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## Offensive line coach let go

Staff and Wire Reports

Texas A&M head coach football coach R.C. Slocum announced Tuesday he would not renew the contract of offensive line coach Joe D'Alessandris.

"After each season I evaluate our entire football program," Slocum said. "I believe it is in our best interest to make a change in our offensive line coach. Joe D'Alessandris is a good man and I appreciate his contributions to our team this past season, but I have elected not to renew his contract."

D'Alessandris served as the Aggies' offensive line coach this past season after serving as the assistant head coach/offensive coordinator and offensive line coach at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama in 1993.

Slocum, who is on the road and unavailable for further comment, said he has no immediate replacement plan.

## Chief labor negotiator to resign position

ATLANTA (AP) — Richard Ravitch, his role diminished when owners began dealing directly with the players' union, said Monday he will resign as baseball's chief labor negotiator when his contract expires Dec. 31.

Ravitch, hired by owners in November 1991 at an annual salary of \$750,000, helped teams put together a new revenue sharing agreement, but never was able to establish a relationship with union head Donald Fehr. Ten days into the strike, Fehr called him a "hatchet man" for the owners.

Ravitch's relationship with acting commissioner Bud Selig became strained during the second half of 1993 and early 1994, according to many baseball officials speaking on the condition they not be identified. But Selig and Ravitch said Monday they had gotten along well in recent months. Ravitch's announcement came on the 116th day of a strike that began Aug. 12.

"I leave with the confidence I haven't left owners in a lurch," Ravitch said in a telephone interview from his New York office. "I'd much prefer to leave with a collective bargaining agreement in hand, and I hope there will be one in the next round of negotiations. But if there isn't, it's going to be a long haul with a lot of suits in courtrooms and my presence won't be necessary."

Ravitch, the former head of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority and a losing candidate for New York City mayor in 1989, began to recede from negotiations on Aug. 31 when Colorado Rockies chairman Jerry McMorris and Boston Red Sox chief executive officer John Harrington began speaking directly with Fehr and other union officials. Harrington took over as lead negotiator when talks resumed Nov. 10 under the supervision of mediator W.J. Usery.

"I understand how critical it is for baseball to achieve its collective bargaining objectives, and I don't want to impair that effort in any way," Ravitch said in a letter to Selig that was made public. "But for personal and business reasons, it's not feasible for me to consider an extension. We have faced some tough problems and I greatly admire the sustained effort on your part to achieve economic reform in major league baseball. I am confident you and your colleagues will ultimately be successful. And please do not hesitate to call upon me if I may be helpful in any way."

In August, Ravitch said he intended to stay beyond the expiration of his contract if the strike extended into 1995, but said he didn't believe that would happen. In recent weeks, he had told baseball officials he was anxious to leave when the timing was right.

"He clearly played a role as a facilitator, a guy who convinced the clubs to change their ways. He is tenacious," Selig said from his office in Milwaukee.

Management has repeatedly changed labor leaders since John Garner negotiated the deal that created free agency in 1976.

# Aggies dominate boards in home opener

## Wilbert, Johnson lead attack in 76-69 win over USL's Ragin' Cajuns

By Nick Georgandis  
THE BATTALION

"Ain't no place like home, is there?" True, Joe Wilbert probably couldn't fit into a pair of ruby slippers and G. Rollie White Coliseum is hardly the Emerald City, but those words rang true in the post-game interview room as Texas A&M kicked off their home schedule by defeating Southwestern Louisiana University, 76-69, Monday night.

A crowd of 3,667 saw the Aggies improve their overall record to 3-4, dominating the boards and playing tough defense against the Ragin' Cajuns.

A&M outrebounded USL 44-27, led by a season-high 11 from senior forward Damon Johnson. Texas A&M head

coach Tony Barone said he was satisfied with the Aggies' defensive effort.

"I was very pleased with our defense intensity," Barone said. "Damon Johnson was outstanding on the glass. I don't know the statistics, but I was very, very pleased with our rebounding."

