

Mountain bikes at A&M just an image

CONSTANCE PARTEN
Sportswriter



Mountain biking is quickly becoming to the United States what road cycling is to France. A walk across campus is evidence of the popularity of these "utility vehicles" of the bicycle world.

But as transportation? In the incredibly mountainous region of the Brazos Valley?

Granted, mountain bikes are great for hopping curbs and cutting across fields. But the knobby tires make for really lousy road performance.

Hybrids and touring bikes are much more appropriate for the trek to school or work. In fact, there is really no legitimate reason for riding a mountain bike around the B/C/S ruraplex.

There's nowhere to ride

The only two trails in the Bryan-College Station area are awful at best, and there aren't even any hills, much less mountains. The only possible reason for the plethora of mountain bikes on this campus is image.

It's just plain cool to own a mountain bike.

Meet Joe-Dude Mountainbiker. I ran into Joe-Dude right outside of Evans Library as he was getting on his bike.

CP: "Hey Joe-Dude, cool mountain bike. What kind is it?"

JM: "It's a Truk 2500003.33SXJ52 with road slicks, Shibango dual-clicker A500 gears, Hombone L-bend bar ends for easy maneuverability, and a Pinetti AK shock absorbing front suspension stem."

CP: "Wow! Impressive. Was it expensive?"

JM: "Well, the front fork cost an extra \$250, so the total cost was \$1250."

CP: "So you ride competitive?"

JM: "Well, I ride as fast as I can."

CP: "No, no! Do you go off-roading in competitions?"

JM: "No way man! I wouldn't take this bike off-road! I spent too much money on it."

Joe-Dude isn't alone

Unfortunately, Joe-Dude is not an anomaly. It seems like image is the most important competition in the biking community at A&M.

Even little kids are riding plastic replicas of mountain bikes. Of course, they probably ride off-road more than most of the students on this campus.

Only a handful of these bikers have been on terrain rougher than College Main (well, perhaps that does constitute off-road.) And mud? No way.

Maybe the university can sponsor a "Mountain Bike Parade" to raise a little money to build some decent trails for the few serious off-roaders in the community. That way everyone ends up happy.

The fashion conscious can show off in the parade, and the real off-roaders can have a decent trail to ride on.

A&M tennis camp serves an ace

Kent and crew host one of southwest's most popular camps

By Mark Smith
THE BATTALION

As the hot summer sun beats down on Texas A&M, some visitors to campus are outside in the heat practicing their overhand serve and their baseline volley.

These visitors are tennis players wanting to improve their game by attending the Texas A&M Tennis Camp. The camp is in its second of four sessions.

The campers come from all over the state and country to receive instruction from A&M head tennis coach David Kent and some of the southwest's best tennis instructors.

Kent's son, Todd, said the camp has students from all different skill levels. "This is a camp for everybody," Todd Kent said. "We have beginners as well as more advanced students."

Those differing skill levels range from kids who were state finalists in the Texas Sectionals and tournament winners to kids who are just beginning to play.

They also come from a variety of high schools, ranging from 1A to 5A. One camper, Susan Nordyke, talked about how she came from a town that had no tennis courts.

"We had to play in the streets," she said. "We had about seventy-five people trying to play on the two city courts we had."

Nordyke and her teammates from Bullard High School tried to get \$20,000 from the booster club to build the team four courts. They had to win the state title in order to get the money.

