

Down to earth now that Air Jordan is gone

I made a vow when I began writing for the sports page to never write a column about Michael Jordan.



ROY L. CLAY
Sportswriter

Every half-baked sports-writer has expounded on the abilities of the Chicago Bulls' star knowing full well that anyone who sees Jordan play will draw the same conclusions in about - oh - 30 seconds.

I always figured anyone who knew anything about sports didn't need me to tell them what was blatantly obvious, that we have witnessed in our lifetime the greatest show on earth.

With the possible exception of Babe Ruth, there has never been an individual that has made such an impact on his or her chosen sport than Jordan has. And with no exception has there ever been a greater athlete.

But now the show's over. With Jordan's retirement from basketball, the sports world has been deprived of its main event. His retirement also forced my hand. I feel obligated, and honored, to review the career of the man they call Air.

Coming out of North Carolina in 1984, Jordan didn't appear to be so special. Most people were drawn to his teammates, James Worthy and Sam Perkins. Worthy was already in the pros making headlines alongside Magic Johnson with the Lakers in '84, while Perkins was the young buck on

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Harrison reaches for A&M reception record

By Michael Plumer

THE BATTALION

Quietly, he is closing in on the record. Fanfare has not surrounded his pursuit, but that has been his style during his four years at Texas A&M.

In the A&M offense, where the run comes before the pass, A&M senior wide receiver Tony Harrison has made the most of his pass-catching opportunities. Now, a spot in the record book is being cleared for his receiving skills.

Harrison needs only 155 yards to break former A&M wideout Shea Walker's school record for receiving yards. Currently, Harrison has 1,256 yards.

In typical fashion, Harrison downplayed his efforts in obtaining the record.

"At the beginning of the season, I thought about it," Harrison said. "But I have not thought about it lately because if I do, it could take its toll."

"The record will be great when it comes, but my main goal is to help us win football games."

A&M wide receivers coach David Culley said that when Harrison breaks the record, it will not only be a compliment to Harrison but the A&M program as a whole.

"There is no question the record will happen, whether it be this Saturday or another Saturday during the season," Culley said. "Tony has been an outstanding player for us, and it will be a great tribute."

Harrison's development as a top-notch player has followed a natural progression. As a freshman, he only caught five passes but made a big jump the next year when he hauled in 33 balls as a sophomore.

Now in his final season, A&M foes have taken to double-teaming him, which has opened up the passing game this season for other receivers.

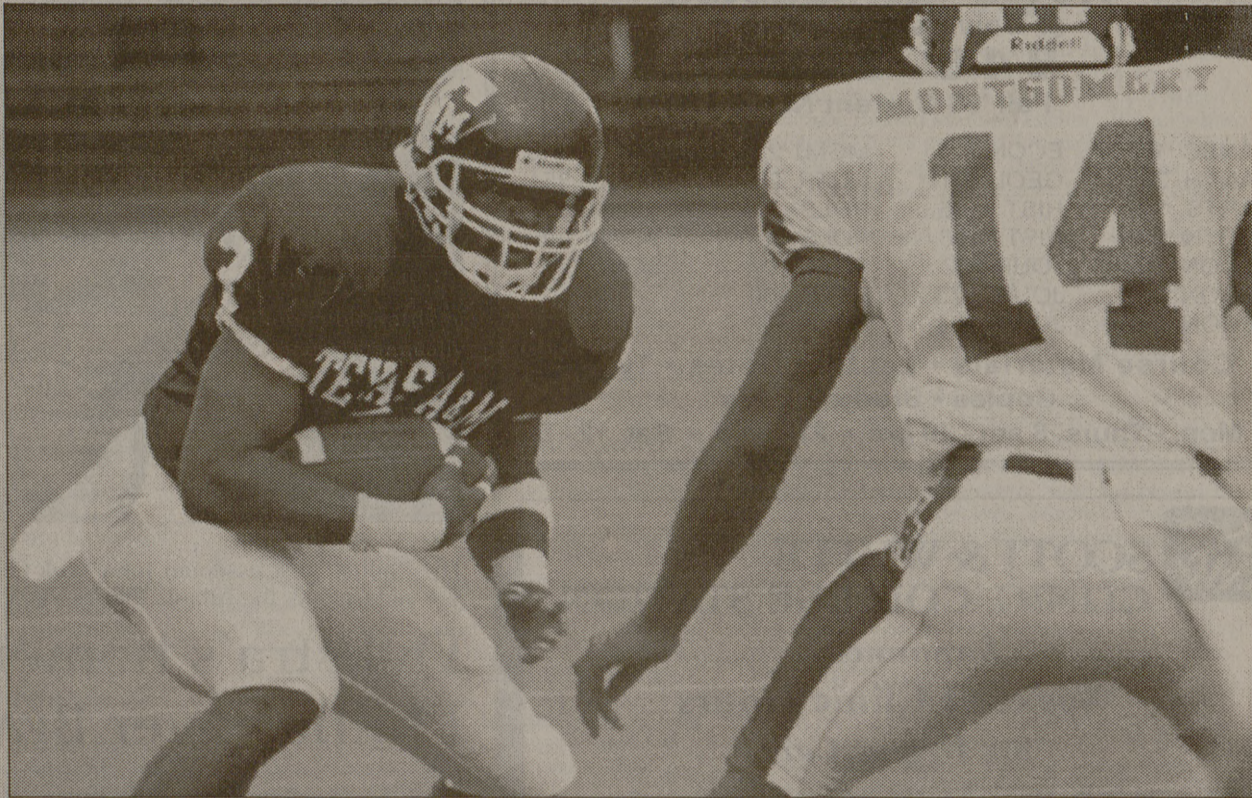
"So far, Tony has done well but he really has not had a lot of opportunities because our first few opponents have double-teamed him," Culley said. "That has cut down on the number of passes thrown to him because we have to change the plays due to the defense they are in."

