

Wednesday, April 17, 1991

The Battalion



**Scott Wudel**  
Sportswriter

## Barone must watch out for media hounds

New Texas A&M head basketball coach Tony Barone has a very simple philosophy — if you ask a dumb question, you're going to get a dumb answer.

Those were the first words uttered from Barone's mouth the day he was introduced to the hungry Texas media last week.

In the last several years the A&M Athletic Department has provided plenty of fodder for the Texas sportswriters to burn — from Jackie Sherrill to Shelby Metcalf, to Kermit Davis Jr., and recently rumors about A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson.

Barone may or may not be aware of what he has in store for him in his first year at A&M. He may want to look to his predecessor for some words of wisdom.

Davis, soft-spoken off the court, battled packs of speculating sportswriters after every game who were hungry for more than just a game story.

The problems surrounding Davis' season as the Aggies' basketball coach made him an easy target.

The Aggies solidified their worst season in more than 30 years after losing to the Rice Owls in January. Following the game, Davis faced the firing line of reporters.

One local reporter asked Davis how he felt being known as the coach who led the Aggies to their worst season in decades and a year without a Southwest Conference home win.

Blood rushed to the coach's head as his eyes began to water. On the other side of the room Davis' wife shrugged and hung her head in disappointment at the question. But Davis answered firmly, putting the

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## Sources: Thompson will transfer to OSU

By Scott Wudel  
The Battalion

Texas A&M basketball player Brooks Thompson will announce today or Thursday he is transferring to Oklahoma State University, three sources said Tuesday.

Mike Strauss, assistant Sports Information Director at OSU, said he thought that Thompson is the player the Cowboys will sign with their remaining scholarship.

Thompson did not return phone calls to The Battalion Tuesday.

Strauss said he has heard Thompson's name more than any other player the Cowboys have been re-

cruiting.

"I've heard his name mentioned several times before," Strauss said. "I know he's spoken to Coach (Eddie) Sutton."

Two other unnamed sources also said Thompson is leaning toward signing with Oklahoma State.

One source said he has overheard several messages on Thompson's answering machine left by Sutton.

Thompson said last Tuesday after a brief meeting with new A&M basketball coach Tony Barone that he would make his decision on whether or not to transfer by the beginning of this week. He later delayed that decision until today.

Thompson told The Battalion in a March 20 interview that he was "tired of all the hassle. I think I'm

going to try to contact a couple of other schools, see what's going on, and then just evaluate the situation at the end of the year."

Thompson has visited Oklahoma, Colorado and Oklahoma State as possible schools he was interested in transferring to.

Thompson was A&M's leading scorer last season as a sophomore, averaging more than 14 points and almost six assists per game.

Thompson will have to redshirt the 1991-92 season if he transfers unless the Aggies are placed on NCAA probation.

An NCAA representative was on campus Tuesday interviewing Robert Smith, who conducted A&M's in-house investigation into recruiting violations of former Aggie coach Kermit Davis Jr.

## Lacrosse team stays unbeaten

By Chris Whitley  
The Battalion

It was a bleak, damp Sunday morning in the marshes on the north side of the Polo Grounds.

Overcast skies loomed over the mudbowl and its scattered water puddles, which were brought upon by days of constant rain.

It was a perfect day for lacrosse.

And that's just what the Texas A&M lacrosse team was up to last Sunday morning as it played Southwest Texas State on a day that wasn't fit for most other sports.

The Aggie lacrosse team came into this game with an unbeaten record of 11-0 and had yet to be challenged this season. They had just returned from a victorious Saturday in Houston depend-

ing Rice, 27-9.

Yet on the same campus that draws 75,000 people for a football game, Sunday's match brought a grand total of 13.