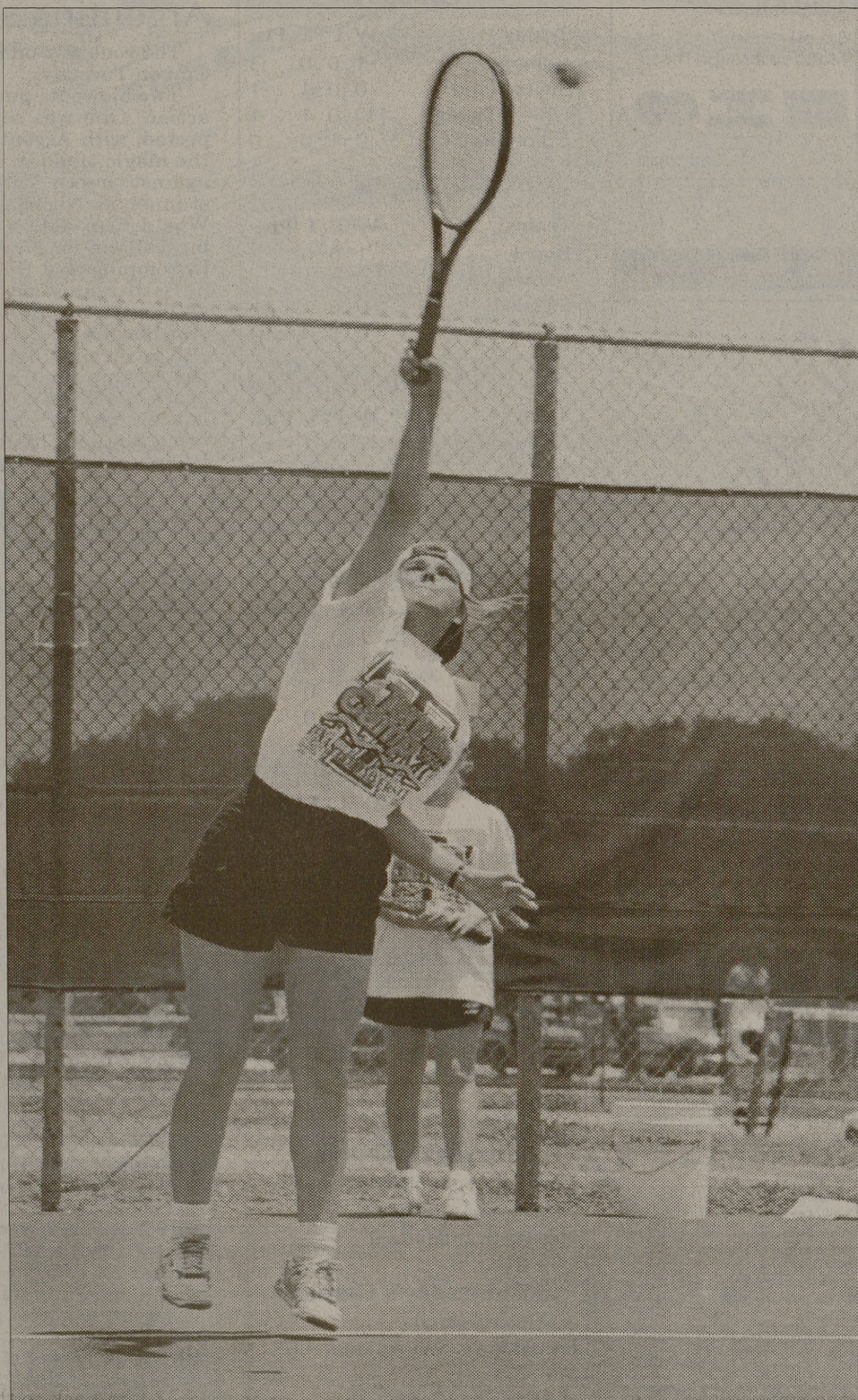
The players aren't the only ones who come from all over. The counselors are made up of high school coaches, college players and college coaches who work during the fall and spring throughout the state.

Some of the counselors have been helping Kent with his camp for a number of years.

"One of our counselors has been helping us for over eighteen years," Todd Kent said. "He's been helping us since before all of these kids were born."

Head coach Kent has been running tennis camps since 1971, when he was head coach at West Texas State University. His tennis camp has endured.

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Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Montgomery native Kristen Sauer practices her serve in a drill at the Texas A&M Tennis Camp.

