

LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Hardships bring Barones closer

By Chris Whitley
The Battalion

In a season of dismay for Texas A&M basketball, the unique dimension of having a coach and player double as father and son has also brought its share of troubles.

Tony Barone and son, Tony Jr., have had to deal with a flurry of criticism from the media and from the fans. They have dealt with carbon monoxide poisoning that sent both of them to the hospital. They have dealt with the death of a close family member.

To some consolation, this season's adversity has strengthened the relationship between the two.

"I have a great deal of respect for my son," said the elder Barone. "Tony has always been the type of kid that a parent would want to be your son. He's gone through my job, which is a job that's always been in the public eye, and handled it extremely well."

Barone Jr. also said that the trials and tribulations of the season have brought him and his father closer together.

"I haven't really been this close with him since I was little," the younger Barone said. "I'm around him every day, and you're bound to get close to somebody whether you like it or not."

The scrutiny from the fans stems from the belief that Barone Sr. gives preferential playing time to his son, a freshman walk-on shooting guard. Barone Jr. has played 22 of 26 games this season and has averaged 1.3 points a game.

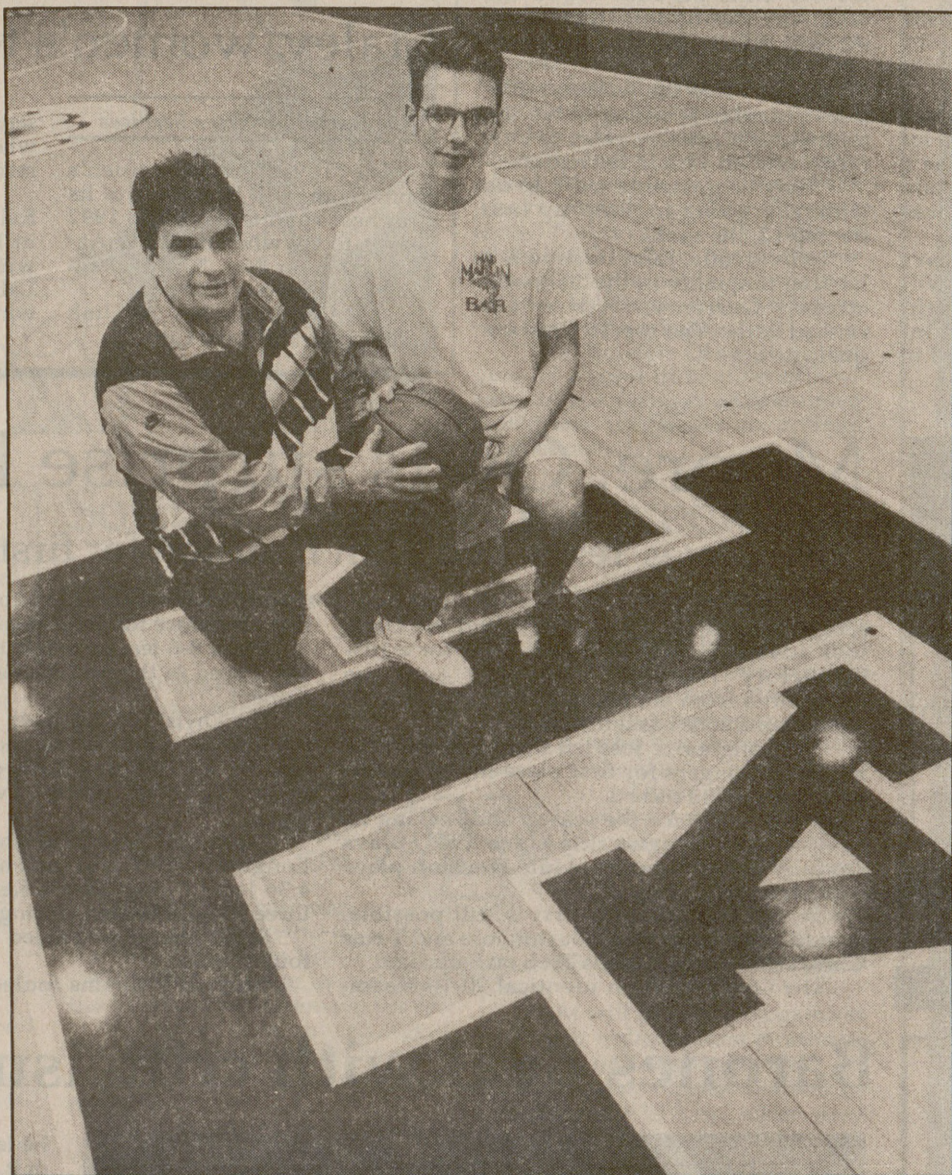
Barone Sr. said that the criticism toward his son is unwarranted.

"Tony's been treated really unfairly all year," Barone Sr. said. "He's been treated unfairly by opposing players. He's been treated unfairly by fans all over simply because he's my son. And to my disappointment, he's been treated real unfairly here."

The coach admires his son for his ability to shrug off the attacks on his play. The younger Barone views the problem merely as a part of life.

"I just see it as part of what I have to go through," Barone Jr. said. "I would probably be the same way if I was in the crowd, being skeptical about it. I don't have any bad words to say to anybody because it's understandable."

See Barones/Page 4



Texas A&M coach Tony Barone and his son Tony Jr. have developed a new reliance on each other after a season of change and tragedies in Aggieland.

No special favors in Penders' family

By Steve O'Brien
The Battalion

University of Texas guard Tommy Penders found out last January what it means to be the coach's son - not much.

