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THE BATTALION

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FRESHMAN SPOTLIGHT Mitchell learning defensive line skills from experienced teachers

By Drew Diener

THE BATTALION With 11th-ranked Texas A&M a heavy favorite over Southern Methodist on Friday, freshman defensive

lineman Brandon Mitchell might get a chance to show the talthat ents made him a high school All-American. At 6'4" and 270 pounds, the 17-year-

old

Mitchell from Abbeville,

Louisisana has impressed A&M defensive line coach Bill Johnson ever since he began recruiting

him. "He was the guy that was em-phasized on (his high school) football team," Johnson said.

"He is a big guy that can move his hips and run and that attracted us to him.'

Since he has come to A&M, Mitchell has continued to im-prove and build on his potential Johnson said.

Mitchell cited two fellow defensive lineman, junior Sam Adams and senior Eric England, as being a valuable part of his learning experience. "One of the reasons I came

here is to learn from the best; they're the best," Mitchell said. 'I look up to them as role mod-

'I want to be just like them." With more work and experience, Johnson said Mitchell has the ability to be a powerhouse lineman in the mold of his idols.

"I think that in a couple of years time, he's going to be a complete guy," Johnson said. There's no doubt in my mind that he's going to be an outstanding defensive lineman."

wrong

Johnson also said that Mitchell's work ethic is a key to his success as a player in the A&M system.

"Everyday we've gone out there, he's become more com-fortable," Johnson said. "He's improved on the skills we've asked him to.'

The Mustang game has the potential to be a coming out par-ty for the continually improving Mitchell.

"I think it's time we get him in a game and get him some ex-perience," Johnson said. "We're sure gonna try and get him in the game and see what he can

Mitchell realizes that his quest to be the best has just begun and he knows that he has to continue to improve everyday.

have to work on my strength, quickness and tech-nique," Mitchell said. "You've got to have that in order to beat people.'

crease in front of the running back," the junior from Rockdale said. "He then could gash us for a

Atkinson agreed. "We are a fly-around defense but we have a lot of responsibilities," Atkinson said. "We rely on each to be in the right position or things could go

Teichelman said he must fill his assigned gap or

"My first job is to knock the sh- out of the cen-

he said. "Then, I need to find out where the ball is so I can go make the play. Or else, it could

Davie said there have not been many flubs on

"Lance Teichelman has had a great season and I am not afraid to say that," Davie said. "He came out to play the game of football. Jason has strug-

gled at times but I think right now he is playing his

he has improved over the course of the season in-

stead of going backward. Jackson is just now get-

⁹Graham is a playmaker and good blitzer, but he needs to get healthy. When he does, that will be

So for A&M opponents, they will not be able to

ting healthy and I look for him to get better.

Atkinson is different from most seniors in that

"Obviously, I need to get my read right."

the linebackers could be caught out of position.

five -to-50 yard touchdown run.

be long touchdown for them.

another boost to our team."

launch a running game.

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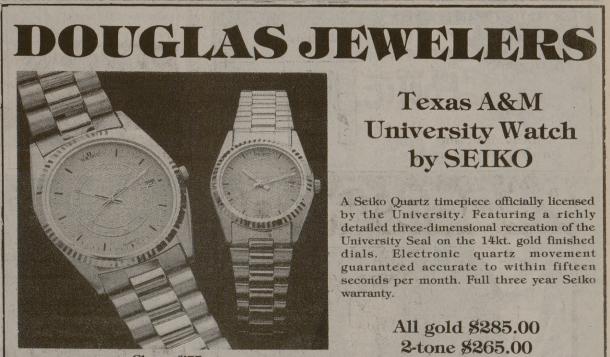
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Middle

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said there is a simple reason why teams have had

said there is a simple reason why teams have had trouble running the ball against the Aggies. "Lance and I have been playing together for three years and Larry and myself have played to-gether off-and-on for the last two," he said. "Lance sacrifices himself for the inside linebacker by tak-

"Also, Reggie (Graham) has played at the other linebacker spot some and he has done a good job.

As a group, we play real well together." Atkinson also said teams have trouble getting established against the Aggies because of Davie's coaching.

"We never show a team the same thing twice," Atkinson said. "That can totally confuse them because they are not able to just pound it against us. A good linebacker is a combination of his coach and noseguard.

"We have both of those and I think that is why we have success.

Rushing the passer is almost like a one-on-one matchup but stopping a powerful ground game depends on everybody being where they are sup-posed to be. If there was a breakdown in run support, it would be very easy to spot, Jackson said. "If I don't do my assignment, there will be a

ball to have a chance to win." SMU redshirt freshman quarterback Ramon Flanagan said he also believes that the Mustangs will have to play an errorless

game. "We are basically going to have to play a perfect game," Flanagan said. "We're going to nave to be mistake free and hopefully get a lot of breaks. We're going to need all we can get against their defense." (We're pretty banged up after out last two games," Rossley said. "We've lost a lot players on defense and some on offer

into a passing game and take it from there."

Injuries on the defensive side of the ball, though, will diminish SMU's hope of pulling an upset. In last Saturday's game against Texas, the Mustangs lost two members of their secondary and two linebackers.

ball, the Mustangs employ the run-and-shoot. Considering the Aggies have the number two ranked passing defense in the country, Rossley said SMU will have to play a perfect game.

competitive in the recruiting

race. I think we need a few more

good players for us to be com-

petitive in the Southwest Confer-

On the offensive side of the

Rossley

ence.

Continued from Page 5

"No doubt about it we can't turn the ball over," Rossley said. "We have to hold on to the foot-

A top priority for the SMU

defense will be stopping A&M's running game, Rossley said.

"The key to beating A&M is holding down their three run-ning backs," Rossley said. "We're going to try to get A&M

"Our starting quarterback (Flanagan) has been battling injuries since the start of the sea-

With all the variables considered, it could be a painful day for the Mustangs.

A&M Sports Briefs

Basketball starts

Texas A&M opens the 1993-94 basketball season tomorrowmorning at 8:00. There will be a contest for the worst-dressed person with pajamas with prizes awarded for the most revolting outift. Free donuts, coffee and orange juice will be served. There will be a reunion of former players after practice.

Swim teams to splash

The men's and women's swim teams will com-pete in Houston at the 1993 Southwest Conference Relays. The meet starts today at 3 p.m. The Aggie men are led by All-American Diego Perdomo while the women are equally balanced.

Baseball, tennis reunite The "Oldtimer Game" for the A&M baseball program will be held at 7:30 tonight. Batting practice begins at 5:30 and admission will be free.

Players expected to play are Scott Livingstone, Chuck Knoblauch, Jeff Granger, Brian Thomas, Mark Thurmond and Dave Elmendorf

The first lady of Texas A&M tennis, Mrs. Omar Smith, will serve as the honorary host when may former players return this weekend for a reunion.

Mrs. Smith is the wife of the late Omar Smith, who served as the A&M head tennis coach from 1960-74 and is the namesake of the Aggies' tennis center.

- From Staff and Wire Reports

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