Wilbert, a senior forward, led A&M with 22 points on nine of 13 shooting from the field. Johnson added 16 and senior forward Tony McGinnis threw in 13 points and three steals. McGinnis played all 40 minutes of the ballgame.

The Aggies came out of the starting gate slowly, falling behind 6-0 in the first three minutes of the game. Wilbert finally broke the scoring drought with a lay-in, but A&M was unable to catch up with USL until late in the first half.

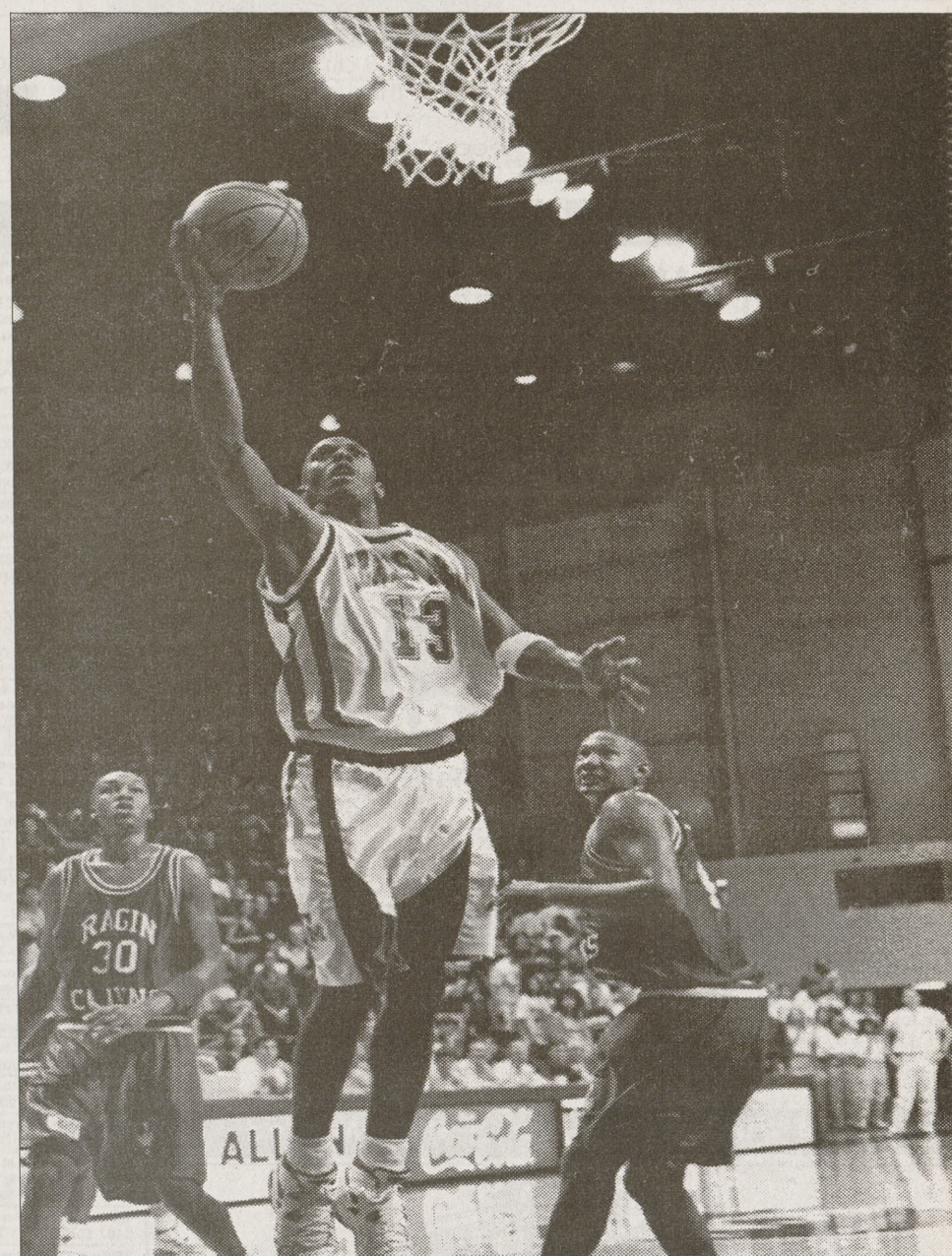
Trailing 35-32 with 2:54 left in the first half, A&M used a three-pointer from freshman guard Kyle Kessel, a put-back from McGinnis and a gorgeous reverse lay-up by freshman Quinton James to take a 39-35 lead going into halftime.

