

SPORTS

Friday, February 18, 1994

THE BATTALION

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A&M player sets hoops standards

David Edwards had one of his typical games on Wednesday night against the Houston Cougars.



Nick Georgandis Sports writer

However, a typical game for Edwards is a game that most point guards would look upon as a season highlight.

The senior point guard threw in 19 points, and dished out 12 assists, and in the process became the first player in Southwest Conference history to total at least 1000 points, 500 assists and 200 steals in his career.

The numbers look even sweeter when one realizes that this is only Edwards' third season playing in the SWC.

He began his collegiate career at Georgetown, then transferred to A&M, where NCAA transfer rules forced him to sit out a season.

Edwards was humble in his acceptance Wednesday night of his landmark achievement.

"I'm just happy to achieve it," Edwards said. "The Good Lord blessed me, and I'm just happy to be able to receive it."

Some may view the combi-

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Swimmer hopes for Olympic chance

Junior from Colombia leads Aggie swim team

By Kristine Ramirez

THE BATTALION

Diego Perdomo is a long way from his home in Inem, Colombia.

But as a member of the Texas A&M swim team, Perdomo has adjusted to life in the United States and plans to make a run at the 1996 Summer Olympics.

As a sophomore, Perdomo was named a 1993 All-American in the 100-butterfly event.

Perdomo has only been in the United States for three years but has quickly adjusted to life here.

"The first time I came to the United States I didn't understand English very well," he said, "It has been really hard for me. I get homesick a lot."

He said he has received a lot of help from those around him.

"I feel more comfortable now," he said. "The team and coaches have been a great help."

Perdomo was a student at the Oral Roberts University before he transferred to A&M.

A close friend at A&M contacted head swimming coach, Mel Nash and told him about his friend, Perdomo.

Nash said he gets requests to

look at swimmers all the time but he was glad Perdomo decided to transfer to A&M.

"I'm glad we pursued it because he's panned out very well," Nash said.

Perdomo said his parents are proud of his accomplishments and one of the main reasons he came to A&M is because of the opportunities.

"They are very proud. I'm going to an American school, which in my country is good," he said.

Perdomo said his main goal this year is to reach the NCAA Championships.

"My main goal this year is to go to the NCAA's. Everybody on the swim team thinks I can do it and I'm going to shoot for it," he said.

He said the team has done really well this year.

"This year has been a great year not only for me but for the whole team," he said. "We're trying to take a lot of people to the NCAA's."

He said a good finish at the NCAA Championships along

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Aggie track looks to SWC meet

By Stewart Doreen

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men and women's track and field teams head up to Fort Worth this weekend to compete in the Southwest Conference Indoor Meet.

The Aggies will chase the favored Texas Longhorns for the team titles, but A&M head coach Ted Nelson says the Aggies will direct their focus on the opportunity for A&M's best to compete for Southwest Conference Indoor titles and to qualify individu-

"We want to be strong going into the outdoor meets,"

- Ted Nelson,

A&M head track coach

als for the NCAA Indoor Championships that will be March 11-12 in Indianapolis, Ind.

A&M's defending Southwest conference champion 4x400 relay has posted the second fastest time in America and will go head-to-head against Baylor who has the fastest time.

The last time A&M and Baylor competed against each other, A&M dropped the baton on the third leg with the two teams in an even race.

Anjanette Kirkland will look to continue her early season success and give the women's track program a boost when she goes for the indoor title in the women's 55-meter hurdles.

Mike Miller, who has defeated

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A&M's Branch named Academic All-American

From Staff and Wire Reports

Lisa Branch, starting guard for the Lady Aggie basketball team, was recently named to the 1994 District VI GTE Academic All-America first team.

"I am very proud of Lisa," A&M head coach Lynn Hickey said. "She is the epitome of a true student-athlete."

Members of the team are chosen by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) in District VI. District VI includes all colleges and universities in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Mississippi and

Louisiana.

Athletes are required to have a minimum of a 3.20 grade point ratio (on a 4.0 scale), to be a starter or an important reserve for their team and have at least sophomore classification to be eligible for the Academic All-America honors.

