

SPORTS  
BRIEFS

Rockets re-sign Brown,  
Jones for 1995-96

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Rockets have re-signed forward Chucky Brown and center Charles Jones, the club said Tuesday. Terms of the contracts were not disclosed.

The 6-8, 215-pound Brown joined the Rockets when he signed a 10-day contract on Feb. 2 from the CBA's Yakima team. He ended up signing for the rest of the season.

In 41 regular season games, Brown averaged 6.1 points and 4.6 rebounds. In 21 playoff games, he averaged 4.5 points and 3.1 rebounds.

The 6-9, 215-pound Jones played out a 10-day contract in March before signing for the remainder of the season in April. He played in 19 playoff games, averaging .7 points and 2.3 rebounds.

In the 1993-94 season, Jones played for Detroit.

"Chucky and Charles were very instrumental in our ability to win a second championship and we felt it was important to keep them with us," coach Rudy Tomjanovich said. "We now feel very good about our team chemistry and the depth that we will have."

Tournaments on agenda  
for SWC fall meeting

DALLAS (AP) — The Southwest Conference fall meeting of the directors of athletics opens Thursday, with items such as the site for the second annual First Pitch Tournament on March 14-17 near the top of the dock-

et. Also on the agenda are the reinstatement of Baylor University in the Dr Pepper SWC Men's Basketball Classic and a closure timetable for the SWC office.

Commissioner Kyle Kallander said track and tennis issues also will be discussed at the meeting scheduled at the Wyndham Anatole Hotel.

Thursday's program calls for a conference confab of athletic directors after a teleconference by the SWC Administrative Committee for Women's Sports on Wednesday.

The autumn meeting also features the initial appearance of new SWC Directors of Athletics Committee chairman Wally Groff of Texas A&M University.

Nets sign top pick Ed  
O'Bannon

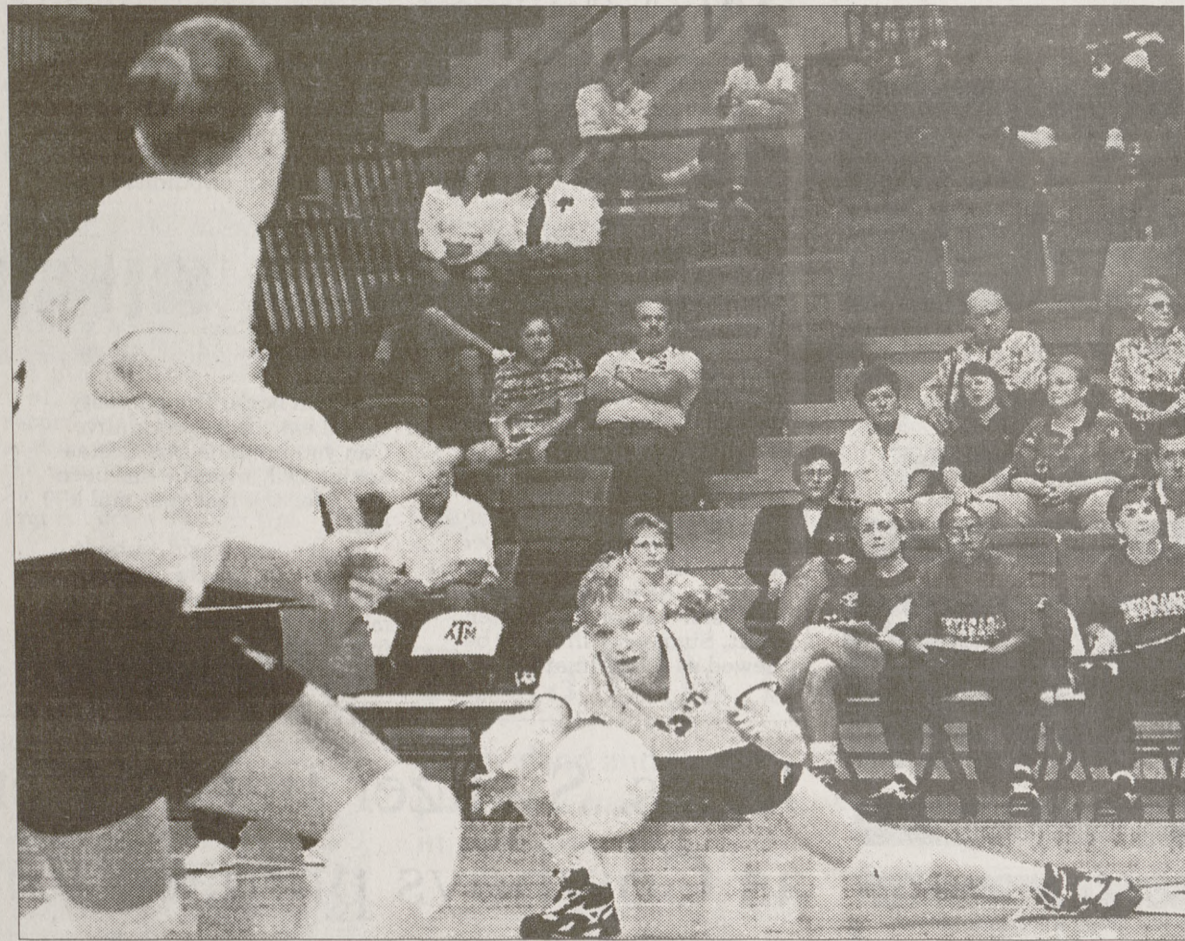
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Ed O'Bannon, the ninth player selected in last June's NBA draft, signed with the New Jersey Nets on Tuesday.

