

There's more to life than just sports

Dennis Byrd was a defensive lineman for the New York Jets that was injured in 1992. He was paralyzed and was told he would never walk again. Byrd has walked again.



Mark Smith
Asst.
Sports Editor

Stories like Byrd's give me hope. In the commercials for the made-for-television movie about Byrd, the actor who plays Byrd says, "I love this game. If I had to, I'd play for free."

That's why people should play sports. The love of the game.

For professionals, the money is nice and sports grant a lot of fame, but the game should be in the heart.

What do sports mean to me?

That's a pretty good question. What should sports mean to anybody? For some people sports are the be all and end all of existence. I almost fit into that category.

If I couldn't jump or run or hit a baseball, I think I would go crazy. Sports are a passion with me.

But, what if I couldn't do any of that? That's a question that jumped to mind Sunday night.

My roommate and I, idiots that we are, rented a movie Sunday. I had a test the next day and he had a lot of stuff to get done, but we rented it anyway. We were bored.

I think it was called "The Waterdance." It had a real sappy cover and I was teasing

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No. 9 Aggies down Tampa

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz

THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's baseball team took advantage of the University of Tampa's two errors in the first two innings Monday as the Aggies downed the Spartans 7-5.

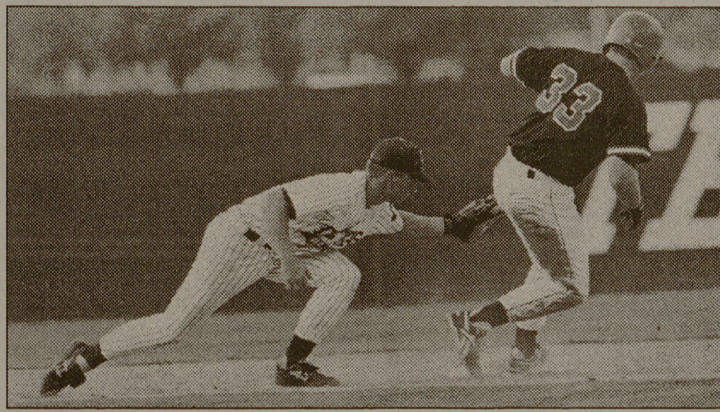
Pitcher Rob Thomas (1-0) scattered four hits with seven strikeouts in five shutout-innings to earn his first victory of the season, and A&M catcher Billy Carroll blasted his first home run to lead the Aggies.

With the Aggies (14-4 and No. 9 in the nation) ahead 1-0 in the second inning, Tampa second baseman Jason Sullivan bobbled a line drive by David Minor that would have forced A&M's Rich Petru into a double play and end the inning.

One batter later, Carroll cashed in on the opportunity and brought in Petru and Minor when he blasted Brian Toronto's fast ball over the center field wall.

"I got a fast ball down the middle of the plate and got to hit it pretty well," Carroll said. "It was very important for us to take advantage of their mistakes."

While Tampa (10-6) struggled, A&M's defense helped Thomas



Mary Macmanus/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Rich Petru (left) attempts to tag the University of Tampa's Matt Snyder at second base on Monday at Olsen Field.

get out of jams. With one out in the second inning Thomas allowed two hits to put men on second and third.

Thomas struck out Sullivan for the second out of the inning, and A&M center fielder Chad Alexander caught Robert Curry's line drive to end the inning.

Thomas said he was happy with A&M's defensive play. The Aggies only had one error.

"It feels great to get my first

win," Thomas said. "I had some good defense behind me today."

A&M head coach Mark Johnson said he was pleased with A&M's pitching and defense.

"I think Rob threw very well," Johnson said. "He was hitting all the spots with his fast ball. He beared down and shut the door on them."

John Codrington will start for the Aggies today in the first of a double header against Lamar.

New 'mega-stadium' plans develop in Houston, Dallas

The Associated Press

DALLAS — The big issue on the minds of Texas sports owners these days isn't winning and losing. It's wining and dining.

In Dallas and Houston, discussions about building new, mega-stadiums are being driven by the teams' desire for more seats and luxury accommodations, particularly the high-dollar sky boxes.

"If you have a stadium and can offer these boxes, you're going to make money," said Jim Andrews, vice president of International Events Group in Chicago. IEG publishes the IEG Sponsorship Report, a newsletter dedicated to the sports and events marketing field.

The demand for luxury boxes has "never been greater than it is right now," Andrews said Monday.

