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Sports Editor

## New 12th Man policy needs more thought

### Et tu R.C.?

What a horrible semester to be Sports Editor!

Basketball was a nightmare, both on and off the court. Then the baseball team suffers conference setbacks and rumors that coach Mark Johnson might leave.

But now, even football has caused controversy.

I understand the reasoning behind coach R.C. Slocum's decision to cut back the 12th Man Kickoff Team's role, but A&M students won't see it his way. Around here, if you do anything for more than a year, it becomes a tradition, and the 12th Man squad was a fan favorite.

Now Slocum wants to suit up only one non-scholarship player to participate as the 12th Man rather than the whole kickoff team.

It's a sound coaching move because the 12th Man team was giving up more return yardage every season and was even burned for a touchdown last year — the first allowed in the eight-year history of the squad.

According to Slocum, having the 12th Man cover only at home games also caused problems for the regular coverage team.

"It has really put both our kick teams at a disadvantage," Slocum said. "The 12th Man didn't get to kick on the road games and then, when we came home to play they may not have covered in two or three weeks, and they're going against an offensive team who has been practicing every week."

"The same goes for our regular kickoff team. It has just made for a lot of inconsistency."

Good coaching strategy, but a bad public relations move. On a campus where traditions are always defended, sometimes blindly, Slocum will take lots of heat for this move.

So now the 12th Man will be represented by a only one man, not ten at a time as it has since 1983.

While this is more true to E. King Gill's original contribution to Aggie lore, this has to be disappointing to the 15 members currently on the 12th Man squad. I mean, who's gonna practice all season for only one game worth of kickoffs?

As long as R.C. is trying to represent the 12th Man with only one member of the student body, why not take it a step further? After minutes of racking my brain, I've come up with a few alternate methods of selecting a student to play the role that Gill did in 1922:

Just select a male A&M student from the student section at random and suit him up. While it would be an honor to be chosen, some students may decline. Any with a signed doctor's note would be excused.

Call out a lucky number from the game program to select the 12th Man. Of course, a woman might be holding the program, possibly leading to messy legal or medical problems.

Make a list of all the former high school football lettermen attending A&M, but not already on the team, and pick one each week. I don't see any motivational problems here, who wouldn't like to relive a little of that high school glory in the college spotlight?

Use the position as a fundraising opportunity. The student who raises the most money during the week would get the honor of suiting up. Just imagine how many rich alumni would pay handsomely to get their sons into an Aggie uniform. Sure, it's unethical, but we could use the money to pay for the new recreational sports complex or to improve the library.

Just pick a Battalion sportswriter every week. Heck, we already know more about sports than anybody else in the universe, just ask us.

And for the record, I wouldn't mind suiting up, R.C. It'd be fun, and I wouldn't betray you by allowing a long runback.

# Aggies outgun Owls in stormy twinbill

By Steve O'Brien  
The Battalion



Rice catcher Jamie Cook prepares to unleash a throw to second base after missing the tag on Mike Hickey in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader. The Ags won both games, 4-3 and 8-2, and will play a 7 p.m. game tonight in Houston to wrap up the series.

A break in the weather allowed the Aggies to end a five-game losing streak.

After driving rains postponed Friday night's game against Rice and pelted most of the Houston area Saturday, the skies over Cameron Field cleared long enough for Rice and A&M to play a twinbill Saturday.

And for the Aggies, timely hitting and a stellar pitching performance took care of the Owls.

After a comeback 4-3 victory in the first game, A&M cruised to an 8-2 win in the nightcap behind the pitching of freshman Jeff Granger.

The Aggies and Owls will complete the series tonight with a 7 p.m. game in Houston.

A&M's sweep ends a five-game Southwest Conference skid and moved them into fifth place at 5-6, 33-16 overall. The Owls fall to last place in conference at 6-11, 16-30 on the season.

In the opener, righthander Ronnie Allen pitched five innings, giving up four hits, and reliever Jason Bullard (5-3) pitched two scoreless innings to grab the win for A&M. Rice righthander Darrell Richardson (6-7) took the loss.

In the top of the seventh of game one, rightfielder Dan Robinson drove in the winning run for the Aggies.

Leftfielder Mike Hickey started the inning by slapping a lead-off double to left field and moved to third on a single by Conrad Colby. With runners at the corners and no outs, Robinson pounded a line-drive single up the middle for the winning RBI.

It was a good feeling to finally get on the winning track again, Robinson said.

"It took a lot of pressure off us to get this win," Robinson said. "Ronnie Allen came out and set the standard for us, and we got the hits when we needed them."

The Aggies squandered two leads in the game as Richardson went the distance for the Owls, allowing eight hits.

In the nightcap, Granger (5-2) fanned a season-high 14 batters and allowed two runs on four hits to take the victory for A&M.

Rice lefthander Craig Charlton (0-2) gave-up eight runs in a losing effort for the owls.

A&M head coach Mark Johnson said his team needed Granger's performance to regain confidence.

"Jeff was just dominating," Johnson said. "He was outstanding."

### SWC Standings

Team	Conf. W	L	Pct.	Season W	L	Pct.
Texas	9	3	.750	35	12	.750
Baylor	7	5	.583	33	10	.767
Texas Tech	7	5	.583	37	13	.740
TCU	5	6	.500	27	17	.614
Arkansas	7	8	.467	32	15	.681
Texas A&M	5	6	.455	33	16	.673
Houston	5	7	.417	28	14	.667
Rice	6	11	.353	16	30	.346

**Friday's games**  
 Baylor 8, Houston 6  
 TCU 4, Arkansas 1  
 Texas A&M at Rice, p.p.d. rain  
 Texas 14, Texas Tech 4

**Saturday's games**  
 Arkansas 12, TCU 2  
 Houston at Baylor (2), p.p.d. rain  
 Texas A&M 4-8, Rice 3-2  
 Texas Tech 1-0, Texas 0-1

**Sunday's games**  
 TCU 4, Arkansas 1  
 Texas A&M at Rice, p.p.d. rain  
 Baylor 5-0, Houston 1-5

**Monday's game**  
 Texas A&M at Rice, 7 p.m.

## Woosman withstands Watson's late rally

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The little one finally won a big one.