Under terms of the league's new rookie salary scale, O'Bannon has a three-year contract that will pay him between \$3.25 million and \$3.90 million.

Despite leading UCLA to the NCAA title, O'Bannon seriously injured his knee as a freshman, causing him to drop in the draft.

The Nets were optimistic the 6-foot-8 forward's knee would remain strong and his offensive skills would help a team that finished 30-52 and missed the playoffs last season.

# A&M looks for record against UH



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore outside hitter **Kristie Smedsrud** struggles to keep the ball alive during the Lady Aggies' win over Rice at G. Rollie White Coliseum last Wednesday.

□ The team will attempt to get off to the best start in school history with a win over the Lady Cougars.

By Lisa Nance  
THE BATTALION

The No. 22 Lady Aggie Volleyball Team is hoping a record-breaking win will come tonight when they take on the Houston Lady Cougars — but it won't be easy.

Tonight A&M will go after its best start in school history at 11-1. In 1984, A&M started off 10-1 and finished with the best record ever at A&M, 33-4.

But the Lady Cougars have defeated A&M seven straight times at Hofheinz Pavilion, and the Lady Aggies are 22-29 all-time against UH.

The Lady Aggies are 10-1 for the season so far, and have won eight consecutive games. A&M goes into tonight's game against Houston with a 2-0 record in SWC play.

Head Volleyball Coach Laurie Corbelli said the Lady Cougars are a young group, returning only three starters from last year's Southwest Conference championship team, but they know how to win.

"The way that I define the Houston team is that they are

very tenacious," Corbelli said. "They don't quit; they keep coming at you. Even if they don't physically perform on the court, all the way, all the time like they did last year, they still have the mentality that they are winning still. Their stats don't look that great, but they still win."

The Lady Cougars are 7-4 in 1995, with a 1-1 mark in the SWC. They have not played since losing to the University of Texas last Wednesday.

Houston is led by junior outside hitter Nashika Stokes, who leads the team with a .245 hitting percentage and is averaging 4.34 kills per game.

The Lady Aggies have been preparing for the Cougar team by working on their defense in this week's practice.

"Our serving is good, but we really need to work on our defense," Corbelli said. "We're going to be concentrating on our defense in practice, especially blocking because they rip through blocks."

Corbelli said the Lady Aggies' offense will be their strong point going into the game.

"We have a really fast offense," Corbelli said. "I think Houston will have a hard time staying with us if we're running our offense the way we can."

