

SPORTS

Friday, December 3, 1993

THE BATTALION

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Aggies prepare to tip-off

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz

The Battalion

For the first time in three years, the Texas A&M women's basketball team will host a tournament as the Domino's/Holiday Inn Lady Aggie Invitational gets under way this weekend at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M head coach Lynn Hickey said she wants her team to prove to the sponsors and Aggie fans that the tournament was a worthy investment.

"This is the time of year to increase our levels of execution and intensity," Hickey said. "We are looking forward to being on our home floor for two back-to-back games."

The participants include the University of Portland, the University of Missouri at Kansas City and Cincinnati University.

In the first round of matches, A&M will take on Portland, and Cincinnati will face UMKC. The winners of these games meet in the championship match on Sunday at 4 p.m.

Although sophomore centers Martha McClelland and Kelly Cerny have been double or triple teamed by smaller players during the Lady Ag-

gies' 2-0 start this season, Hickey said Portland's 6-foot-2 junior center Amy Claboe will provide more of an inside threat.

"Against Portland, we will have an opportunity for the first game since we played against Houston (Flights) to go against a tall center," Hickey said.

Whether it is Portland's Claboe or a double team, McClelland said A&M can overcome the obstacles if they make good use of their height advantage and quickly establish their offensive attack.

"I must turn around and use my jumper like I did against Texas Southern," McClelland said. "Like against TSU, our outside shooters must make our opponents respect their shooting ability."

But if McClelland's — or her teammates' — shots do not fall, she said she will be ready to "crash the boards."

Aggie sophomore point guard Lisa Branch said she expects the Pilots to use a pressing defense against A&M. She said she hopes A&M has the same success against the Pilots' pressure as they did against TSU.

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Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

A&M sophomore point guard Lisa Branch will help lead the Lady Aggies this weekend as they host the Domino's/Holiday Inn Invitational in G. Rollie.

Lombardi bypasses Adams

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Notre Dame offensive tackle Aaron Taylor, accustomed to beating defensive linemen, did it again Thursday night when he won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top college lineman.

He beat out three defensive players for the honor — defensive end Sam Adams of Texas A&M, nose guard Rob Waldrop of Arizona, and linebacker Derrick Brooks of Florida State.

Taylor, 6-foot-4 and 299 pounds, didn't play football until his junior year of high school, but he showed enough to be recruited by Notre Dame and was starting by his sophomore year.

"When I was a kid, everybody expected me to be good because I was bigger than anyone else and that kind of scared me off," Taylor said. "But when I finally got started I really liked it."

A superb run-blocker, Taylor helped Notre Dame average 429.5 yards a game this season. He's

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November 29, 1993

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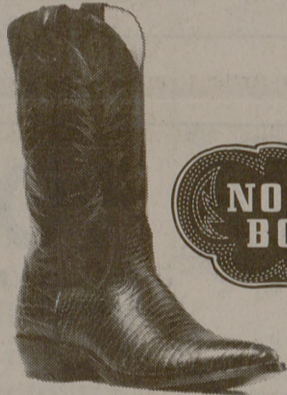
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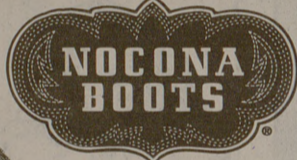
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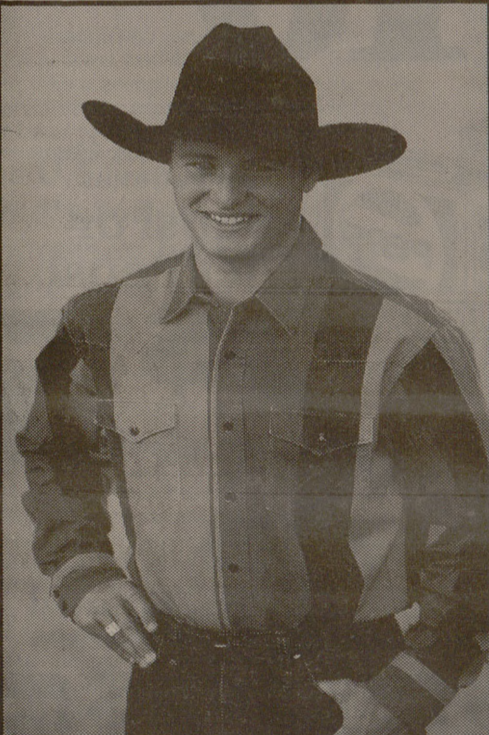
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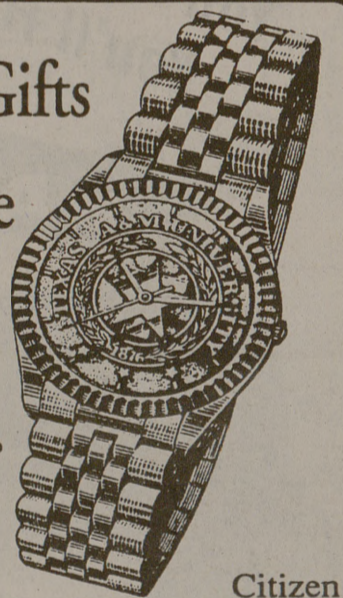
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