

Writer's ramblings right rumors

Pondering the perturbing possibility of Jimmy Johnson junking Jerry Jones' Cowboys and jaunting over to Jacksonville to coach the Jaguars jaded my jubilant attitude and provoked me to jostle through the mass of students on my journey to professor Jeff Jones' English class.

On my journey to Jeff Jones' class, where my thoughts often jumble, I ran into an old friend, a jock named Jerry Jurica.

I asked Jerry if Jimmy would really junk Jerry for the Jaguars? Jerry is no jerk and has no problem with me being a jolly Jew.

"As the Jurica's jazzy Jewish jangler," Jerry said in his joyful jargon, "you should know that Jerry won't let Jimmy jaunt to Jacksonville and join the Jaguars."

Besides he wouldn't leave Jimmie Jones and Jim Jeffcoat, who are fans of the late Janis Joplin, a high school classmate of Jimmy Johnson himself."

That comforting comment clued me in on the whole stinking situation incited by the irritating, illiterate idiots in the idiosyncratic media.

Dammit, I'm the darling, yet daring, Drew Diener and the damn media ain't gonna fool me.

Those frigg'n', foolish fiends won't fiddle with my feelings. They're just jealous that Jimmy Johnson and Jerry Jones have built a wonderful winner here and no one, not Johnny Johnson of the Jets or Jimmy Jackson of the Jokes, can take that away from them.

Rumors riddle the righteous and rich revealing the wrong and not the real.

What in the names of Bill Bates, Bobby Bowden, Beavis,

A&M garners 'finest' recruiting class

By Drew Diener

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum said he was pleased with the 25 student-athletes that signed Wednesday to play for the Aggies next season.

The Aggies filled spots at almost every

Aggies land six All-Americans, sign 12 players from Texas' top 100

All-Americans and one junior college All-American.

Slocum said the NCAA probation had little, if any, effect on the players who signed.

He said he even delayed recruiting visits until after the NCAA ruling so he could know where A&M stood and be able to explain the situation to the recruits and their parents.

"I'm very excited about this signing date," Slocum said. "Without question, this is the finest group of young men that we've ever brought in."

Offensively, the Aggies concentrated on improving their passing game by signing Angleton quarterback Mark Farris and four highly-touted wide receivers.

Rated by many as the top quarterback in Texas this year, Angleton's Mark Farris threw for more than 1,700 yards. He also tossed 21 touchdowns as a senior while earning Class 5A honorable mention all-state honors.

"I like the coaching staff at A&M," Farris said during a phone conversation with The

Battalion. "The chance to go to A&M helped me make my decision."

Slocum said he had wanted to sign two quarterbacks, but is still pleased with the opportunity to get a player of the caliber of Farris.

"We wanted to get the passing game more involved in our offense," Slocum said. "A guy can step into the depth chart here and be as high as he can at any competitive program."

In addition to landing Farris and a stockpile of receivers, the Aggies signed five offensive linemen, three tight ends, and one running back.

Running back Cedric Hodge is a high school All-American from Kemp. As a senior, Hodge rushed for 2,305 yards and 30 touchdowns on 215 carries en-route to earning first-team Class 3A all-state honors.

At 6'2" 200-pounds, Hodge runs an impressive 4.3 in the 40 yard dash.

On defense, the Aggies concentrated on reloading at defensive line and linebacker. Slocum said linebacker was the weakest area on the team last season.



Rain Nohavitz / THE BATTALION

Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum speaks of the Aggies' 25 recruits.

"We were fortunate that this was a good year in the state of Texas for linebackers," Slocum said. "Over the years, we have taken great pride in the linebackers we've had at Texas A&M."

In all, the Aggies signed five linebackers, four defensive linemen, and two defensive backs to help carry on the "Wrecking Crew" tradition.

Among the five linebackers signed by A&M, Trent Driver, a 6'3" 215-pound All-American from Cleveland is the most-heralded.