The Lady Aggies continue league play Saturday at G. Rollie White Coliseum against the Texas Tech Lady Red Raiders.

# Football team ready for return to action

□ The Aggies will face Texas Tech Saturday in the conference opener.

By Kristina Buffin  
THE BATTALION

All the pressure is off. The Texas A&M football team is ready to carry on with the rest of the season, and its next target is Southwest Conference rival Texas Tech University.

"In the past week, football has been fun," junior wide receiver Chris Sanders said. "People have smiles on their faces and the tempo is up. Monday was a little tense but Coach Slocum said that the season will go on and we have to put it behind us. We're working on going out as (Southwest) conference champs."

Looking ahead to Saturday's game in Lubbock, Slocum said he is excited about beginning SWC play and his team is ready to prove it is the team to beat

this year. "I have respect for Tech and Spike (Dykes) as a coach," A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said. "The way that this team plays, we better be ready to play. This will be a good way to start conference play."

Although the loss to Colorado was a heartbreaker for the Aggies, Slocum said the team learned a lot from the game and is excited to compete against other top ranked teams in the future.

"There's no question where we're going," Slocum said. "We're looking forward to playing again, we will only get better. We're not going to win every one but we should win our share. Hopefully that will silence most of the critics."

Despite Tech's loss to Baylor last week, Slocum believes that the Red Raiders will pose a challenge for them, namely the play of sophomore Zebbie Letheridge.

"Zebbie is much better than he played last week," Slocum said. "He is a good player. Maybe he didn't get good

footing on the slick ground at Baylor." Letheridge was 16-of-34 for 134 yards and one touchdown in a 23-17 loss at Kyle Field last year.

In order to combat the potent defense of the Red Raiders, which held Baylor to only 44 yards passing, Slocum said the offense is going to have to be more proficient.

"Corey's percentage is not as good as last year," Slocum said. "But it is a combination of passes not being caught and having guys open that we don't hit. If we fix this, we can improve."

The dropped pass by Sanders, which was a sure touchdown, in the Colorado game is still in the back of Slocum's

mind. However, the team is working to rectify the passing problems.

"(Monday) I was watching the Cleveland game, and (Vinny) Testaverde hit his receiver right in the numbers, and he dropped it," Slocum said. "They make the big bucks not to drop touchdown passes. It's just in big games like that, you have to make those kinds of plays."

"We're starting to get things that we didn't have before. Connell and Hawkins are both getting better."

The Aggies are ready to face a team that won a share of the SWC championship last year and A&M is ready to prove that the road to the 1995 SWC crown goes

through College Station. "If Tech believes that they are already out of the race, they are going to play for their lives against us," Slocum said. "We know exactly what we are getting ourselves into."

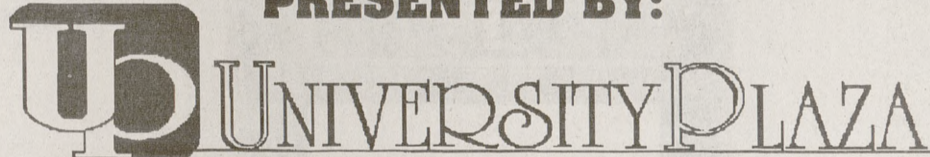


"This will be a good way to start conference play."

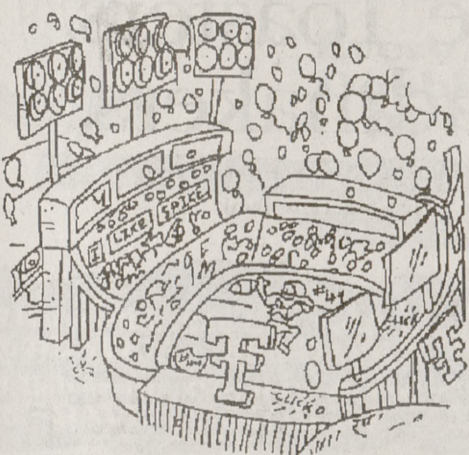
— R.C. Slocum  
A&M Football Coach

## TECH vs. A&M WEEKEND BASH

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