

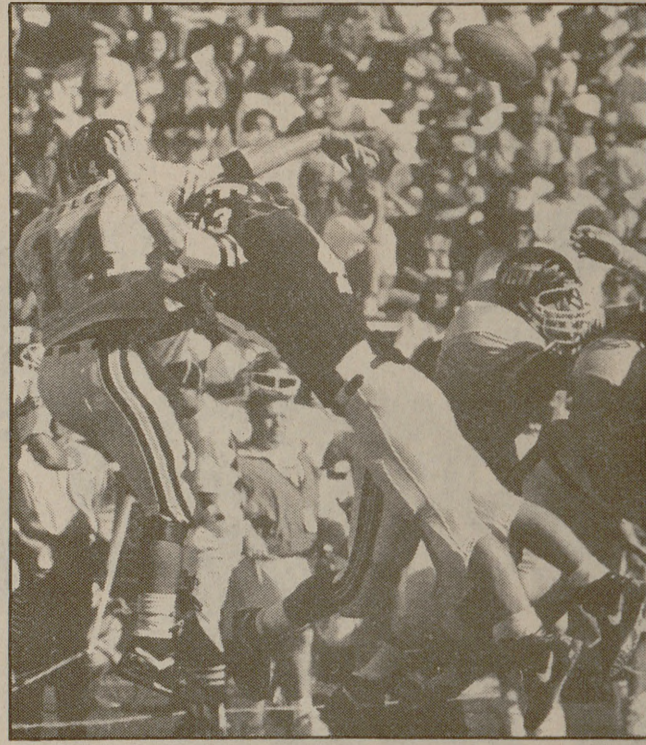
# Young linebacker lives dream starts in Austin against Texas

By DOUGLAS PILS  
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M linebacker Jason Atkinson already knew this was going to be a busy week.

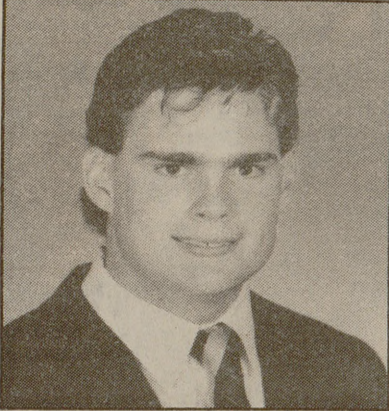
With two civil engineering tests, including one at 8 a.m. the morning after Bonfire, Atkinson had enough to deal with before having to worry about shutting down the Texas offense.

But when Anthony Williams, the Aggies' leading tackler, went down with a torn groin last week against



HUY THANH NGUYEN/The Battalion

Texas A&M redshirt freshman Jason Atkinson (43) is slated to start against Texas for injured linebacker Anthony Williams.



Jason Atkinson

Texas Christian, Atkinson suddenly found himself with another task.

With Williams doubtful and sophomore Trent Lewis out with a knee injury, Atkinson, a redshirt freshman from Houston Westfield, will start in the one game he's dreamed about all his life.

"It's always been one of my dreams to play Texas in Memorial Stadium," Atkinson said. "I'm a third-generation Aggie and I've been coming to games at Kyle Field since I was two. The first full song I ever learned was probably the (Aggie) War Hymn."

So when Atkinson was recruited two years ago, it wasn't a tough decision — coming from an Aggie background and playing for former

A&M head coach Emory Bellard in high school.

"(Bellard) told me not to play the recruiting game," he said. "He told me to figure out where I wanted to go and go there. I took my first visit here and canceled all my other visits."

Atkinson said there was a little doubt about coming to A&M, and that he took a lot of heat after committing. The Aggies were in the midst of NCAA probation, and rumors of the death penalty surfaced during the Jackie Sherrill-George Smith debacle.

"I caught a lot of hell about my decision," Atkinson said. "People were telling me not to come here because of the death penalty possibility. There were only 13 recruits of

us that year because of all the bad press that came out of that incident."

