

Livin' in a SportsCenter Fantasy

NICK GEORGANDIS

Asst. Sports Editor



Oh, blessed late nights at the Polo Club Apartments. Following a day chockful of classes from my 18-hour schedule, and countless comma splices, misspelled names and computer crashes at the Sports desk, there's no better way for me to relax than to stretch out on the couch, slurp down some Ben & Jerry's and let my eyes drink in a little ESPN. It doesn't matter what's on, ESPN makes me enjoy it. Golf, ping pong, lumberjacking, whatever, if it's on TCA channel 32, I will watch it.

Even better than the programming, are those commercials for SportsCenter, the "SportsCenter Fantasy" series. These are the ones starring various athletes from different sports living out their own athletic dreams. Sometimes, as I watch these spots, my eyelids will droop, and my subconscious will transport me to a faraway place called...

Kyle Field.
It's Wednesday afternoon, and I'm waiting under the west stands to do an interview with star Aggie tailback Leeland McElroy. Then University of Texas' special teams have declared their intentions to shut LeeMac down on kickoff returns this coming Saturday, and I want a reaction from him. With me, are my sports amigos, Dave and Drew. Drew's doing a piece on Antonio Armstrong's vow to shove Blake Brockermeyer's helmet down his throat, while Dave wants to ask Rodney Thomas if he ran out of bounds and into the Mustang bench just to run over a defender, instead of running through the 15-yard wide gap at the SMU one-yard line.

The sports information director stops Thomas, Armstrong and even coach Slocum for us as they make their way to the locker room, but McElroy is nowhere to be found. While waiting for him, I move to the circle around Slocum to see what he's got to say. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I see Leeland trying to slip past us and out to his car.

"Hey, wait a minute, Leeland!" the SID cries. Leeland turns towards us for a moment, and I can read the emotion in his glazed eyes. Leeland has become addicted to Bill Walsh College Football '95 for Sega Genesis, and will do anything to get back home and begin giving himself the ball 35-40, hell, even 50 times a game. Leeland turns away from us, and begins to run.

Being a former athlete myself, I react with the instincts of the Wile E. Coyote. Suddenly, I'm off and running after Leeland, ripping off my Astros' cap to cut down on my wind resistance. Now Leeland is 5 feet, 11 inches tall, weighs 200 pounds and is wearing cleats. I am 6 feet, 7 inches tall, weigh 225 pounds and am wearing cowboy boots and blue jeans. It's really no contest. When Leeland is but 15 feet from his car, I am

See Georgandis/Page 8

Lady Aggies stake claim as top Texas team

Soccer team beats SMU 5-2, awaits post-season invite

Stewart Doreen
THE BATTALION

The balance of power of women's soccer in Texas has shifted, and Texas A&M, by virtue of their 5-2 win over Southern Methodist University, has backed their claim as the state's top team.

"This was probably the biggest win in A&M soccer history, because we beat a great team, a well-coached, well-organized big-time program," head coach G. Guerrieri said. "It can be said that these girls have worked hard and have concentrated on what we need to do, and today was evident that we deserve to get into the NCAA tournament."

The Aggies, the South region's eighth-ranked team, won their eighth straight game and closed out their regular season, running their perfect overall home marks to 15-0, 8-0 at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

SMU, 10-8-1, started off strong, keeping the Aggies in their half of the field for much of the first half. The Mustangs, however, could not find the back of the net as the Aggies' defense held strong. Sixteen minutes into the half, the offense finally broke out and scored when sophomore forward Kristen Koop headed the ball over SMU's junior goalkeeper, Collin Crowley.

"We knew it was going to be tough and it was," senior defender Kristi Dillinger said. "We really came through under the pressure."

The Aggies, 13-2-2, came right back when freshman forward Bryn Blalack knocked the ball past Crowley. Blalack's one-on-one opportunity fell into her lap when sophomore forward



Blake Griggs/THE BATTALION

Freshman forward Bryn Blalack (left) scores the second goal of the game against SMU goalie Collin Crowley.

Yvette Okler deflected a pass from Sophomore midfielder Kim Duda right to the perfectly positioned Blalack.

