

SPORTS

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THE BATTALION

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Confessions of a closet benchwarmer

Every body reading this knows someone who thinks that they are complete athletic studs.

You know the guy who says he was an All-American in 17 sports in high school, but turned down countless scholarships to be a "regular college student."

He works out 42 times a week and plays every single intramural sport.

But when he drops a pass, misses a jump shot, or strikes out, it is never his fault.

He blames the guy who threw the pass, claims he was triple teamed when he took the shot, or says the umpire was blind. So much ego, so little room upstairs.

Meet a guy with nothing to prove, nothing to hide, and now a guy who has nothing to be ashamed of.

You see I played, or at least attempted to play, two team sports in high school.

I didn't really suck that bad, but I guess I was bad enough to still be pulling

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DREW DIENER
Sportswriter

Quiet play leads to tops in conference

Murry: Aggies in race for SWC crown

By Kristine Ramirez
THE BATTALION

Brett Murry, Texas A&M's senior forward, has quietly helped the men's basketball team to a perfect 4-0 Southwest Conference record and 9-5, overall.

"I'm going to try to do what ever I need to do to help us win," the 6-foot, 7-inch forward says. "I'd love to win the conference championship and get to the NCAA tournament."

Murry, who is averaging 10.2 points per game, says the Aggies are a tougher team now and have a chance of winning the conference championship.

"We were losing the closer games and are now winning them," Murry says. "There are times we have played bad but still won."

Murry transferred from Southwest Texas State University and sat out the 1991-1992 season. In the 1992-1993, he was third on the team in scoring, and sixth in blocked shots in SWC play.

Murry says he transferred to A&M because of the challenge it presented.

"I didn't feel I was getting better there (Southwest Texas)," Murry says. "The last three years have challenged me to the utmost."

"I came here to a coach who can show me what I can do. I fit in well here."

Murry considers himself a quiet leader that leads by example and plays the role that was assigned to him.

Head coach Tony Barone agrees.

"Brett is a leader on the team," Barone says. "Not a vocal leader, but a quiet leader. You can win with a whole team of Brett Murry's."

"He is very precise in what he does on the court."

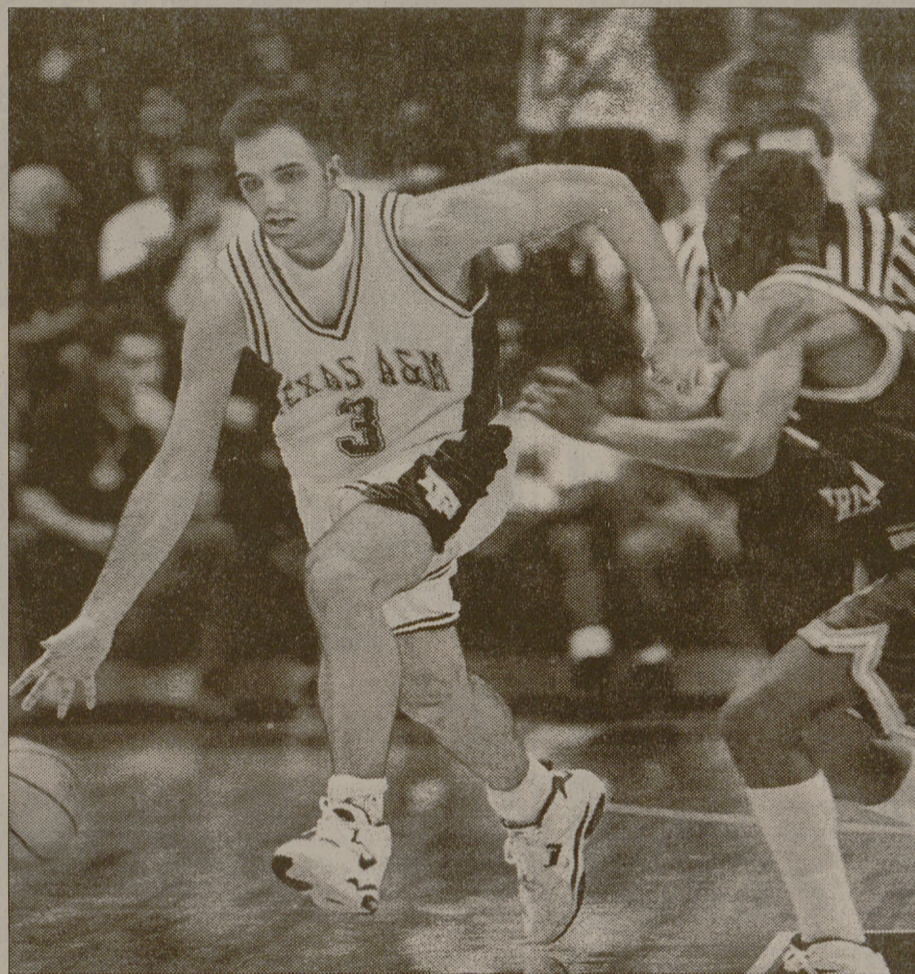
Murry says he is a "jack of all trades and master of none," concerning his basketball skills.