The talk among the A&M and UT players has been the hot topic in the media this week. Williams has been the most vocal Aggie as far as lambasting the Horns. While Atkinson said he probably won't try to keep up with Williams' mouth, he will do his best to make up for the loss of Williams' play.

"He's (Williams) a real good player and I'm going to try to fill his shoes the best I can," Atkinson said. "I'm sure he'll try to play. I couldn't believe it when he went out of the game. Usually, even if he died on the field, he'd stay in two or three more plays. He's a tough guy."

With Williams doubtful for Saturday's game, but still boasting of how A&M will crush Texas, Atkinson

could be the one who pays the price for those remarks.

"It's kinda funny, he's throwing the dice and it's my money on the table," Atkinson said. "I'm not a calm guy at all. Usually when you're something outrageous, it comes to haunt you."

Atkinson said he's confident he can step in and pick up the slack, and even Williams believes in his placement.

"He's a redshirt freshman, he's gotten a lot of playing time this year," Williams said. "He's a pretty athlete. He's pretty quick and mobile. If he does start, the defense won't miss a beat. His opportunity has arisen and hopefully, he can low up on it."

Playing most of the second half after Williams' injury, Atkinson recorded a season-high eight tackles including five solos and a quarterback pressure. For the season, he has 22 tackles in limited action.

While Atkinson is low on game experience, A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said the emotion of such a game will make up for any lack of playing time.

"Jason will play OK," Slocum said. "In games like this, when it's emotional, you'd be surprised how good Jason will play. He'll do fine."

Atkinson said the team is getting up for the game, and it shows because the practices have been intense.

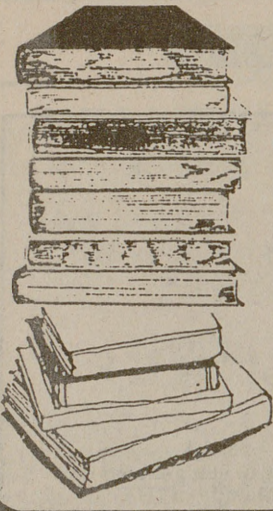
"The team's very excited," Atkinson said. "It's probably the toughest week of practice we've had as far as people firing off the ball. We've got Greg Hill (a freshman from Dallas Carter) and he's giving us a good look. We feel like if we can stop him we can stop anybody. That's going to be an All-American when he leaves here."

Atkinson said the team as a whole must be at the top of its game and can expect to get embarrassed in Austin — something that's not a part of his lifelong dream.

"If we don't play our best, we're going to whip up on us," he said. "They are ranked fifth in the nation but we've been playing well lately. We should be able to give them a tough game."

"This is a great way to end the season. Everybody is just as psyched as you could imagine."

## We Buy Books Everyday at Texas A&M Bookstore



**TEXAS A&M**  
bookstore  
IN THE MEMORIAL STUDENT CENTER

**ATTENTION: ALL RECOGNIZED STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

### MSC OPEN HOUSE II REGISTRATION IS BEGINNING.

**OPEN HOUSE**  
January 19, 1991

**EARLY REGISTRATION**  
Nov. 12 - Jan. 11 — \$20.00

**LATE REGISTRATION**  
Jan. 14 - Jan. 18 — \$25.00

\*Registration forms can be obtained just inside the door of Room 216 MSC in the Student Programs Office.

\*Forms are to be turned in to Gelinda Lara in Room 216 T MSC.

\*For more information, call the Student Programs Office at 845-7627.

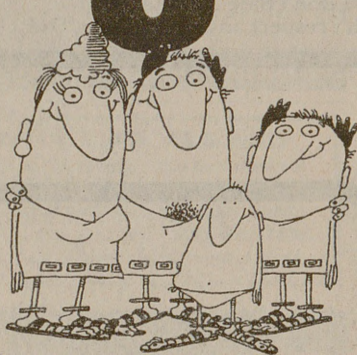
## FAMILY CHOICE™

2 MEDIUM PIZZAS

**\$8.99**  
PLUS TAX WHERE APPLICABLE

One pizza with 8 toppings\* for the adults.

