Scandals taint college football stars

LISA NANCE
SPORTSWRITER

College athletics — namely football — are really starting to tick me off.

Just this week, Nebraska's star running back and Heisman Trophy candidate Lawrence Phillips got kicked off the second-ranked team in the nation for assaulting his ex-girlfriend. Riley Washington, also from Nebraska, is pending trial for attempted murder.

It seems that every day, there is some new-fangled fieldhouse scandal popping up on ESPN's Sportscenter. Why can't these superb athletes, blessed with such extraordinary talent, get it through their thick-skulled heads that they are not only representing their university, but also you and I.

I mean, this is American college football, probably the most energetic sport in the world. Here we have a few imbecilic apples ruining the whole sport. Why can't it be like the "old days"?

I would love a return to a time when players of any sport played the game because they loved it. But now, professional athletes strike because they aren't making enough money (Neon Deion, the baseball man), or they switch from team to team depending on who will pay them the most money (Neon Deion, the football man).

College sports were once a refuge from all of this — a place to go when you wanted to watch raw talent that was unmotivated by multi-million dollar contracts and endorsements.

But now, even college athletic programs are not free of corruption. Many college programs have been under investigation. A&M experienced this firsthand when it was discovered that alumnus Warren Gilbert was paying players for work not done. This year, the big boys came down on Alabama. Yeah, the Crimson Tide will be in low tide, and they'll be denied a bowl ride.

But on a more serious note, with all this misconduct by athletes and misappropriation of funds, emphasis is being taken away from the game itself. Instead of tuning in to watch a game, viewers find that they are constantly being bombarded with scandalous stories about some running back who can't keep his hands to himself

See NANCE, Page 8

'Troup' Jasper leads battle in the trenches

❑ The junior noseguard is beginning his second season as a starter for the "Wrecking Crew."

By Tom Day
THE BATTALION

Fans know the A&M football team's starting noseguard as Eddie Jasper. Since taking over a starting role last season, Jasper has quickly made a name for himself by clogging up the middle of A&M's "Wrecking Crew" defense.

But to his teammates, Jasper is simply known as "Troup." The junior defensive lineman out of Troup High School said he received the nickname when he first arrived at A&M and nobody could remember his name.

"When I first got here, nobody had ever heard of me or my hometown, so they just started calling me 'Troup,'" Jasper said. "It's funny when a lot of the freshman come in and hear the older guys calling me "Troup," and they assume it's my name."

As opposing team's offensive lineman have come to learn, the "Troup" hurts. Jasper collected 31 tackles and three quarterback sacks as a starter last season.

"He has great natural instincts and a good feel for the game," A&M Defensive Line Coach Bill Johnson said. "He's aware of everything that is going on around him, so it's hard for teams to trick him with blocking schemes."

Recruited out of high school as a linebacker, Jasper's place in the Aggies' defense was a question. With so much talent already established at the linebacker position, Johnson eagerly took in Jasper on the defensive line.

"We didn't know if he'd get a chance to play," Johnson said. "When he got an opportunity on the defensive line, he took great advantage of it and has developed into a dominating player.

"The road he took coming here has been a little bit different, but it's been good and productive."

A leader by example, Jasper plays for the love of the game.

"He's a leader among his peers, and I think he fulfills that role on our team and in our group as a defensive line." Johnson said.

"I put high standards on myself to work hard and play physical," Jasper said. "I love the contact, and that's probably why I'm a noseguard."

When he takes the field, Jasper is all business. But off the gridiron, the junior lineman is the life of the crowd.

