Thompson and Jamelle Holieway, another former Sooner quarterback. He also told the NCAA that freshman running back Dewell Brewer received improper benefits during at least one unofficial visit to Norman before signing his letter of intent in February, the *Morning News* reported.

David Berst, the NCAA's chief enforcement official, refused to comment on his staff's activities.

Oklahoma sports information director Mike Treps told the *Morning News* the university had not heard of any preliminary investigation by the NCAA.

"We have no comment whatsoever," Treps said. "To my knowledge, I don't know if we've even paid any attention to . . . (Armstrong's accusations)."

A former Sooner player who was promised anonymity by the *Morning News* said Armstrong and Thompson were close friends.

Armstrong said Thompson asked him several times to go to a Western Union outlet and sign for wire transfers from a booster in Tulsa. Once he obtained the money, he gave it to Thompson, who gave a portion to Holieway, Armstrong said.

Texas A&M University

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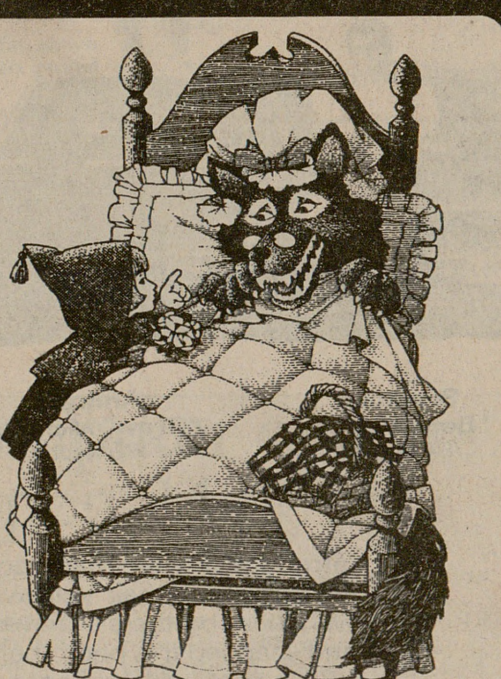
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