Coming back from halftime, the Aggies' 2-0 lead did not last long. The Mustangs came out firing at will at the A&M goal. Less than three minutes into the half, freshman forward Danielle Garrett, the south region's fifth ranked scorer, got free in the A&M zone and from the left wing blasted a shot past A&M's sophomore goalkeeper Sunny McConnell.

The Mustangs, who outshot the Aggies 17-11, added another goal when junior midfielder Courtney Linex took her turn from the left side and beat Mc-

Connell tying the score 2-2.

When it seemed like the Aggies would fold, they came out fighting and took the lead back minutes later. In the 61st minute, junior midfielder Corie Hammers took a pass from senior Anna Whitehead and drove the ball to the left side of the goal.

"We never really lost our focus," Koop said. "We panicked there for a while, but the team came together. It fired us up."

The attack would get worse for the Mustangs as Kristen Koop scored in the 63rd minute off a breakaway, also beating Crowley to the lower left to make the score 4-2.

Whitehead put the icing on the cake with a 12-yard shot off of a cross from Okler.

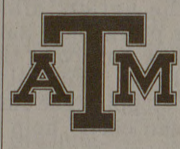
The Aggies have two days to celebrate this victory before going back to work on the road in Albuquerque, New Mexico, to play two game this weekend. The Aggies will play the University of Montana on Saturday followed by the University of New Mexico on Sunday.

"The hardest part we had to overcome was beating SMU," Koop said. "Now we have to follow through."

The Aggies will then await word to find out if they qualified for the NCAA tournament.

Aggies' pride, Longhorns' season on the line

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION



With their chances at a perfect season shot and their Southwest Conference winning streak broken, the Texas A&M football team is looking forward to this Saturday's annual rumble with the University of Texas for more than the traditional grudge match reason.

"We're all a little shell-shocked from what happened last week," sophomore tailback Leeland McElroy said. "We don't want to experience that feeling again, and we want to play to our level of competition."

That feeling came to the Aggies as a direct result of their 21-21 tie with Southern Methodist last weekend at the Alamodome. Despite the bad taste left in the players' mouths, senior linebacker Antonio Armstrong warns that worrying about the past will greatly reduce the Aggies' chances against the Longhorns.

"We very seldom don't come up with the big play or the big stop," Armstrong said. "But against a team like Texas, we've got to come out swinging from the ringing of bell one, or else."

Chief on the minds of Armstrong and his defensive mates is the adjustment they will have to make if the Longhorns opt to platoon quarterbacks Shea Morenz and James Brown, as they have in the past few games.

"I don't like quarterbacks that can run around a lot," Armstrong said. "You feel like you get back there and deserve a sack, but he's running around everywhere. You have to watch a passer (like Morenz) deep and you have to play a type of containment against guys like Brown."

Although the Longhorns will throw many different weapons at A&M in attempts to break through against the Southwest Conference's best defense, Armstrong said there is one Texas player he will be keying in on.

"One guy I really pay attention to is (guard) Blake Brockermeyer," Armstrong said. "He's an Aaron Taylor (for-

By Drew Diener
THE BATTALION

The game may not be on Thanksgiving night this season, but rest assured it's luster will indeed shine as bright as the sun over sold-out Memorial Stadium Saturday in Austin.

After suffering a good old-fashioned 33-9 shellacking at the hands of Texas Tech last weekend in Lubbock, the Longhorns are glad to host this year's version of their annual clash with long-time rival Texas A&M.

"Playing at home is to our advantage," senior noseguard Thomas Baskin said. "Last year, I couldn't hear a thing. That (Kyle Ffield) was the loudest stadium I've ever played in."

"We expect a sellout crowd, over eighty thousand," Texas head coach John Mackovic said. "There is a lot riding on it (the game), because this is the kind of game players remember for a lifetime."