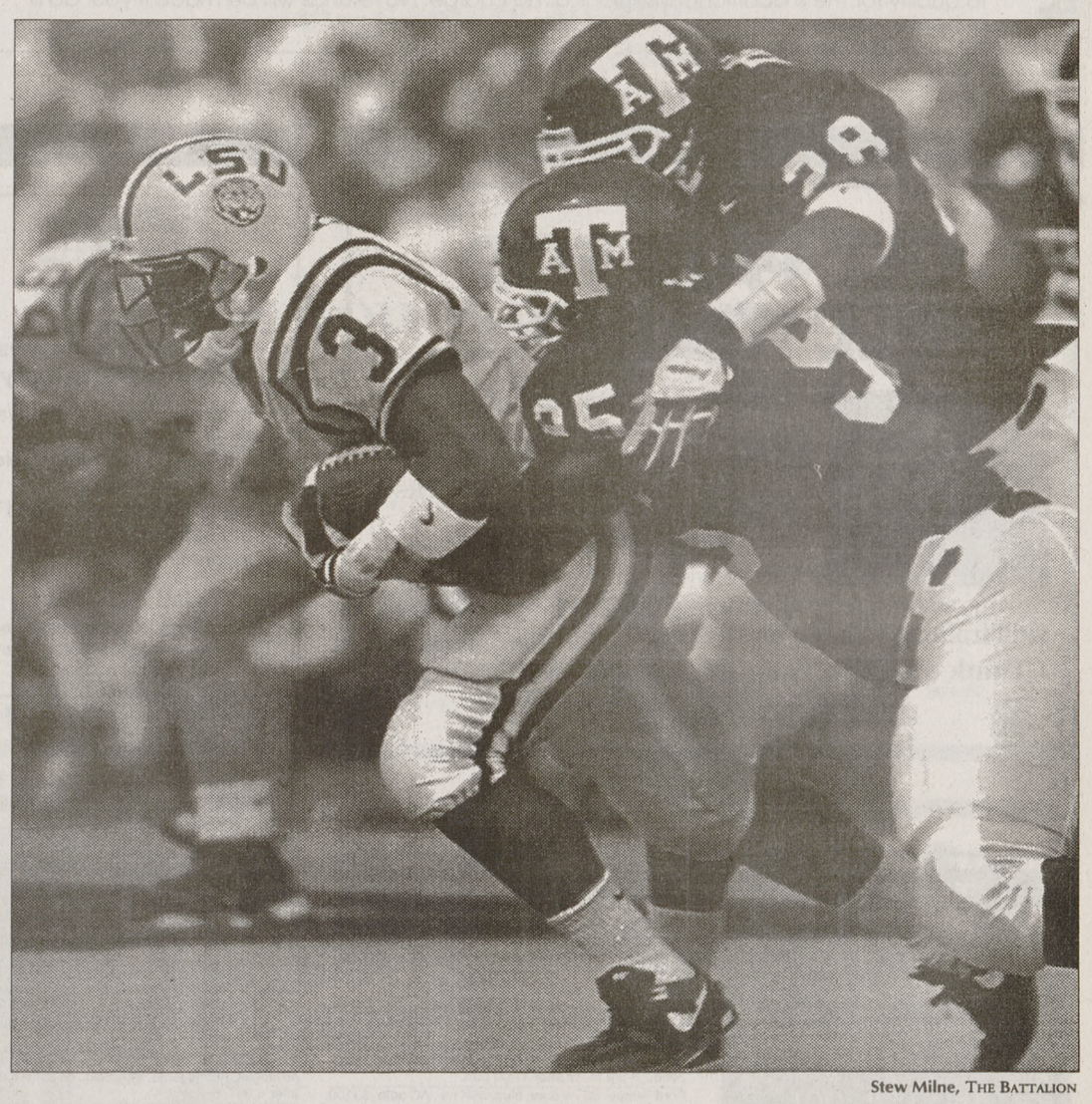
"I try to stay close and be friends with everybody," Jasper said. "I like to keep things loose."

"He's always in a group talking loud and joking around," Johnson said. "He's a fun guy with a great personality, and the players just love being around him."

Johnson believes Jasper has the chance to continue playing football beyond the collegiate level.

"Last year was a start for him as a player, and he has the chance to come back for the next two years to be productive and get noticed," Johnson said. "I think he has a chance to be an NFL player. He's 300 pounds and has great quickness, and there aren't too many of those players walking around.

