

Sports on the other side of the gender

Where I am - the lone woman of the sports section, trying to learn more about sports and how to be a sports journalist.



JULIE CHELKOWSKI
Assistant Sports Editor

So, what does a woman write about in sports? If the uniforms are color-coordinated and flattering; which volleyball player has broken the most nails; or which baseball player has the cutest butt?

For me, none of the above. I joined the sports staff, after working on the Battalion's city desk, to get a different perspective of journalism - not the same perspective Lisa Olsen received from the New England Patriots - but to learn how to report on a very established part of our culture.

But this task is not without some challenges. These are not just the normal difficulties that an inexperienced journalist must contend with, but these are situations that arise from being the only one of my kind in this group.

I don't want to distinguish myself as a minority in this group - I don't want to distinguish myself from the other writers, at all. But since women are not a common sight in the sports journalism arena, especially at Texas A&M, this may be unavoidable until more women enter the field.

Fortunately, my experiences, thus

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Andrus out for season, Miller out period

By William Harrison
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's vaunted roster depth dried up at two key backup positions this weekend when sophomore inside linebacker Jason Andrus underwent season-ending shoulder surgery and sophomore quarterback Matt Miller quit the team.

A&M defensive coordinator Bob Davie said Andrus' shoulder had to be reconstructed to help stabilize it, and that the injury may have dated back to playing at Dobie High School in Pasadena. Davie said Andrus' shoulder had been getting worse and "popping out" the more he played on it.

"We just felt like it was time for him to go ahead and get that thing taken care of," Davie said. "He has a redshirt year, so if you're going to redshirt now is the time to redshirt."

Davie said the doctor's prognosis for Andrus was good and Andrus should rehabilitate fully and return in the spring as good - or better - than he was before.

"I don't think rehabilitation will be a problem at all," Davie said. "He's a guy that wants to play and I know how he works."

"With the medical staff and the facilities we have here, I think he'll be back in the spring a better player than he was before it happened."

With the loss of Andrus and the imposed suspension of Jessie Cox for his role in the Warren Gilbert player pay-off scandal, Davie said his team was running low at linebacker.

Also, starters Larry Jackson and Steve Solari were held out of a controlled scrimmage Friday due to minor injuries.

"Obviously losing Jessie Cox was a concern going in, and really the second guy we worked all spring was Jason Andrus," Davie said. "It's tough when you lose two players right off the bat like that without ever playing a down."



Andrus

"We spent a lot of time this spring with Jessie Cox and Jason Andrus, and you hate to lose them like that," he said.

Davie said Andrus' aggressive, physical defense against the run would be something the Aggies would miss this season.

Davie said junior Reggie Graham would move from outside linebacker back to Andrus' strong-side inside linebacker slot, the same position he shared with starter Larry Jackson last season.

"So we are starting this season really like we started it last year with Larry Jackson and Reggie Graham, and then at 'Will' (weak inside linebacker) we have Jason Atkinson and Chris Colon, so we're about like we started the season last year."

Miller, who was a highly recruited signee by Texas A&M in 1991, was dissatisfied backing up starting quarterback Corey Pullig and competing with Tommy Preston for the number two slot, A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said.

"I think it's been on his mind," Toledo said. "I think he just came to the point where he realized that Corey's only going to be a sophomore; Tommy's a backup and he's only a sophomore."

"It's a matter of (Miller) wants to play and he knows that he's not going to get a chance to play here a lot."