The Welshman Ian Woosnam, who has labored in the shadow of his more famous European friends, made a par putt just about as long as his 5 feet, 4 inches to turn back Tom Watson on the last hole Sunday and win the 55th Masters.

He won his first major with a scrambling par to finish off a final round of par 72 and a 11-under-par 277 total.

Jose Maria Olazabal, a 25-year-old Spaniard, took second, one shot back after the 41-year-old Watson double-bogeyed the 18th.

Olazabal, who also bogeyed 18, shot 70. Watson, who played with Woosnam in the final group on the Augusta National Golf Club course, rode a pair of eagles into a tie for the lead going to the final hole.

But then it all came apart for Watson, who was grimly attempting to snap a 4-year non-winning string.

He drove into deep rough on the right, bunkered his second, came out long and missed a 25-foot downhill, par-saving putt.

After Woosnam had holed out the winner, Watson missed his 8-foot comebacker, and saw his comeback dreams end on a 3-putt double-bogey.

The closing 73 dropped him into a tie with Steve Pate, 1984 Masters winner Ben Crenshaw and 41-year-old Lanny Wadkins at 277.

Pate, who started the day's play nine shots off the pace, scored an eagle-3 on the eighth hole, played the par-5's five under and saved a 65 with a 45-foot par putt on the final hole.

Crenshaw also had an eagle, his on the 15th, but didn't give himself a chance on the last three holes. He had a 68.

Wadkins missed two short putts and twice stubbed chip shots in a frustrating 71.

Jodie Mudd, Australian Ian Baker-Finch and Andrew Magee were tied at 280. Mudd shot 69 over the final 18 holes of the year's first major golf

championship, while Magee and Baker-Finch each had a 70.

Woosnam's triumph over a host of contenders — at least seven men had a chance to win it over the back nine — extended European domination of this event, as well as world golf.

His last-hole par, manufactured from a drive far to the left onto a members' practice tee, marked the fourth consecutive year the green jacket of a Masters winner has been draped over a Briton's shoulders.

Sandy Lyle of Scotland won in 1988 and Nick Faldo of England the last two years.

Add in Seve Ballesteros of Spain and Bernhard Langer of Germany, and the European Big Six has won five of the last seven Masters and six of the last 10. They've also accumulated titles in five of the last seven British Opens.

This time it was the turn of the tough little former amateur boxer from Oswestry, Wales.

Not only did it solidify his claim to being the best player in the world, it made him the only player to win twice on the American tour this year.

## A&M netters split against Hogs, 'Horns

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M men's tennis team split stayed even in the Southwest Conference standings last weekend by defeating Arkansas Sunday after a tough loss to Texas Friday.

The Aggies beat UA 5-3 and lost to UT 6-2. The team's overall record is 14-9 and its SWC mark is 3-3.

The Arkansas match was tied at three sets apiece going into doubles play, wher A&M clinched the victory with wins in the No. 1 and 3 positions. The No. 2 doubles match was called when the Aggies won the two other doubles matches.

A&M coach David Kent was happy with the play of his No. 3 doubles team, consisting of Scott Phillips and Mark Weaver.

"Phillips and Weaver have been the backbone of this team," Kent said. "They both have handled the pressure well and have consistently won matches for us."

Aggies picking up singles victories against the Razorbacks were Clayton Johnson in the No. 3 position, Scott Phillips at the No. 5 spot and Steve Kennedy in No. 6.

Friday, the Aggies took three Longhorns to three sets before losing the match. Matt Zisette won his first set but went on to lose to Mitch Michulka 4-6, 6-2, 7-6.

Mark Weaver lost to Hubert Karasch 6-3, 3-6, 6-4 and Doug Brown was defeated by Richard Ellman 4-6, 6-4, 6-4.



Scott Phillips returns a shot Sunday against Arkansas. He won 6-3, 6-2 and the Ags won 5-3

## Spurs down injured Suns squad

PHOENIX (AP) — Willie Anderson scored 25 points and Terry Cummings added 24 as the San Antonio Spurs averted a second-half collapse to beat the injury-plagued Phoenix Suns 109-101 Sunday.

David Robinson had 23 points and 15 rebounds, while Cummings pulled down 10 rebounds for San Antonio, which won its fourth straight game in Phoenix and increased its Midwest Division lead to one full game over the idle Utah Jazz.

Negele Knight scored 27 points and Jeff Hornacek 20 for the Suns, who had a club-record 16 blocked shots — six by Mark West. The previous record was 15, set Jan. 25 here against Seattle.

Phoenix played its fifth straight game without Kevin Johnson (strained right hamstring) and Dan Majerle (spinal nerve irritation).

Tom Chambers, who sat out the last three games with lower back spasms, was held to just four points on 2 of 15 shooting and missed his first seven field-goal attempts.

San Antonio led 51-43 at halftime and 71-53 with 5:34 remaining in the third quarter before the Suns closed out the period with a 13-4 run and cut the gap to 78-70.

Knight's jumper brought Phoenix within 82-78 with 9:04 to play, but Robinson started and ended a 10-2 run with stuffs and put the Spurs up 92-80 with 5:44 left.

The Suns never got closer than six points as they lost for the fourth time in their last six games.