"I think he has a bright future in this game."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M noseguard **Eddie Jasper** (#95) and linebacker **Trent Driver** (#28) bring down Louisiana State University freshman running back **Kevin Faulk** during the Aggies' Sept. 2 game at Kyle Field.

Sherman marches back to College Station

❑ After a one-year stint at UCLA, the offensive line coach has returned to Texas A&M.

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

Interviewing Texas A&M offensive line coach Mike Sherman is not a long process. He is courteous and articulate, but also direct and to the point. Being the foreman of one of the vital components of the Aggie football machine, one gets the sense that Sherman is concerned with more pressing matters.

With 17 total years of coaching experience, Sherman is more than aware that successful offensive execution depends primarily upon consistent blocking from the offensive line.

Quarterback Corey Pullig will not have time to spot his receivers, and tailback Leeland McElroy will not be able to work his magic if the offensive line cannot control the line of scrimmage. Fortunately for Pullig, McElroy and the rest of the Aggie offense, this season's offensive line is a solid group of players who cut their teeth together in last season's 10-0-1 campaign.

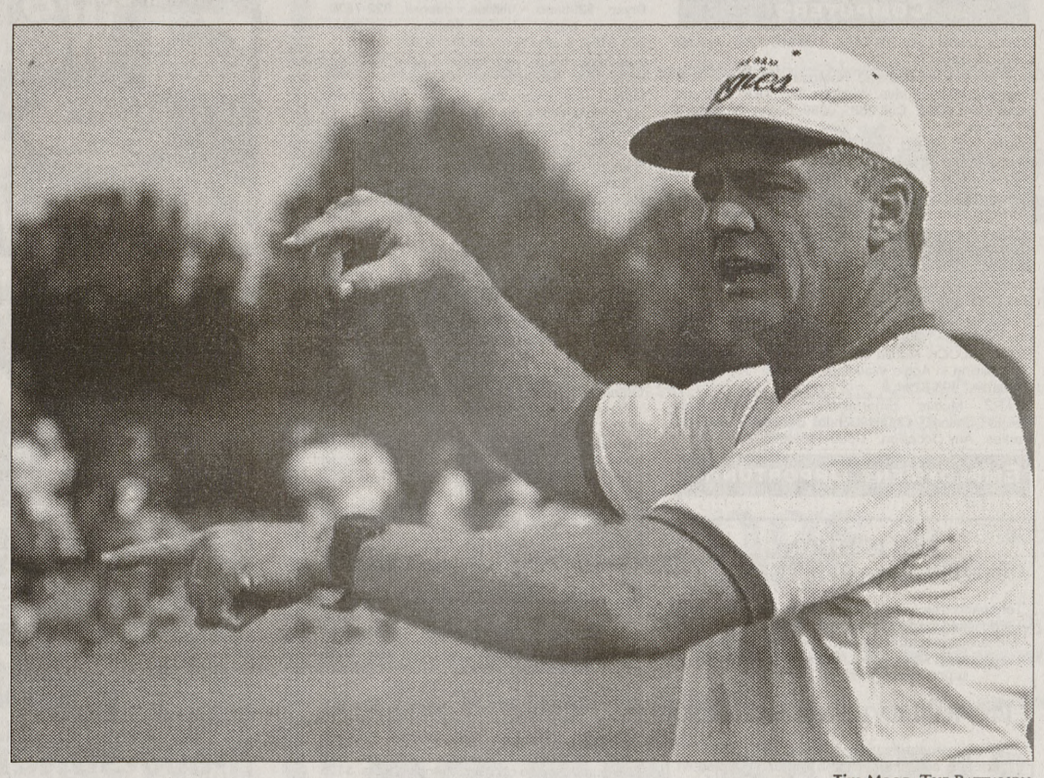
In this year's season opener against Louisiana State University, the offensive line played well together. They opened holes all afternoon to help provide the Aggie offense with 406 total yards and McElroy with 229 yards on the ground. With this steady performance under their belts, Sherman believes his linemen have the potential to develop into a dominant force.