"But, he does things in games we don't talk about in practice like making route adjustments on the fly and he is a great run blocker."

"Right now, I am telling Tony to be patient because the catches will come."

Harrison said playing wide receiver for A&M can be a frustrating experience because of the Aggies' dependence on the running game. But he said he expected that when he decided to come to A&M over such passing schools as Houston and Colorado.

Harrison had a desire to play as a true freshman and only A&M offered the chance. Now, the Houston For-



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior wide receiver Tony Harrison (3) readies himself to make a move on Houston freshman cornerback Delmonico Montgomery (14) in the Aggies' 34-10 victory over the Cougars at Kyle Field.

est Brook product has become the elder statesman of the receiving corps.

"My main job is to keep my segment of the team intact and to keep them from getting frustrated," Harrison said. "At times, we were not getting enough balls. Everybody's human and I try to hold the frustration down."

Culley said Harrison is able to be an effective leader because of the experience he has gained and the inexperience of the other wide receivers.

"Tony has been through all that and he knows the most important thing is to win," Culley said. "At A&M, you have to do more blocking and when the catches come, you have to be ready."

Culley also said Harrison is like having another coach on the field.

"On Thursday afternoons, I have to leave to go on

recruiting trips, and Tony gets the guys together and keeps them in line," he said. "Tony makes them understand that they should be happy to win on Saturday, which is the bottom line."

But winning does not cure all ills. Harrison said there have been times when he has approached Culley about attempting to diversify the offense.

"The coaches have done a great job of getting me more involved in the offense," Harrison said. "We have been running inside screens where I get the ball but there is room for improvement. We need to become more balanced."

"I think that is why we have struggled the past two years in the Cotton Bowl because we were not able to pass. But this is a new year and I hope if we do make it back to the Cotton Bowl, things will hopefully be different."

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By KEVIN COCHRAN

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Thirteen-trillion cubic yards of motor vehicle exhaust is annually thrust into the air we breathe, ultimately poisoning our crops, destroying our forests, and harming us humans. For every gallon of gasoline our automobiles burn, twenty pounds of carbon dioxide is spewed into the air, in addition to nitrogen oxide, carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons and others. In fact, driving motor vehicles creates more air pollution than any other human activity.

Motor vehicle pollution is so catastrophic in cities such as Rome, Athens, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Budapest and others, that bans on operating motor vehicles are commonplace. Also, when two-thirds of the land area of Los Angeles is dedicated to roadways and parking, you know something is wrong.

Here in Texas, we have our own problems: the highest emissions of nitrogen oxides in the country at over two times the California levels (the next highest state). Further, Houston, Dallas/Fort Worth, Beaumont/Port Arthur, and El Paso have seriously harmful motor vehicle ozone emission levels, and San Antonio, Austin and Corpus Christi are in danger of being added to the list. In ten years could College Station be next?

We must look beyond the entrenched modes of transportation and endorse alternative transport systems, like bikeways, that provide easy and safe mobility, while not harming our environment or sapping our economy. City engineers have to design for shared roadways, and motorists have to learn to share them. Bicyclists then must learn to ride responsibly. But first we need to overcome the problem of a nonexistent bikeway plan. Now you can change that.



Dennis Tram escaped with minor injuries following a bicycle accident near the Reed McDonald Building. Four months ago a man was killed while biking on Wellborn Road.

October 28 the College Station City Council will vote on the Bikeway Master Plan immediately following a public hearing at City Hall Council Chambers beginning at 7 p.m. Freebirds World Burrito and the Texas Bicycle Coalition will make statements and present lists of names of those who support bikeways in C.S. Our goal is twofold: to provide the City Council with 2,000 or more signatures and to have at least 50 supporters attend the hearing.

By adopting the Bikeway Master Plan designed by city transportation officials, College Station will be entitled to apply for more than \$1 million in federal funding for bikeways. Upon funding the city will develop a continuous loop of bike lanes, routes, and paths linking the university with residential, commercial, and entertainment areas, Wolf Pen Creek amphitheater complex, and local schools.

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Why is Freebirds taking such an active stance on this particular issue? In addition to the need for business environmental and social responsibility, and the chance to enhance life for A&M students, the two-restaurant chain was founded in Isla Vista, California (adjacent to U.C. Santa Barbara), where 80% of students use bicycles as their primary means of transportation. In fact, a bike-thru window will be introduced soon at Freebirds in California.

Besides the positive environmental effects of bicycle riding, Freebirds is concerned about safety. Each year in this country approximately one-half million people are admitted to a hospital emergency room and over 1,000 people die due to bicycle-related accidents. In Texas, there are at least 50 bicycle fatalities per year.

The health and fitness benefits of bicycling speak for themselves. Once bicycle travel is made safer and more efficient with the development of planned bikeways, we can all breathe a little easier. So vote today at Freebirds World Burrito for the C.S. Bikeway Master Plan.

The Daily Career Line

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The Daily Career Line

October 12, 1993

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For more information contact the Career Center at 845-5139.