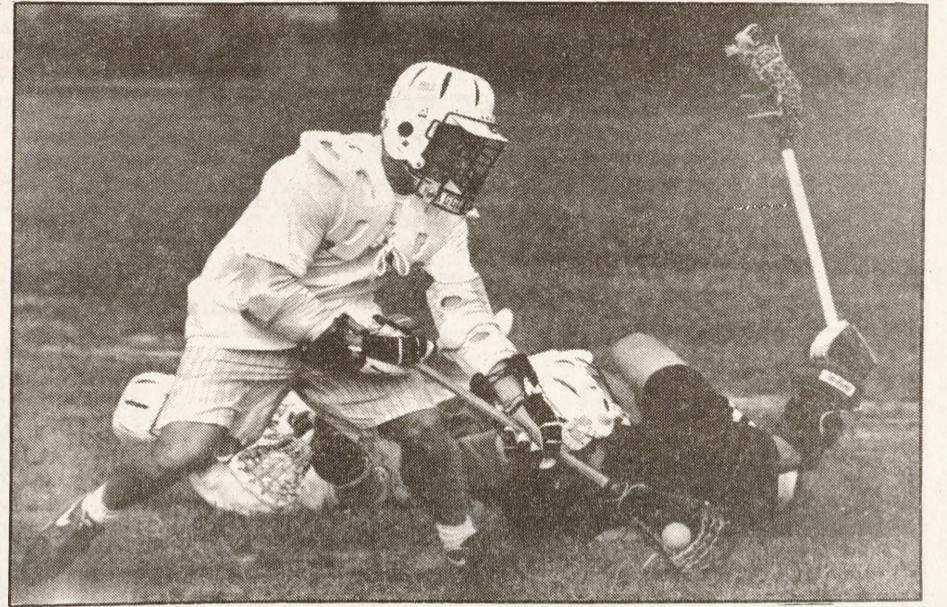
However, it was easy to tell that the crowd, made up of relatives and girlfriends of team members, was faithful. A fan even wore a T-shirt which read "A&M Lacrosse: Aim to Maim."

As the game approached and the two teams huddled up, the difference between the two teams became clear: there were forty Aggies suited up to only ten for the Bobcats.

In a sea of maroon, a man wearing a baseball cap, a T-shirt, blue jeans and tennis shoes stood giving instructions to the players.

"On a day like this, be careful about

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Kosta Selinidis scoops up the ball during lacrosse practice Tuesday afternoon on Simpson Drill Field, as two of his teammates fall. The Ags are 12-0 this season.

RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

## Bearkats spoil another big Aggie lead, grab 15-12 win

By Steve O'Brien  
The Battalion

Sam Houston State is like a bad dream for the Texas A&M baseball team.

After losing a no-hitter in the top of the ninth inning to the Bearkats five weeks ago, the Aggies squandered a nine-run lead on their way to a 15-12 loss at Olsen Field Monday night.

The Aggies (34-17) face the University of Texas Friday night in the opener of a three-game series at Olsen Field.

A&M head coach Mark Johnson said his team's character will be tested against the Longhorns.

"It depends on how strong we are mentally (to see if we can bounce back)," Johnson said. "It'll drop some teams and we'll find out if it's going to drop us or not. We have scrambled back (into the SWC race), but I was disappointed to lose the momentum tonight."

A&M started the scoring early, knocking in six runs in the bottom half of the first.

After a Brian Thomas walk and Mike Hickey single, first baseman Conrad Colby slapped a three-run homer over the left field wall.

Later in the inning, catcher Ben Blake singled with the bases loaded, scoring Travis Williams and Jason Marshall.

Colby led the Aggies with three RBI on the night. Marshall, Blake and Robinson each chipped in two.

The Aggies scored one more run in the first and added three runs in the second to build a 9-0 lead.

"We hit the ball well," Johnson said.

"I was pleased with our offense, but we didn't do well on the mound and we didn't play good defense."

"That's not a good combination against a good ballclub, and Sam Houston is a good ballclub."

The Aggies ended the game with 15 hits and committed six errors with Trey Witte (3-1) taking the loss. The Bearkats compiled 15 hits and committed only one error as reliever Greg Hammond pushed his record to 4-0.

A&M southpaw Kelly Wunsch

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