"I think at some point during the course of the year, we'll put on the film and say, 'We're a pretty damn good offensive line'," said Sherman. "We're just not there yet. The process for an offensive line to develop into a cohesive unit takes time - just game after game of constant repetition."

The Aggie line definitely has the size to physically manipulate their opponents. The average weight of the starting offensive line from tackle to tackle is 282 pounds; however, Sherman firmly believes that size is not necessarily everything.

"Besides the physical attributes, we take a hard look at a player's high school transcripts when we go out recruiting," said Sherman. "We want all our linemen to be intelligent because in order to run the type of offense we want to run, they have to be smart enough to make all kinds of reads and adjustments before the ball is snapped."

See SHERMAN, Page 8



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Offensive Line Coach **Mike Sherman** directs players at a recent A&M practice. Sherman has returned to A&M after coaching the Aggie offensive line from 1987 to 1993.

Tyson fight to be on Fox

❑ It will be his second bout since his release from prison.

NEW YORK (AP) — Eight months after his release from jail, boxing fans will see Mike Tyson free.

Tyson's Nov. 4 fight with Buster Mathis Jr. will air on the Fox network — one fight too late for folks who paid $49.95 for the 89-second Peter McNeeley fiasco, but perfectly timed to deplete the pay-per-view audience for the Riddick Bowe-Evander Holyfield fight that same night.

It will be the first major heavyweight fight on free TV since Muhammad Ali-Leon Spinks in 1978.

The announcement Thursday means the fight card for Nov. 4 now includes three bouts: Tyson vs. Mathis on Fox, Bowe vs. Holyfield on cable, and the night's real grudge match — Showtime vs. Time Warner Sports.

Time Warner is airing the Bowe-Holyfield rubber match at $39.95.

THE BATTALION'S 1995 STAFF PICKS

THE MATCH-UPS	Nick Georgandis	Kristina Buffin	David Winder	Tom Day	Lisa Nance	Philip Leone	Robin Greathouse	Rob Clark	Sterling Hayman	Stew Milne	Kyle Littlefield	Michael Landauer	Gretchen Perrenot	Stacy Stanton	Jody Holley	Celebrity Guest Picker Robert Earl Keen	COMMENTARY
Tulsa at #3 Texas A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M: Colorado, here we come
Pittsburgh at Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	UT: 'sips continue killer schedule
SMU at #15 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	OU: Sooners trample Ponies..
Missouri at Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Tech: Future Big 12 foe learns lesson
Tulane at Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Tulane	Rice: Keen defies consensus pick
Houston at #6 USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC: Uh, Coogs? Whatta ya thinking?
MSU at Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	MSU	Baylor	MSU	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor: Can Jackie castrate a grizzly?
#5 Auburn at LSU	Auburn	Auburn	LSU	LSU	Auburn	Auburn	LSU	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	LSU	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Place your $$$ on the Tigers.
#8 Tennessee at #4 Florida	Tennessee	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	UF: Swamp claims latest victim
Browns at Oilers	Oilers	Browns	Browns	Oilers	Oilers	Browns	Oilers	Browns	Browns	Browns	Oilers	Browns	Browns	Browns	Oilers	Browns	Browns: Yawnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn
Cowboys at Vikings	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Vikings	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys: Moon gets beat up
Raiders at Chiefs	Raiders	Raiders	Raiders	Chiefs	Chiefs	Raiders	Raiders	Chiefs	Raiders	Raiders	Chiefs	Chiefs	Raiders	Chiefs	Chiefs	Raiders	Raiders: Bono no Joe .....
Last Week	8-4	10-2	8-4	9-3	9-3	8-4	8-4	8-4	8-4	8-4	9-3	9-3	6-6	6-6	9-3	N/A	123-45 (.732) Slipped a little
Cumulative	17-7	20-4	18-6	18-6	19-5	17-7	18-6	16-8	19-5	20-4	19-5	20-4	17-7	15-9	19-5	N/A	252-84 (.750) Still rock-solid