"I pass the ball pretty good, but sometimes I make stupid passes," Murry says. "I try to keep from that. I'd like to step up on my post defense. I haven't played it as well as in the past years."

Barone says Murry does the little things, and any coach in the league would want him as a starter. Barone says Murry is capable of getting 20 points a game.

Murry says that after he graduates he plans to be a coach.

"Education is the first thing I'm worried about," he says. "I'd like to coach basketball and playing college basketball should help me."



Kevin Toy/ THE BATTALION

Brett Murry brings the ball up the court against TCU on Tuesday night.

Murry started playing basketball in the third grade and considers his father as his greatest inspiration.

Murry recalls that he used to get out of mowing the lawn by shooting baskets.

"He's always pushed me to excel in basketball," Murry says.

Murry has enjoyed his time at A&M and will take away a number of memories from school. Murry says A&M's victory over the University of Texas on Jan. 12 is his most memorable game.

"No one thought we were going to win the game but us," he says.

Former A&M player dies after assault

The Associated Press

MIDLAND — Police searched Wednesday for several men who chased and attacked former Texas A&M football player James Zachery before he collapsed and died.

Authorities have not determined whether the head lacerations Zachery suffered early Tuesday caused him to die in a hospital emergency room.

Zachery, a defensive lineman who lettered for the Texas A&M Aggies in 1977-1979, played briefly for the New York Jets and spent eight years in the Canadian Football League with the Edmonton Eskimos.

Police found Zachery, 36, bleeding on the ground near an East Midland railroad track at 1:10 a.m.

Witnesses reported seeing a group of men assault him.

"He had injuries, some bumps and scrapes," Sgt. David Garcia said.

Zachery was taken by ambulance to Memorial Hospital and Medical Center, where doctors said the wounds didn't appear life threatening, Garcia said. But he fell unconscious and died at 4:30 a.m.

"At this time, it is being carried as an aggravated assault," Garcia said. "We don't know that the injuries were the cause of death, so we're not calling this a homicide."

His body was sent to Dallas for an autopsy.

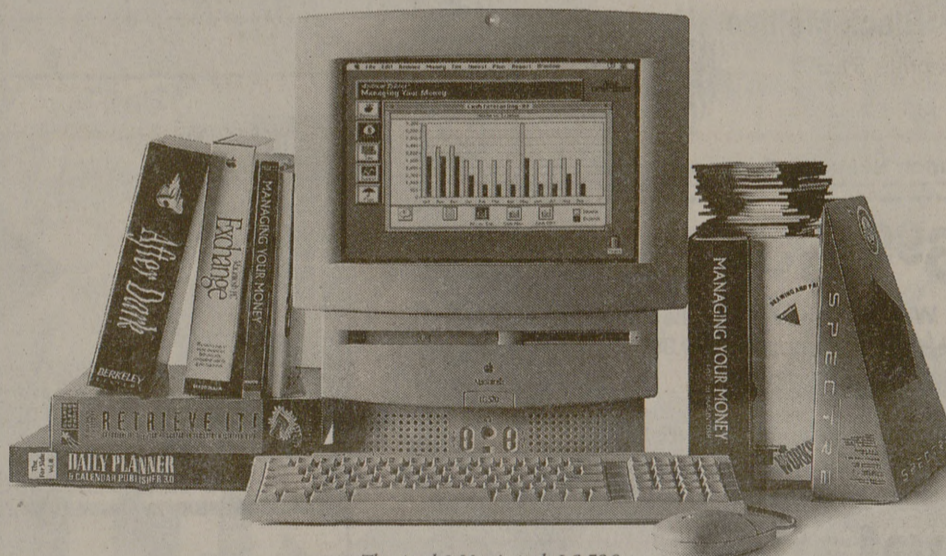
Zachery is survived by his mother, Dorothy, and eight brothers.

Services were set for 2 p.m. Saturday with Thomas Funeral Home.

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