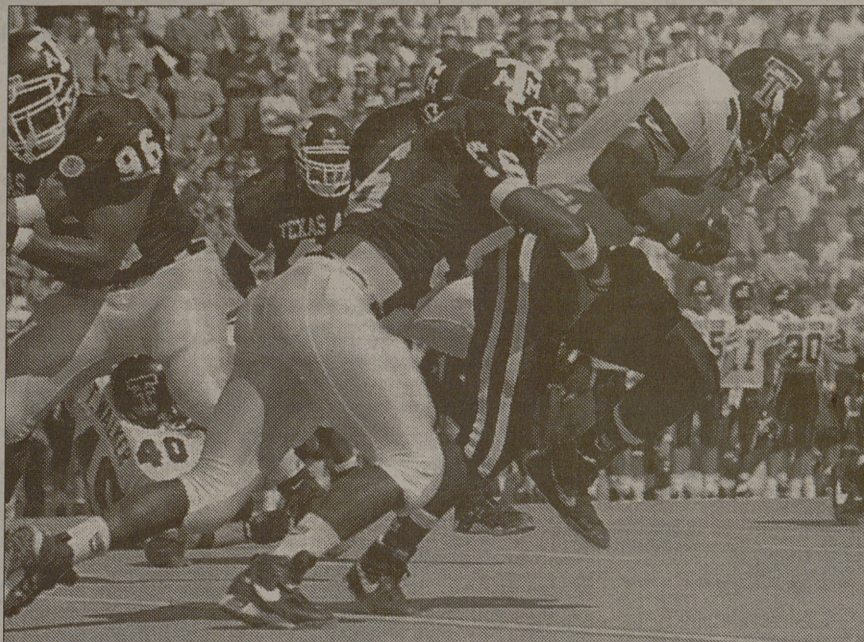
With last weekend's loss to Tech dropping Texas out of the polls, the Longhorns need a victory Saturday to keep their bowl hopes alive. At 5-3 overall and 2-2 in the Southwest Conference, Texas finds themselves in the midst of a tight race. A loss will all but cancel any reservations Texas had for January 2 in Dallas.

To beat A&M, Texas realizes they have to shut down the Aggies' ground attack.

"We've got to concentrate and plug the run," junior outside linebacker Robert Reed said. "If we can, we have a chance of winning, but that's easier said than done. You've got to put some leather on them (A&M's running backs) to bring them down."

Texas has had its share of problems on defense this season, specifically with stopping the run. Through eight games this season, opponents have rushed for 1464 yards, an average of 183 per game. Texas has given up almost identical numbers through the air.

Mackovic attributes Texas' defensive woes to injuries, personnel changes, and having to lineup with inexperi-



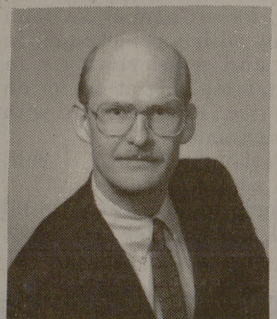
Stew Milne/THE BATTALION

Senior linebacker Antonio Armstrong pulls down Texas Tech tailback Byron Hanspard in A&M's 24-17 victory.

See A&M/Page 8

See Texas/Page 8

Class of '75



Winner of Brazos County Bar Poll

Jim Locke
for Judge
County Court at Law #1

Pd. Ad For Locke - Betty White, Treasurer • 8108 Bunker Hill, C.S., Tx

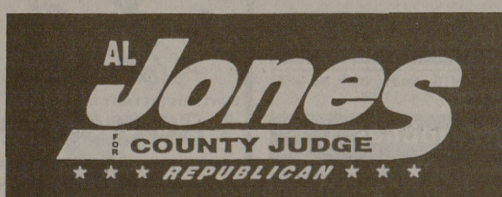
"Every man is like the company he keeps."

- Euripides, circa 425 B.C.

George Bush
Ronald Reagan
Phil Gramm
Al Jones
Rick Perry
Jack Fields

Bill Clinton
Jimmy Carter
Michael Dukakis
Bob Bell
Walter Mondale
Ted Kennedy

The Choice Is Clear



Class of '66

Pol adv pd by Al Jones Campaign, Ann Anderson, Treasurer, Box 4486, Bryan TX 77805

Professor Clark uses every formula in applied physics. With one simple formula, he can calculate his life insurance needs.

This formula means a lot to his family. To learn more about life insurance, call the TIAA Life Insurance Planning Center. Weekdays, 8AM to 8PM, E.S.T.

1 800 223-1200 Dept. 56T

This offer is available to faculty, staff, administrators and their spouses.



Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association
730 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017-3206

Ensuring the future for those who shape it.™