After racking up 150 total tackles includ-

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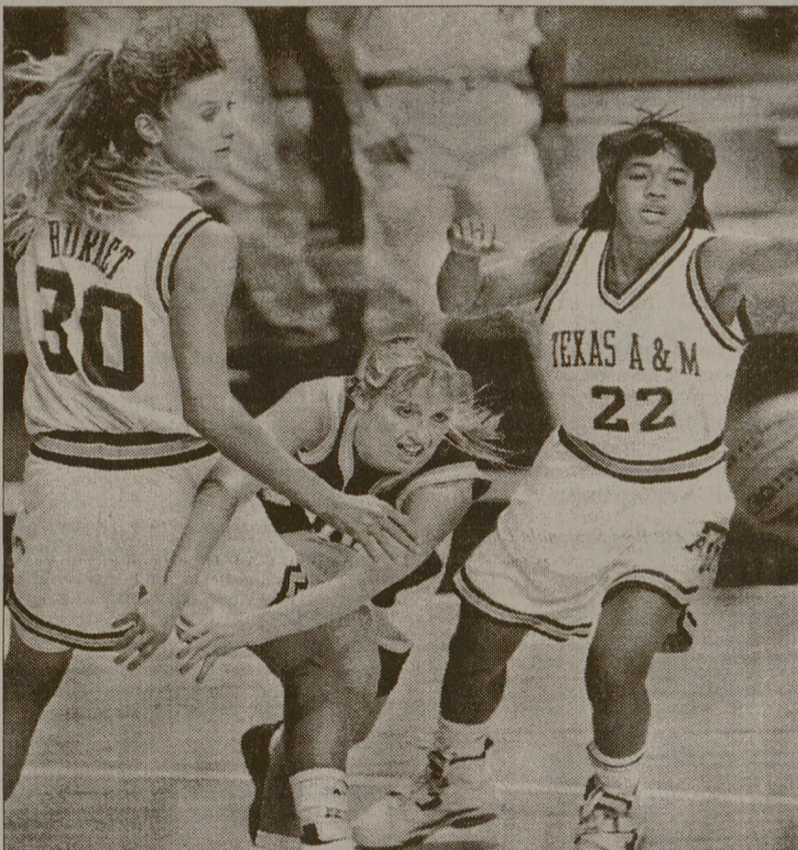
Drew Diener Sportswriter

A&M football signees

Player	Pos	Hometown
• Brinkley, Darren	WR	Belton
• Brown, Dawn	OL	Houston
• Brown, Quion	LB	Corsicana
• Campbell, Daniel	TE	Clon Rose
• Driver, Trent	LB	Cleveland
• Dudley, Adren	TE	Henderson
• Farris, Mark	QB	Angleton
• Flegance, Jason	OL	St. Martinville, La.
• Hackstaff, Roby	OL	Conroe
• Hill, Daunte	WR	Huntsville
• Hodge, Cedric	RB	Kemp
• Holdman, Warrick	LB	Alief
• Horn, Jake	DB	Garland
• Horn, Shaun	WR	Victoria
• Lucas, Justin	WR	Victoria
• Mahone, Matt	TE	Longview
• Maxwell, David	DL	Waco
• McKinney, Steve	DL	Houston
• Meyers, Phillip	LB	Galveston
• Nguyen, Dat	LB	Rockport
• Oliver, Aaron	WR	Arlington
• Rose, Ryan	DL	Garland
• Vasquez, David	OL	Alief
• Williams, Michael	DB	Leviaville
• Williams, Pat	DL	Monroe, La.

position: signing 14 offensive and 11 defensive players.

A&M once again landed a top-flight recruiting class that includes six high school



Kevin Ivy / THE BATTALION

Beth Burket, left, and Lisa Branch apply defensive pressure during Texas A&M's victory against Baylor on Wednesday night.

Lady Aggies break Baylor, look to Texas Tech contest

By Nick Georgandis

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's basketball team began to separate the women from the girls in this year's Southwest conference race, by beating the Baylor Lady Bears, 92-78, Wednesday night at G. Rolie White Coliseum.

The game looked to be a nail-biter midway through the second half, as the Lady Bears came back from a 47-42 halftime deficit to take a 64-63 lead with 9:25 left in the game.

The Lady Aggies fought back, and took the lead for good at 72-70 with five minutes left in the game.

Head women's basketball coach Lynn Hickey said the key to the Lady Aggies' victory was their defensive intensity down the stretch.

"My biggest concern throughout the game was playing tentative defense," Hickey said. "Once the defensive aggression picked up, we were able to follow that with an offensive attack."

The Lady Aggies improved to 6-0 in SWC play with the win, the best start in Lady Aggie history. A&M's 14-3 mark overall is the team's best start through 17 games.

Sophomore center Kelly Cerny said she believed the win was particularly satisfying because of the

two teams' previous meeting, in which the Lady Bears eliminated A&M from the 1993 SWC Tournament.

"Last year, they prevented us from getting further, although we knew we had a better team," Cerny said. "We wanted to prove that Baylor wasn't going to beat us this year, and they're still not going to beat us."

Sophomore guard Lisa Branch led the Lady Aggies with 21 points.

Most of A&M's heavy damage was done by the 1-2 inside punch of Cerny and sophomore center Martha McClelland who combined for 35 points, 23 rebounds and 11 assists.

Hickey said she believed the pair's work on the glass was the key to the win.

"Martha and Kelly were a pretty tough combo tonight," Hickey said. "At halftime we were down by 1 (in rebounding), and then we come out and totally dominate in the second half."

The Lady Aggies next game is at home on Saturday night against Texas Tech in a match-up between the two teams with the best conference records.

The defending national champion Red Raiders will come into the game ranked fourth in the nation.

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