Bill Doyle, vice president of Performance Research in Newport, R.I., said corporations have turned the luxury box into a marketing tool for entertaining clients.

Guests are treated to a superb view of the game, an open bar, buffet spreads and perhaps a local

sports celebrity signing autographs.

"It's the whole world of schmooze," Doyle said. "This is a great way to drum up business and grease the wheels. That drives a lot of it."

A business coalition called the Dallas Sports and Entertainment Assessment Group was formed last month to analyze the idea of a new stadium to accommodate professional basketball and hockey.

City officials say Dallas' NHL franchise, the Dallas Stars, is the chief catalyst behind the concept for a new \$100 million-plus facility.

Last week, Houston Oilers owner Bud Adams unveiled his plans for a \$235 million downtown domed facility. The new dome would seat 75,000 for football and could be converted for smaller basketball and hockey venues.

Tony Good, spokesman for Electronic Data Systems Corp., General Motors Corp.'s data processing subsidiary, said EDS had a box at Arlington Stadium and

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No. 31 Aggie men's tennis win H.E.B. Championship

From Staff and Wire Reports

Corpus Christi — Texas A&M head tennis coach David Kent has the one title he has been searching for 26 years. Monday, the Aggie men's tennis team won the H.E.B. Team Collegiate Championships at the H.E. Butt Tennis Center.

"This has to be the biggest thrill of my coaching career," Kent said. "This was the one tournament that I've always wanted to win. I hold this tournament in the highest regard. Year-in and year-out, some of the nation's best tennis is played right here."

The win over No. 26 Minnesota improved A&M's record to 10-0, the Aggies' best start ever. The match started badly for the

Aggies, who were swept in doubles. Going into the singles portion, A&M was down 1-0.

Wins by Mark Weaver, Blake Arrant, Eric Horan and Ricardo Rodarte, however, gave the Aggies the 4-2 victory.

Kent gave part of the credit for the victory to Bernardo Martinez, who played despite sitting out Sunday's semifinal match against South Alabama with a back injury.

"Bernardo was the key to the match because his ability to play allowed us to keep our usual lineup," Kent said. "If he wouldn't have been able to play, we would have been in a world of hurt."

"He not only played, but he played well. It was a courageous effort."

A&M swimmers take second place at SWC championships, best finish since 1956

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M men's swimming team had their best finish in 38 years when they finished second in the 1994 Men's Southwest Conference Championships at Jamail Texas Swimming Center at the University of Texas.

A&M finished second with 713 points behind UT, who had 1056 points. More importantly, the Aggies finished three points ahead of Southern Methodist University.

"I'm on cloud nine," head coach Mel Nash said. "SMU has been one of the best programs in the country for decades."

"We did it as a team. Our guys came through. I think the strength of our team was our depth."

Nash said one of the reasons for the Aggies' success was the strong performance in the diving competition by sophomore Jason Aguirre. Aguirre finished fourth.

Junior Diego Perdomo registered strong times, breaking his own school record in the 200-meter butterfly of 1:47.26. That time makes him an automatic qualifier for the NCAA meet.

Perdomo qualified for the NCAA meet in the 100 and 200-meter butterfly. Five other swimmers and one relay event qualified conditionally for the NCAA meet.

The Texas A&M University Student Publications Board is accepting applications for

Editor,
The Battalion
Summer 1994

Editor,
The Battalion
Fall 1994

Qualifications for editor of The Battalion are:

Be a Texas A&M student with a minimum 2.0 overall and major GPR at the time of appointment and during the term of office;

Have at least one year experience in a responsible editorial position on The Battalion or comparable student newspaper,

OR

Have at least one year editorial experience on a commercial newspaper,

OR

Have completed at least 12 hours journalism, including JOUR 203 and 303 (Media Writing I and II), JOUR 301 (Mass Comm Law) and JOUR 304 (Editing for the Mass Media), or equivalent.

Application forms should be picked up and returned to the Student Publications Manager's office, room 230 Reed McDonald Bldg. Deadline for submitting application: 5 p.m. Monday, March 21. Applicants will be interviewed during the Student Publications Board Meeting beginning at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 23, 1994.



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Texaco '94
Operations Engineer, New Orleans

I'm Art Garza. I earned my bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering in 1989 at Texas A&M. Now I'm at the University of Oklahoma earning a master's degree in business administration. And this May I'll join Texaco as an operations engineer.

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