Wilbert was quick to praise the play of Kessel, a true freshman this season. "Kessel stepped up to the table tonight," Wilbert said. "He's starting to get used to the rest of us and starting to get some confidence."

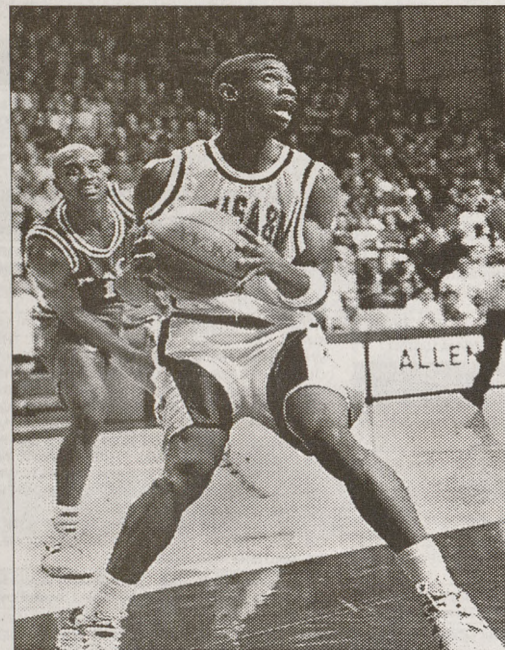
Although he was just one of eight from the field, Kessel nailed six out of six free throws, including two in the final minute of the game to ice the victory.

Although the free throw shooting was about even for the two teams, the Aggies held USL to a .441 percentage from the floor. Senior center Bryan Collins led the Cajuns with 18 points, but he needed 17 shots to do so. Collins also led USL with seven rebounds, five blocked shots and three steals.

The men's team will now enjoy two weeks off for finals before traveling to Montana State on December 17. The Aggies return home to face McNeese State on Monday, December 19, at 7 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.



Senior forward Tony McGinnis goes up for two in A&M's 76-69 victory over Southwestern Louisiana University.



Blake Griggs/THE BATTALION  
Quinton James, a freshman guard, pulls down a rebound in Monday night's game.

# Spurs should place title hopes on... Bill Murray?

David Robinson just might be the best center in the NBA. But the San Antonio Spurs will never win the NBA Championship.

Why? It's very simple. They don't have a point guard.

Without a floor general leading the break and getting the ball to the Admiral, the Spurs won't ever make it past the first round of the playoffs, where they are perennially pounded by the Utah Jazz.

Just look at the best teams in the NBA and who runs the show: Orlando - Anfernee Hardaway Phoenix - Kevin Johnson Seattle - Gary Payton Golden State - Tim Hardaway Houston - Kenny Smith/Sam Cassel New York - Derek Harper/Greg Anthony

San Antonio? Well, they have Avery Johnson, who can't shoot and Vinny Del Negro who can shoot but can't do a damn thing else.

The Spurs once had a great point guard by the name of Rod Strickland, a brilliant passer and scorer who is now the best player on the Portland Trail Blazers. Would you believe the Spurs got rid of him for his attitude?

Excuse me, but isn't this the team that went out a year later and picked up Mr. Attitude, Dennis Rodman? Then, after last season they signed Mr. Attitude, Jr., Chuck Person? Rodman is the most disruptive

force in the NBA, and despite his undeniable rebounding talent, no team in the league would trade for him. I doubt the Spurs could get Manute Bol, World B. Free or Purvis Short for him.