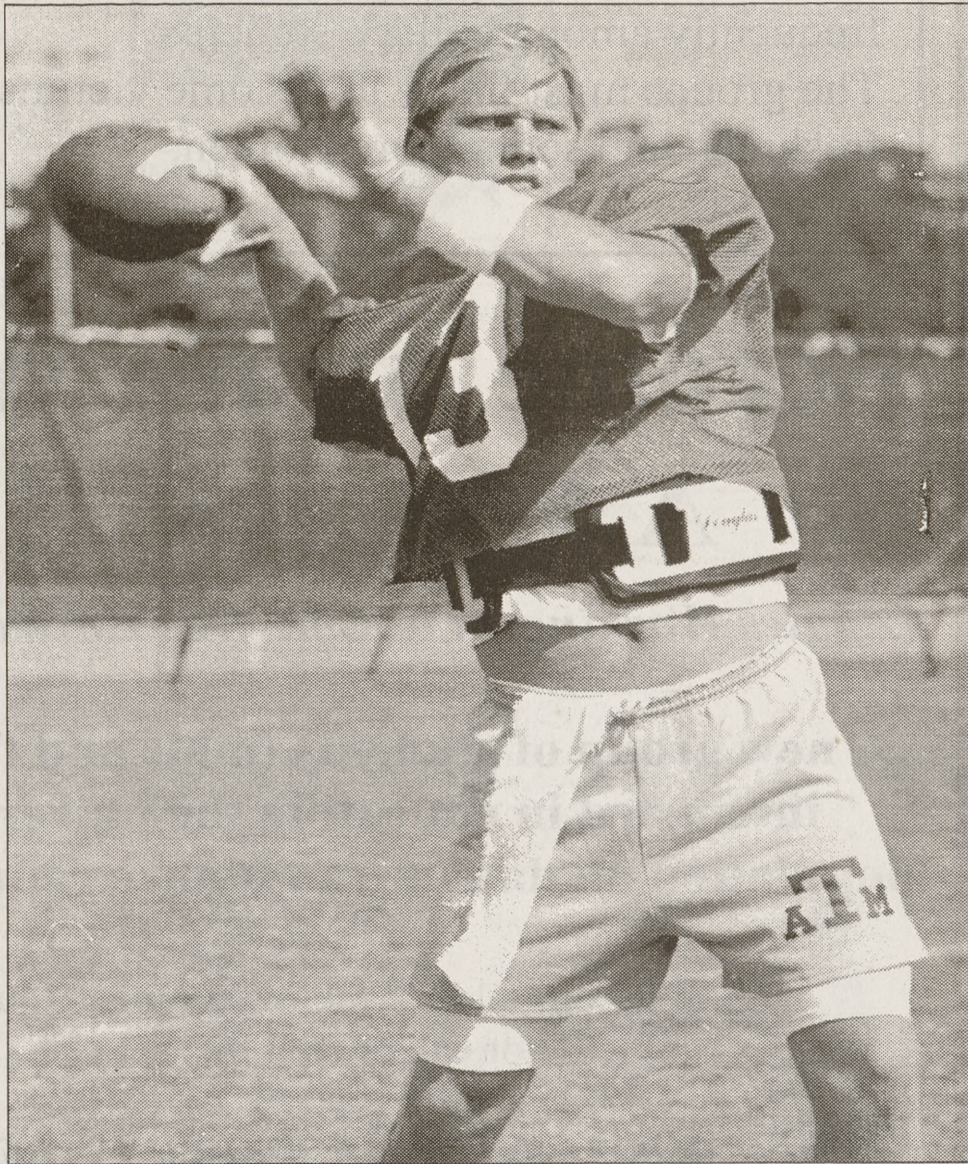
With the loss of Miller, Preston is now solidified at the number two spot with sophomore walk-on Stormy Case from Odessa Permian at number three.

Junior Steve Emerson, who originally came to A&M as a quarterback but played last season at linebacker, is listed at number four.

Toledo said the depth at quarterback would suffer by the numbers with the departure of Miller, but said he was confident in Preston as Pullig's backup.

"I think Tommy's further along than what he was a year ago," Toledo said. "He has a much better understanding of what we're doing; of what defenses are trying to do to him."

"(Miller) was really competing for the second position, and it gives us some depth problems, but the other guys just have to pick it up."



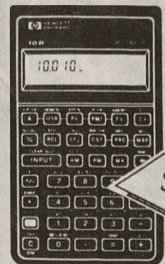
Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore quarterback Matt Miller, shown here throwing in a recent practice, decided to leave the team one week before the Aggies' opening game against LSU. His plans are unknown.

Summer's Over, Dude!

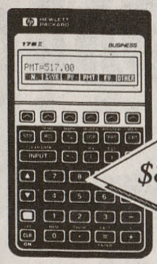
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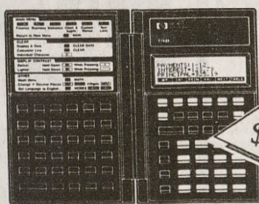
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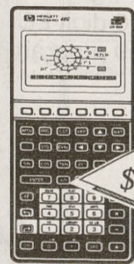
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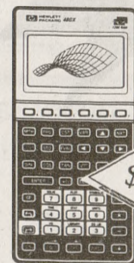
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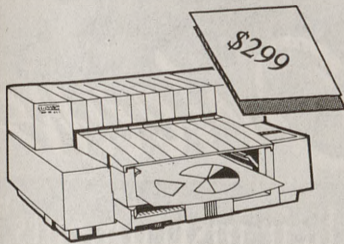
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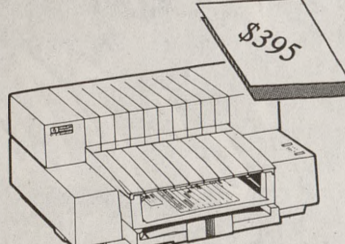
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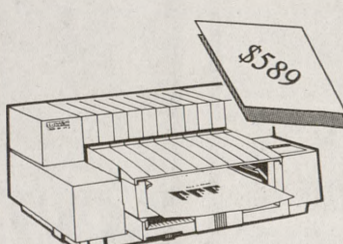
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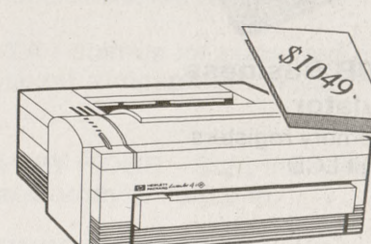
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