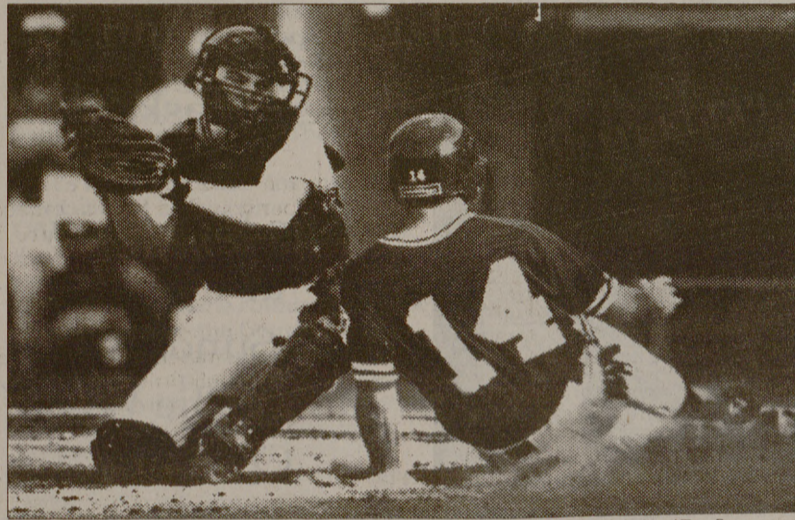
A sophomore general studies major, Branch has a 3.43 gpr and received a GTE Academic Achievement Award for 1992-93.

Branch has started in all of the 20 games of the Lady Aggies have played this season.

She leads the team with a 16.1 point-per-game scoring average and ranks 10th nationally with a 6.6 assist average.

"She is the epitome of a true student-athlete,"

-Lynn Hickey, A&M head basketball coach



Kevin Ivy/ THE BATTALION

Chad Alexander (14) slides into home during the second game of the doubleheader against McNeese State University. Alexander was called safe as the Aggies went on to win, 5-4.

The fifth-ranked Aggies head to Tucson to play a three-game series against the University of Arizona Wildcats, beginning today and continuing through Sunday.

A&M will return to Olsen Field to play a doubleheader against Southwest Texas State on Tuesday, beginning at 1 p.m.

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THE WALK

SENIORS WALK LINE OF DEAD ELEPHANTS

Class of '95 occupies juniors to clean up tradition.



Senior redpots gather at Fish Pond on their symbolic trek through campus. Elephant Walk symbolizes their final days together before graduation.

"shoot" the elephants. Juniors flung items such as shaving cream, peanut butter and other messy condiments. In '93 the Traditions Council and the Class of '95 officers had an alternative to "shooting" the seniors. A "pull-out" yell practice was held at Bonfire site and led by the junior yell leaders.

After yell practice, Frank Cox, Class of '65 and author of "I Bleed Maroon" spoke about the importance of preserving the solemn tradition of Elephant Walk.

"The speaker was great because he got everyone fired up about traditions like Elephant Walk, and the same time explained to us why we need to preserve these traditions by cleaning them up a bit," Arjan Bormans, Class of '95, said.

The reason for the alternative activities for the Class of '95 was that the tradition was beginning to get out of hand. In the past, the unrighteous accumulation of trash and vandalism on campus as a result of Elephant Walk was inappropriate for the Thanksgiving game.

"The need stems from not wanting to ruin the campus, and from the desire to preserve the tradition as a solemn occasion," Traditions Council member Kristen Nevias, Class of '95, said.

Friends, activities, events and A&M's many traditions formed the strong bond that united the Class of '94 in their dying parade across campus. Elephant Walk gave seniors one more memory to take with them into the "real world."

"Elephant Walk was special because it brought back many special memories from four great years at A&M," Childress said.

Kathy Jordan



"ELEPHANT WALK WAS AN ENJOYABLE TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE, NOT TO MENTION A LOT CLEANER THAN IN THE PAST."

Lance Childress Class of '94

Seniors begin yell practice at Bonfire site, the last step on the Elephant Walk trail. "Pull out" yell was held earlier at Bonfire site in present juniors from bonfire, walking seniors with various forms of litter.

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