

## My private 'Field of Dreams'

The freshly watered field, the signs on the outfield walls, the bags with the Indians logo and the unique scent of baseball filled the air. This, however, was not just another day at the ballpark, it was a chance for the impossible dream to become a reality.



**MATTHEW J. RUSH**  
Sportswriter

For most it is just that, a childhood dream that can only be hoped for. Few make it all the way to the "Show," but some have died trying. For anyone who has grown up playing America's pastime, the thought of one day making it to the big leagues has filled a spot in their every wildest dream.

As I suited up for yesterday's tryouts for the Cleveland Indians, thoughts of grandeur cluttered my brain. The atmosphere was quietly filled with tension which indicated we all had these passing thoughts of greatness in our mind and in our hearts.

After running came fielding and throwing. Most tried to display confidence, but with each passing groundball hit their way, their hearts began to beat faster and throws became increasingly unpredictable.

Of course there was no pressure on any of the participants, but the thought of being offered a chance to play in Minor League baseball is, in itself, overwhelming. In addition, once the jumping nerves had calmed, the Indians logo and the jerseys of the scouts made the task of focusing that much harder.

Thirty young men gave all of what they had to offer and only five were left after some parting good-byes.

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## A&M volleyball gets hitched

# Lady Aggies welcome Corbelli coaching duo

By MARK SMITH

The Battalion

When the Lady Aggie volleyball team takes the court next season, it will be led by new head coach Laurie Corbelli. With her, Laurie has brought a familiar assistant coach, husband John Corbelli.

The Corbellis are one of four wife and husband teams in college volleyball.

"It's been really fun," Laurie said. "It's kind of like running a business with your husband."

Laurie replaced Al Givens, who had served as the Lady Aggies' head coach since 1986.

"The first year with a new coach will be different, but if we work hard we'll do great," said senior middle blocker Kim Mitchell.

Associate Athletic Director for Women's Athletics Lynn Hickey said Laurie's impact would be felt immediately.

"She brings tremendous experience as both a player and a coach," Hickey said in a press release. "As a coach she has proven herself in the toughest and most competitive volleyball area in the country. Laurie presents a high profile on the court and will be able to step up our re-

cruiting immediately."

Some of the players said they felt strange when the coaching duo first started spring drills.

"I've been with coach Givens for three years," said Amy Kisling, senior middle

blocker. "It was strange at first, having a new coach, but I think it was a good change."

The players found the Corbellis worked well together during the six weeks of spring drills.



STACY RYAN/The Battalion

The Lady Aggies are anticipating success in their first season under the husband-wife coaching combination of Laurie and John Corbelli.

Genny Wood, a senior setter/outside attacker, said, "They really click together as a team. They don't contradict each other when they're coaching. Everyone likes them."

The only time the two worked on the same side of the court prior to A&M was after the 1984 Olympics when they took a women's national team to Asia for three weeks.

Laurie said the head coach-assistant coach relationship does not put a strain on the wife-husband relationship.

"He likes being an assistant coach," she said. "We both feel very comfortable in the roles that we have chosen to play."

Kisling said because of Laurie's playing experience, the players listen to what she has to say more than they would coaches with less on-court experience.

"She has learned from the best," Kisling said. "When she says something you know that it's right."

The time Laurie spent as a player also helps her connect with the Lady Aggies.

"I've been a player for most of my career," Laurie said. "I have empathy for the players and try to put myself in their place. I have experience and like to share that experience with my players."

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## Indian scouts search Travis Park for talent

By MICHAEL F. CORDOVA

The Battalion

Every year the dream of playing baseball dies on the high school diamonds around America. On Wednesday, several ballplayers looking to keep their childhood dream of playing professional ball alive, attended the Cleveland Indians open tryout camp at Travis Park in Bryan.

"Baseball is hard work, a lot of determination," said Brandon Pauler of Navasota. "You don't give up."

Tom Chandler, supervisor of Texas scouting for the Cleveland Indians, held the open tryout to scout the potential talent in the area. The tryouts is one of seven held yearly in Texas. The tryouts draw thirty to fifty participants.

Chandler, the former A&M coach, said he saw some potential in some of the participants of the Bryan tryout. One of these was a local product, Duane Price.

Price, who is now entering his senior

year at A&M Consolidated, began the sport at the age of eight and said he hopes to impress scouts with his style of play.

"Play hard at all times, and play as a team," he said.

Another player who drew some attention at the tryout was Blinn outfielder Sammy Cloud.

His career in baseball began at the age of 13 and said his passion for the game still burns to this day.

"It's hard work, while other kids were out swimming, I was out there on the baseball field," he said.

Chandler, said he usually finds a few players in each tryout group that have the potential to be drafted.

But he said his main goal is to find guys with one or two years of high school eligibility left, thus allowing the Indians to continue to evaluate each ballplayer as the draft nears.

In Chandler's nine years at the helm of Texas scouting he has seen only a few

participants drafted.

One of the prizes of Indian scouting was found last year when Jerrod Baker of Midland Lee High School attended one of the Indian's tryouts.

Baker was drafted in one of the early rounds of the draft as Chandler predicted. Unfortunately for the Indians, it was the Chicago White Sox who took him in the third round.

