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Football camp  
big thrill for  
Cowboys fan

BRIAN COATS

Sportswriter



I had stars in my eyes, both figuratively and literally, when I went to the Dallas Cowboys training camp at St. Edward's University in Austin Wednesday.

There are three Aggies in camp this year — Robert Wilson, Greg Schorp and Kevin Smith. The side benefits of going to interview them were getting to rub shoulders with the likes of Troy Aikman, Emmitt Smith and other world champions.

This would be pretty exciting for anyone. Even Mark Smith, the sports editor/part-time photographer and an Oilers fan, called the day "pretty awesome." These descriptions do not do justice to how excited I was, though.

I have been a Cowboys fan all my life. In 1981, my Dad took me to watch the Cowboys play the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in an NFC playoff game (believe it or not, at one time the Buccaneers were in the playoffs). The Cowboys won 38-0.

I'll never forget that day. Of course, it wasn't long after that game that the Cowboys started having some lean years. I, however, was no fair-weather fan. I stuck with them patiently.

As everyone knows, my patience has paid off the last couple of years. "Back-to-back" world champions still has such a sweet ring.

The best way to describe how incredible the whole day was is to list some of the things that happened.

• Interviewing Schorp, Wilson and Smith. All of these guys were great players at A&M. I have a lot of respect for them.

• Surrounding Barry Switzer with the 300 other media-types that were there, as he held a mini press conference after each practice. I even asked a question. Not that I really care for Barry Switzer, but now I think I'll give him a chance.

• Meeting and picking the brain of one of my favorite sports columnists, Randy Galloway of the Dallas Morning News.

• Listening to Nate Newton answer some completely ridiculous questions like, "Has the comet's collision with Jupiter affected your appetite?" and "What is your most embarrassing moment in the NFL?"

I do not know how Newton puts up with those guys, but he does, and his answers were extremely entertaining. Newton is one guy who will not hesitate to speak his mind.

• Standing about five feet from Troy Aikman and Emmitt Smith. Everyone with media passes got to eat with the players in the camp dining room. At one point, as I was trying to decide between the chicken stir-fry or the spaghetti, I looked up, and low-and-behold there was Aikman, all 6-foot-4, 220 pounds of him, about five feet in front of me.

That was lunch. At dinner, I walked in the front door as Emmitt held the door open. Okay, he didn't hold the door open, but he did walk in right before I did.

As exciting as this day was for me as a Cowboys fan, I did try to maintain a certain amount of professionalism. I did not yell at Aikman or Emmitt Smith, like the nine million kids trying to get autographs.

As close as I was physically to those guys, I didn't even talk to them. I figured they get enough people who talk to them just for the sake of talking to them, and besides, just seeing them five feet away instead of on a television screen was good enough for me.

I didn't stand in front of too many cameras or get asked whose autograph I was trying to get. I got my interviews. All in all, I acted like a journalist, but I felt like a fan. What a job.

Aggie football stars shoot for Cowboys



Mark Smith/The BATTALION

Former A&M fullback Robert Wilson runs for another work station during the Dallas Cowboys' training camp.

By Brian Coats  
THE BATTALION

Two former A&M football stars are among the many free agents and rookies trying to prove to NFL coaches that they belong at the professional level.

Greg Schorp, A&M's 1993 all-Southwest Conference tight end, and Robert Wilson, who last played for A&M as a fullback at the 1991 Holiday Bowl, are working out at St. Edward's University in Austin, sum-

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mer home to the Dallas Cowboys.

They are working hard and competing against other free agents, rookies and veterans, trying to earn a spot on the world-champion Cowboys.

Schorp had been a mainstay in the Aggie offense the last three years. He gathered MVP honors in the 1992 Pigskin Classic, was a two-time consensus All-Southwest Conference pick, and was an honorable mention All-American. He said playing at A&M prepared him for the level of play in the NFL.

"At A&M we played big-time teams and the coaches prepared us well," he said.

Schorp said camp has been going good. He said everyone is good at this level, and he is going to have to work extremely hard to make the team.

"I have to learn a new offensive system and become real familiar with it so when I get a rep I can give total effort and not worry about whether I am blowing an assignment or running the wrong route," Schorp said.

Schorp said he has to work hard mentally as well as learn new techniques.

"It's definitely a learning

process," he said. "I just have to be prepared, make no mental mistakes and give 100 percent effort. It's not easy to come in as a rookie free-agent on a back-to-back champion team, but if I do those things, I think I have a chance."

Randy Galloway, a sports columnist for the Dallas Morning News, said he likes Schorp's chances.

"They need a tight end and he was a heck-of-a college player," Galloway said.