Aggie's shortstop doesn't stop short

A&M star makes U.S. national baseball team

By Brian Coats
THE BATTALION

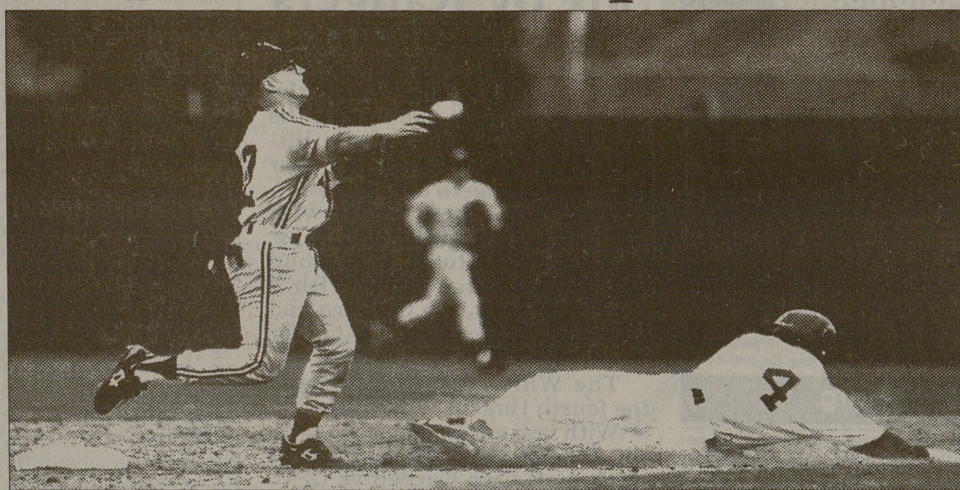
Although the Texas A&M baseball team's season has been over for more than two months, one player is still going strong.

Texas A&M shortstop Robert Harris is representing A&M on the 1994 USA Baseball Team after surviving the team's final cut to 24 players Saturday.

Because a player has to be an amateur to play for the national team, Harris said he had to make a decision whether to play for the team or sign a professional contract. He was drafted by the Oakland Athletics in the ninth round of this month's baseball draft.

Harris said since he did not sign, and is playing for Team USA, he will be returning for his senior year at A&M.

"I pretty much had to make up my



BATTALION file photo

A&M shortstop Robert Harris tries to complete a double play. Harris is playing for the U.S. National Baseball team.

mind one way or the other after getting this call" he said. "I'll be back."

Harris, A&M's starting shortstop the last two years, said his experience

was a factor in making the team.

"It feels great," he said. "The main

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Swimmers dive into A&M's 'coolest' camp

By Brian Coats
THE BATTALION

The latest and undoubtedly the "coolest" camp at Texas A&M University this summer is going on right now at Cain Pool.

59 kids are getting individualized instruction, learning stroke techniques and getting an opportunity to stay on campus in the first of three week-long Texas Aggie Swim Camps.

Carol Nash, the camp director and a counselor, said the week is geared towards competitive swimmers who want to improve their strokes and mechanics. Campers swim three times a day, beginning with an outdoor swim at 6 a.m.

She said the focus of the camp is to give each camper as much special attention as possible.

"We try to have a good swimmer to coach ratio," she said. "Why come to camp if you can't get special attention?"

Nash said the camp was the first in the nation to use underwater video cameras to tape kids swimming.

"We tape the kids in the morning, analyze the tapes, talk to the kids about their swimming and then send the tapes home with them," she said. "It's great for the kids, and the parents get to see what their kids were doing all week."

Nash added that since A&M began the underwater videotaping, several other camps advertise that they now do the same thing.

"Just as long as everyone knows we were the first," she said.

Several campers took time out from a precious opportunity to enjoy a few moments of free time on the diving board to talk about the camp. Kristi Lobprez, 11, from Wharton, said her favorite part of the camp is the swimming.

However, Kelly VonDrehle, 10, also from Wharton, said she likes "dryland" or the out-of-the-pool activities.

"I like playing video games and hanging out at the MSC," she said.

Kevan Haggerty, 16, from Coffeyville, Kansas has been to camps at Nebraska and the University of Texas. He said every camp has good workout sessions, but A&M is better in other areas.

"Nebraska was a really-intense

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Former Wimbledon champions enjoy return to grass

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — They'd all been struggling, one way or another, but getting back on their beloved grass at Wimbledon was like a tonic for four former champions.

"This is the place where you come and prove yourself," said Andre Agassi. "It's always seemed to help me rise to the occasion."

Agassi, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg — winners of the six of the past nine men's titles — came away heartened by solid first-round victories Monday. So did nine-time champion Martina Navratilova, moved by a sustained standing ovation as she started her 22nd and final Wimbledon.

"I was excited, and then the applause just kept going, and it was 'Wait, I haven't played yet. How am I supposed to play now?'" said

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