But not all tryout participants actually fit the requirements for the tryout.

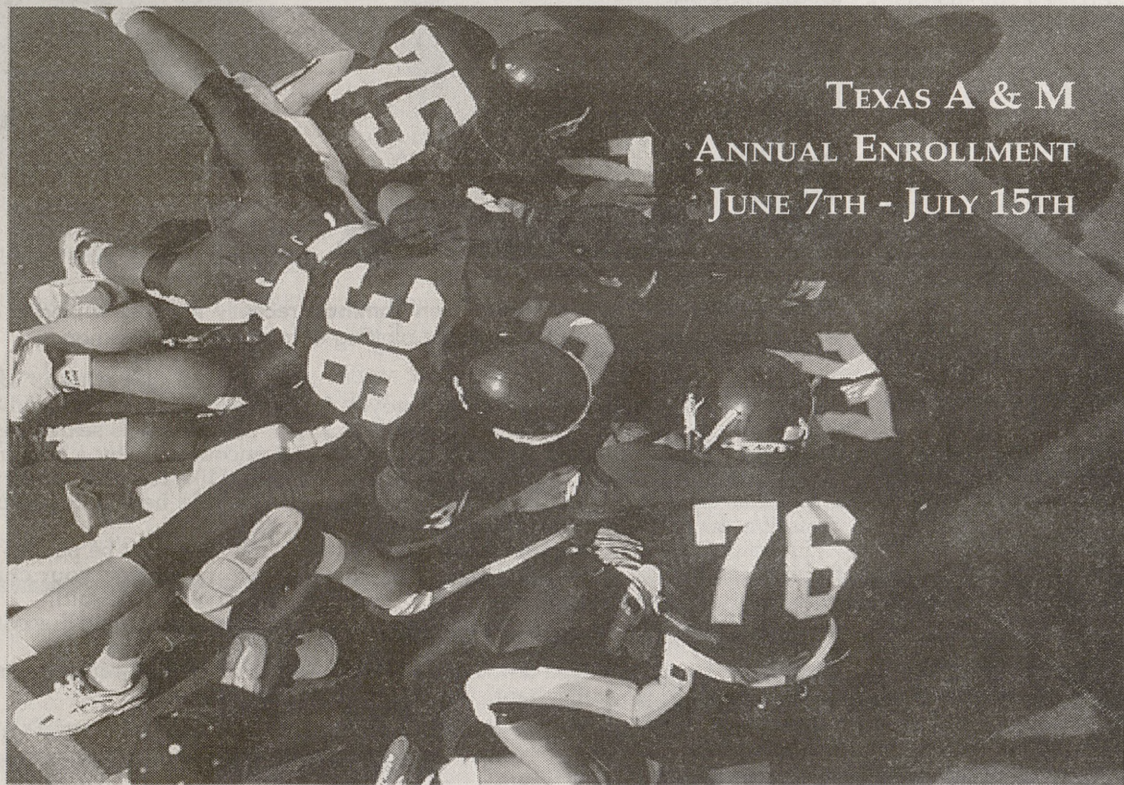
Chandler said he has seen some players come out who do not fit the 16 to 22 target age group.

"Last year at our Kerrville camp we had a local phenomenon come out and show all the skills we were looking for. Unfortunately, he later came out and told us that he was actually twenty-six," Chandler said. "He asked if I could do anything for him, but unfortunately I couldn't. Jokingly, I told him not to lose his job at the post office."



STACY RYAN/The Battalion

Tom Chandler, Indians scouting director, discusses hitting with Richie Hare of Sam Houston State at Wednesday's tryout.



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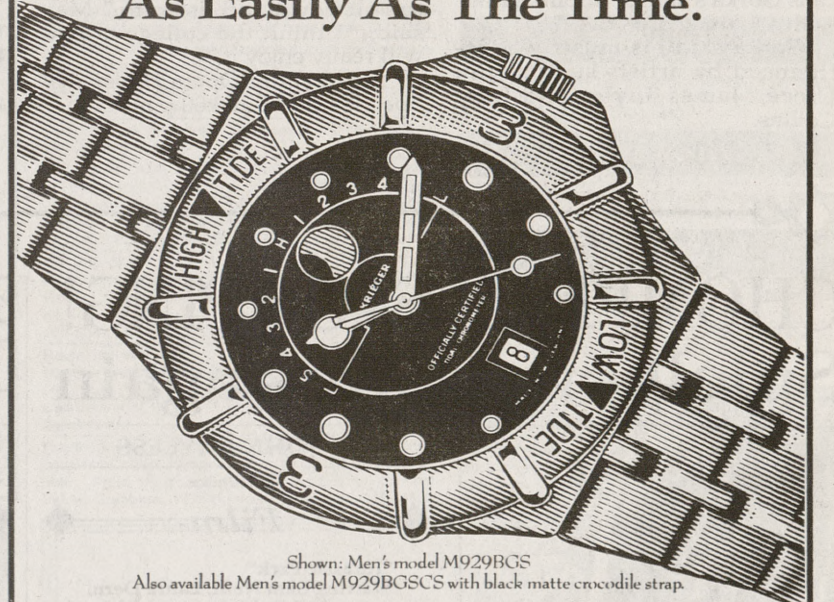
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