The fact is, the Spurs just don't make good decisions. They have always had a wealth of talent, but have lacked the supporting cast of the Chicago Bulls or the hated Houston Rockets.

But there is a light at the end of the point guard tunnel... A bright prospect is coming on to the scene, and he could turn things around for the Spurs.

He's a Cinderella story, coming out of nowhere.

Two words: Bill Murray. Yes, the comedic star of "Caddyshack," "Ghostbusters" and "Stripes" recently announced his eligibility for the NBA, and no team has signed him as of yet.

Why not sign him? Murray could ease the tension caused by Rodman, could probably shoot better than Avery Johnson and run faster than Vinny Del Negro.

Well, maybe the Spurs aren't that hard up for talent, but the Spurs have to do something, and do it fast. Hell, what is David Edwards, former Texas A&M point guard, doing these days? I'm sure Spurs coach Bob Hill would love to have a guy who can score, pass, and turn the ball over 48 times a game.

Whatever the Spurs decide, I'm sure it will be the wrong decision. Hell, I can take Vinny and post-up Avery — maybe I'll give it a shot.



# Raiders beat Chargers, stay alive in AFC West

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Los Angeles Raiders spoiled San Diego's coming-out party Monday night, with Jeff Hostetler's 6-yard touchdown pass to Rocket Ismail with 7:23 left giving them a 24-17 victory over the Chargers.

The Chargers (9-4) needed a victory to clinch their second AFC West title in three seasons. The Raiders, meanwhile, needed a victory to stay alive in the scrambled playoff picture and joined four other AFC teams with 7-6 records.

The Chargers wore their throwback uniforms from 1961, with sky-blue jerseys and white helmets with yellow lightning bolts, and a towel-waving, record crowd of 63,012 hoped to celebrate a division title.

But the Raiders won at Jack Murphy Stadium for the fourth time in five years.

Ismail's second TD catch of the night came at the end of an 81-yard, nine-play drive on which Hostetler completed passes of 31 and 16 yards to Tim Brown. Ismail also caught a 6-yard scoring pass from Vince Evans in the second quarter.

The Chargers began their final drive at their 8-

yard line with 1:28 to play and got to the Los Angeles 48 for a holding penalty moved them back. Aaron Wallace sacked Stan Humphries to end the game.

The Raiders outscored San Diego 10-3 in the fourth quarter. The fourth quarter had been a problem for the Raiders, who had been outscored 98-49 in their 12 previous fourth quarters.

The Chargers squandered two big opportunities in the second half.

Natrone Means' halfback pass from the Raider 19 sailed way over the head of wide-open Shannon Mitchell, and Means fumbled two plays later, with safety Eddie Anderson recovering at the 20.

The Raiders moved 65 yards for Jeff Jaeger's 43-yard field goal and a 17-14 lead. Rookie Andre Coleman returned the ensuing kickoff 68 yards to the Raider 24 and the Chargers eventually got to the 6, but had to settle for John Carney's 24-yard field goal.

Hostetler was 22 of 29 for 319 yards and two touchdowns, with one interception. Brown caught seven passes for 96 yards. Ismail, who had only three TD receptions coming into the game, had four catches for 31

yards, three touchdown passes previous! The Raiders tied a team record with 17 penalties, for 146 yards.

Humphries was 17 of 33 for 202 yards with one touchdown. Means was held to 41 yards on 18 carries, his worst output of the season.

The first half, which ended in a 14-14 tie, included four touchdown passes from four different quarterbacks and 14 penalties by the Raiders for 116 yards.

San Diego backup Gale Gilbert became the fourth quarterback in the game after Humphries bruised his right thumb with 30 seconds left and the ball on the Raider 28.

Gilbert completed three straight passes, including a 16-yard touchdown to Tony Martin with seven seconds left. Martin, who dropped two sure touchdown passes in a 31-17 win over the Los Angeles Rams a week earlier, caught the ball at the 5 and spun around former Charger Donald Frank to tie the game.

Hostetler hurt his left hand diving for a first down at the end of a 7-yard run to the San Diego 7 early in the second quarter.

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