The Longhorns basketball team was in New Orleans to play Louisiana State University when Tommy and some of his teammates decided to go to Bourbon St. Their game with the Tigers was two days away, and they planned on being back by the 2 a.m. curfew anyway.

But the 21-year old freshman and his teammates didn't make it back to the hotel by the designated time, and they paid for it the next day in practice.

Texas coach Tom Penders disciplined all those involved, including his son.

"He broke curfew and got his ass in trouble," the coach said. "He almost died the next day in practice."

"I'm the same with him as I am with all the others. I'm not a yeller and a screamer anyway. I've always told my players, 'I treat you like I treat my own kids.' Now that Tommy is on the team, they can see it."

Tommy remembers that day well. "We ran for 55 minutes straight," Tommy said. "We did sprints and drills and there was no stopping."

"We all made it, and no one got sick."

Coach Penders knew from the beginning that Tommy belonged on the UT squad.

In early season practices, Tommy impressed his father so much that coach Penders decided he would play this season. Coach Penders thought Tommy was ready to contribute to the Longhorns.



Texas coach Tom Penders (above) and his son Tommy



See Son/Page 4

Injured Aggies face Baylor

By Anthony Andro
The Battalion

The Texas A&M baseball team will get a feel for what life is going to be like for the next month when they host the Baylor Bears for three games this weekend at Olsen Field.

It certainly will be different from the first month of the season.

The Aggies will be without the services of two of their starters, second baseman Mike Hickey and rightfielder Scott Smith, who are both out four to six weeks with injuries.

A&M coach Mark Johnson has made adjustments with his lineup.

"First of all, we have a lot of alternatives," Johnson said. "Rob Harris will start for us at second base. He's been a guy that has really improved. He's a guy

Where it hurts the most

Mike Hickey and Scott Smith will be out 4-6 weeks because of injury.

Mike Hickey, 2nd base	Scott Smith, rightfield
Avg.: .292	Avg.: .368
RBIs: 12	RBIs: 5
On base %: .423	On base %: .536
*Hickey had 19 double plays in 17 games as A&M's second baseman	*Smith's 15-game hitting streak was snapped last Sunday against Minnesota

who's worked very hard and is very capable.

"In the outfield, we have some options. We have some people who can fill that hole."

Johnson mentioned Jay Estes, Billy Harlan and

See A&M/Page 5

Softball team ready for Aggie Invitational

By Doug Foster
The Battalion

This weekend, Texas A&M softball coach Bob Brock will get a chance to test the ability of his team before traveling to California for a crucial road trip.

Brock's squad, 8-4 on the season, will host the 10th annual Aggie Invitational I today through Sunday. The Invitational is a ten-team round robin competition consisting of three teams ranked among the top 20 in the nation.

Tournament games will be played at three fields, Bee Creek, Parks 1 and 2, and Lady Aggie Softball Field.

Along with the 10th-ranked Aggies, Missouri and Minnesota enter the tournament ranked among the top teams in the nation. The Tigers, 4-0 on the season, are the sixth ranked team in America. The Golden Gophers are No. 17 with an 8-6 record.

Other teams competing in the tournament are Illinois State, Louisiana Tech, Nebraska, Northern Illinois, Northeast Louisiana, Ohio State and South Carolina.

Brock said the Aggies need to take some of the teams in the Invitational seriously if they hope to have a winning season.

"Any of the top-ranked teams are who we need to look out for," Brock said. "We're going to have

a chance to play a couple of highly-ranked teams this weekend, and then we'll play some when we go to California."

Brock also said the Lady Aggies were looking forward to finally getting to play in front of their home crowd.

"I'm real excited about this team," Brock said. "I'm glad our home crowd is going to be able to come out and watch us play. We've got some new players who are going to excite them, and we've got some returners who did well last year that I think our crowd will enjoy watching."

See Softball/Page 5

The Battalion

USPS 045-360

The Battalion is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, holidays, exam periods, and when school is not in session during fall and spring semesters; publication is Tuesday through Friday during the summer session. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. The newsroom phone number is 845-3316. Fax: 845-2647.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the contributor, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administrators, faculty or the A&M Board of Regents.

Advertising: For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-5408.

Subscriptions: Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year. To charge by VISA or MasterCard, call 845-2611.

MSC VISUAL ARTS
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU
TO ATTEND A RECEPTION
IN HONOR OF
DR. GLENN COCHRAN
THE COWBOYS' FRIENDS
MARCH 9, 1992
8:00 PM
IN THE VISUAL ARTS GALLERY

WE'RE STILL HERE!!

\$20⁰⁰
BUNGEE JUMP

Afraid to Jump? Try Slingshot!

\$10⁰⁰ Slingshot
with this ad

Located at Hwy. 21 & Waco St.
Bryan, Tx. • (800) 572-5999

HURRY!
They're on sale now!

MATTHEW SWEET
GIRLFRIEND
\$7.99 CASSETTE
\$11.99 COMPACT DISC

Prices good thru March 14th

WEBB WILDER
Doo Dad
Featuring: TOUGH IT OUT
SITTIN' PRETTY

discount

hastings
We're Entertainment!

College Station • Culppeper Plaza Bryan • Manor East

AΔΠ Playday 1992

Benefiting the Ronald McDonald House

Friday, March 6, 1992 7 p.m.
All Greek Party at **The Tap**

featuring the 2nd Annual
PI-GUY CONTEST!

Saturday, March 7, 1992
PLAY DAY GAMES
Bryan Utilities Lake Park
11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.