Wilson, who left A&M after his junior year in 1991, was drafted by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the third round that same year. He ran for 179 yards in 1991-92 and caught 20 passes, including two for touchdowns.

However, he has spent the last two years out of football. Wilson has had a reputation as a good blocker both at A&M and in the NFL. He said he wants another chance.

"I know I am good enough to play again," he said. "If I keep working hard and make less mistakes, the better chance I have to make the team."

Cowboy coach Barry Switzer said he tried to recruit Wilson out of high school when he was coaching at Oklahoma. He said he is a good player, but may have hurt his chances with some personal problems.

"Wilson has the talent to play in the NFL, but he reported to camp out-of-shape and overweight," he said. "He's caught my eye with some great blocks in camp, though."

Switzer said that he has heard several people describe Wilson as an "underachiever."

Wilson said he has heard all the talk about being out-of-shape and not playing to his potential. He said he just tries to do the best he



Mark Smith/The BATTALION

Former A&M tight end Greg Schorp watches drills.

can on the field and not let the talk affect his play. He said having other Aggies in camp helps.

"It feels good to have Kevin and Greg," he said. "It feels good to have the moral support."

Spaniard takes fourth  
Tour de France victory

PARIS (AP) — Miguel Indurain answered his critics Sunday by riding into history with his fourth consecutive Tour de France victory.

"I'm not going downhill yet," the 30-year-old Spanish cyclist said. "After my third place (earlier this year) in the Tour of Italy, everyone started questioning things. I answered on the road, in the Tour."

He did it in convincing fashion, winning by the largest margin in six years in the world's premier cycling event.

That no one has beaten Indurain after nearly 10,000 miles of racing over the last four Tours, led to an obvious question:

What about next year?  
"It's too early to talk about the future — not even a day has passed since winning this fourth Tour," Indurain said. "There's still a year to go before the fifth one and we have to train with hope and drive."

"Whether it's possible or not, only the road can say for sure."

If the answer is yes, Indurain would become the only rider ever to win the race five years in a row. Jacques Anquetil of France and Eddy Merckx of Belgium are the others to win four in a row, and five overall.

France's Bernard Hinault also won the race five times.

Indurain proved he had the stamina and strength needed to win the grueling three-week grind.

He just seemed to get stronger as the 21-stage Tour rolled along. Meanwhile, his biggest challengers of the past — Tony Rominger, Claudio Chiappucci and Gianni Bugno — were gone by the end of the second week, victims of illness or exhaustion.

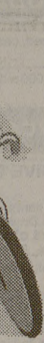
And though this edition was harder than usual due to hot weather, Indurain won by the biggest margin since 1988, crossing the line after the final 109-mile stage with an overall time 5 minutes, 39 seconds better than Piotr Ugrumov of Latvia. Marco Pantani of Italy was third, 7:19 back.

Indurain rode near the head of the

Tour de France  
finishers

Final overall standings after Sunday's 21st and final stage of the Tour de France — 109 miles from EuroDisney to Paris with cyclist, country, team and winning time:

1. Miguel Indurain, Spain, Banesto, 103 hours, 38 minutes 38 seconds
2. Piotr Ugrumov, Latvia, Gewiss, 5 minutes, 39 seconds behind
3. Marco Pantani, Italy, Carrera, 7:19
4. Luc Leblanc, France, Festina, 10:03
5. Richard Virenque, France, Festina, 10:10
6. Roberto Conti, Italy, GB-MG, 12:29
7. Alberto Elli, Italy, GB-MB, 20:17
8. Alex Zülle, Switzerland, ONCE, 20:35
9. Udo Bolts, Germany, Telekom, 25:19
10. Vladimir Poulnikov, Russia, Carrera, 25:28
11. Pascal Lino, France, Festina, 26:01
12. Fernando Escartín, Spain, Mapei, 30:38
13. Bortolami, Italy, Mapei, 32:35
14. Bjarne Riis, Denmark, Gewiss, 33:32
15. Oscar Pellicioni, Italy, Polti, 34:55



AP

pack most of the day on the final stage from Euro Disneyland to the Champs-Elysees.

The stage was won by France's Eddy Seigneur, who overtook Frankie Andreu of the United States in the last 200 yards. Andreu tried to break away in the final 1.2 miles, but failed.

Indurain finished in the pack with the other leaders Sunday, 29 seconds behind Seigneur. The Spaniard said he did not expect to win the final stage.

"It was difficult to win today because the Champs Elysees is reserved for the sprinters," he said. "Besides, everyone is just a little tired."

THE BATTALION

MARK EVANS, Editor in chief

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