

Nothin' like watching the game in style

DREW DIENER

Sportswriter



The chance to sit in the press-box this weekend when A&M plays O.U. seems ideal. No worries about standing in the 145 degree heat and paying \$6 for a Lemon Chill every 15 minutes.

Comfortably, I will sit in the climate controlled confines of the pressbox, high above the action taking place on Kyle Field. Reared back in my swivel chair, taking notes and drinking free iced cold sodas, I hob nob with colleagues about the complimentary barbecue lunch that we all periodically are burping up.

Game stats, pages and pages of em' at my disposal to peruse if I like. This is the situation that yours truly will encounter in approximately 48 hours. Seems great, right? Wondering how you can get a job with The Battalion? Well let me stop you right there. Consider the following: While it is true that the Pressbox might be the most cushy place to be Saturday at Kyle Field, it does have its drawbacks, especially if you have been bred to love Aggie football.

Now don't get me wrong, I consider it a privilege to write for The Batt and have opportunity to cover the football team, but the fan in me cannot show its face when I'm doing my job.

When head yell leader Scott Torn signals the 12th Man to cry "Beat The Hell Outta O.U.," I cannot participate. If I did, I'd get booted out of the pressbox faster than my last date jerked her head away when I tried to kiss her.

Bias is a no-no in the world of sports reporting.

Please see Diener, Page 11

Nguyen stands out in the crowd

Red-shirt freshman receives rave reviews

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

When looking down the Texas A&M recruiting chart at the linebacker position, one name definitely stands out. It is not the player's size (6 feet, 1 inch, 232 pounds) nor his speed (he runs a 4.6 second 40-yard dash) that make him truly unique. It's his name, and Dat Nguyen is determined to make it a most recognizable by the time he's through at A&M.

Nguyen, who is a Vietnamese-American born in Rockport, has a very simple explanation for his unusual size.

"(Growing up), I ate more than the average person, especially the average Asian-American," Nguyen said.

As a senior last year at Rockport's Fulton High School, Nguyen was named District 30-3A Defensive Player of the Year after recording an astonishing 188 total tackles (98 solo and 90 unassisted) as his team compiled an 8-3 record. He was also named to the Class 3A all-state team as a second-team punter.

While he was piling up the big numbers in his senior year, the college recruiters came knocking on the Nguyens' door. But when it came to continuing his improvement as a linebacker, there was only one school on Nguyen's list.

"I liked the tradition here (at A&M), and I like the coaching staff," Nguyen said. "Everything here is really top of the line; this is Linebacker University."

The A&M coaching staff has red-shirted Nguyen for this season, but he is already drawing rave reviews from his coaches.

"Dat's got tremendous potential for an inside linebacker," linebackers coach Shawn Slocum said. "In high

school, if he wasn't making the tackle, he was right around it."

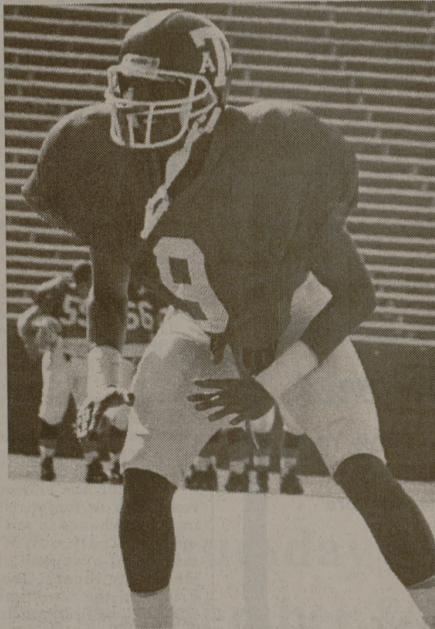
Growing up in Rockport, Nguyen had no interest in sports until he reached a time in his life where he needed an outlet for his over-abundant energy.

"When I was little, about in 7th grade, I was in trouble a lot, and I had to find a way to stay out of it," Nguyen. "I started playing football, and starting liking it. I kept on playing (in high school) and grew to love it."

Nguyen loved it so much he became a consensus Texas Top 100 recruit at the linebacker position, and was ranked as the 37th best prospect from the state of Texas by the Austin American-Statesman. Despite the fact that he will not see a single down of action this season, Nguyen was also featured in the College Preview issue of Sports Illustrated.

As for goals on the playing field, Nguyen would do well to follow the career path of his playing idol, former Baylor Bear and Chicago Bear standout Mike Singletary. Nguyen has been mentioned as having the same "desire for playing" that was so evident during Singletary's long career.

Slocum said despite Nguyen's absence from the line-up this season, the



A&M freshman Dat Nguyen runs through drills Wednesday

linebacker has shown flashes of something special during practice.

"He's a high intensity player," Slocum said. "He does have that kind of look in his eyes (like Singletary). He hasn't gotten on the field here yet, but when his time comes, he'll be more than ready."

100 years of Aggie Football

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

In honor of Texas A&M football's centennial year, the A&M Athletic Department will hold a celebration before Saturday's game against the University of Oklahoma.

The program will begin at 3:40 with the presentation of bowl, Southwest Conference and national championship banners.

"We have done things like this in the past but many students arrived too late to see it," Assistant Athletic Director for Promotions and Operations Mike Caruso said. "Right now, we've sold close to 71,000 tickets so they're not going to be able to walk right in. It's going to be pretty crowded."

The department is in the process of setting up chairs in the back of both endzones for the first non-conference sellout in A&M history.

"We usually sell-out against teams like Texas, Baylor and (Texas) Tech," Caruso said. "But the Oklahoma game will be the first non-conference sellout."

After the banners are presented, sky divers will deliver the game balls to three people dressed in Aggie uniforms from the 1900s, 30s and 60s. They will then present them to A&M Athletic Director Wally Groff, A&M President Dr. Ray Bowen and 1957 Heisman Trophy winner John David Crow.

The program will conclude with the releasing of a centennial helium balloon and the playing of the Aggie War Hymn.

This day in Aggie football ...

September 8 1979: Marc Wilson leads Brigham Young to the winning touchdown with :52 left to give BYU a 18-17 win over No. 14-ranked A&M at Rice Stadium in Houston.

Tori can make impact in Texas A&M tennis

Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M freshman Carlos Tori lost his second-round match in the U.S. Open Boys' Division Tuesday to the No. 7 seed Andrew Ilie at the USTA National Tennis Center in Flushing Meadow, New York.

Tori defeated John Hui Tuesday by a score of 6-3, 6-1 Tuesday. Tori and

doubles partner Federico Browne lost their opening doubles match Tuesday 7-6 (7-1), 4-6, 6-3.

"He comes in as a highly-qualified individual and I think he will be able to make an immediate impact," Texas A&M coach David Kent said. "College tennis is a step up from junior tennis, but Carlos has the drive and ability to take that step up."

"We lost Mark Weaver, who played No. 1 singles and doubles, but Carlos might be able to step in for him. Carlos has had success throughout his junior career and his record speaks for itself."

The Texas A&M men's tennis team will begin their season at the Texas A&M 4-Way September 16-18 at the Omar Smith Tennis Center.

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