One pizza with 2 toppings for the kids.



© 1990 Little Caesar Enterprises, Inc.

### Little Caesars Pizza! Pizza!

Two great pizzas! One low price! Always Always.

Offer valid on Pizza! Pizza! or Pan! Pan! thru 1/6/91 at participating stores. No coupon necessary.

**\$6.99 Terrific Tuesday!**

Two Large \$8.99

Delivery Available on Campus

**TWO PIZZAS**  
with cheese and 1 topping

Small \$6.99  
Medium \$8.99  
Large \$11.99

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer. Carry out only.

**Little Caesars**  
Little Caesars Enterprises, Inc.  
ST-11-28-90 Expires: 12-31-90

**FREE**  
BUY ONE SANDWICH  
GET ONE FREE!  
**\$3.25**

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer. Carry out only.

**Little Caesars**  
Little Caesars Enterprises, Inc.  
ST-11-28-90 Expires: 12-31-90

**TWO MEDIUM PIZZAS WITH 8 TOPPINGS**  
Eight select toppings  
**\$8.88**

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer. Carry out only.

**Little Caesars**  
Little Caesars Enterprises, Inc.  
ST-11-28-90 Expires: 12-31-90

**FREE**  
BUY ONE BABY PAN! PAN!  
GET ONE FREE!  
& a 16 oz. soft drink  
**\$2.19**

Not valid with any other offer. One coupon per customer. Carry out only.

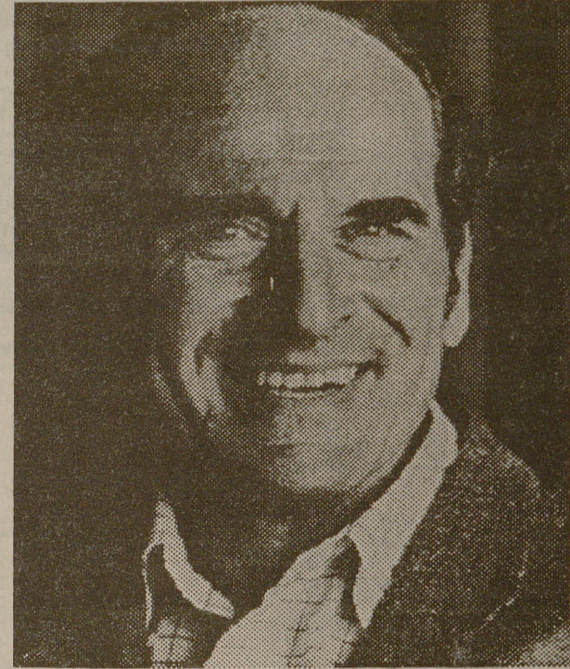
**Little Caesars**  
Little Caesars Enterprises, Inc.  
ST-11-28-90 Expires: 12-31-90

**NORTHGATE**  
268-0220  
University & Stasney

**COLLEGE STATION**  
696-0191  
SW Parkway & Texas

**BRYAN**  
776-7171  
E. 29th & Briarcrest

## Little Caesars Pizza



### THIS MAN HAS SAVED OVER 20,000 LIVES

## DO YOU KNOW WHO HE IS?

MSC Great Issues is proud to present, as part of Medical Issues Series 1990:

**Dr. Henry Heimlich**

whose accomplishments include:

- the Heimlich Manuever
- the Heimlich Micro Trach
- the Heimlich Valve for Chest Drainage
- the Heimlich Operation for constructing a new esophagus (the first successful replacement of an internal organ).

Dr. Heimlich will be giving a lecture entitled

### Testing New Treatments: Using Man, Animals and Computers



November 28, 1990 at 7:30 P.M. in 224 MSC  
**BE THERE!**