

# Walker cruises into linebacker elite

Walker decided on A&M because he knew he would be part of a winning tradition.

By Lisa Nance  
THE BATTALION

When inside linebacker, Larry Walker II was looking at colleges after his senior year at Rusk High School, he wanted to go somewhere he could win.

He found that at Texas A&M. "I came to A&M because I like to win," Walker said, "In high school, my high school team didn't have much success until my senior year. So when I was picking colleges, I wanted something close to home and I wanted to go to a winning program, and this is a winning program."

The 6-foot-2-inch junior joined "The Wrecking Crew" defense in the 1993 as a true freshman. He was one of only three true freshmen to see action for A&M that year. He has been contributing ever since.

Defensive Coordinator and Inside Linebackers Coach Phil Bennett said, "A&M is known as a school with fast linebackers, and we really like to have speed on our defense. That's how Larry came to be as a defensive player. He's extremely fast and works very hard. We like to take athletic people and move them to linebacker and he's really fit in well."

Walker does have the speed, with a 4.39 second 40-yard dash he might be the fastest linebacker in college football. He is the fastest linebacker that A&M has seen and is third-fastest player on the team behind Leeland McElroy and Donovan Greer. It is this kind of speed that makes "The Wrecking Crew"

notorious. "The Wrecking Crew is known nationwide," Walker said, "It's the greatest feeling to go on Kyle Field or go into a competitors stadium and know that everyone is worried about The Wrecking Crew."

It's not a wonder that opposing teams worry about "The Wrecking Crew." This years defense has held it's opponents to a total average of 251.4 yards, 99.2 rushing and 152.2 on passing.

Walker, who returned this season as the team's top tackler, has posted 27 tackles so far this season. 17 of those were solo tackles. He has averaged 5.4 tackles a game.

In a season, where back-to-back losses have tainted the Aggies' record early in the season and have haunted the players, the Southern Methodist win was a much-needed booster.

"Even though the SMU game was really close the win really helped the team," Walker said, "We have such a tradition of winning and the two losses really hurt the morale of the team. Just to get back on track with the win, regardless of what the score was, was a great bounding point into the game at Baylor."

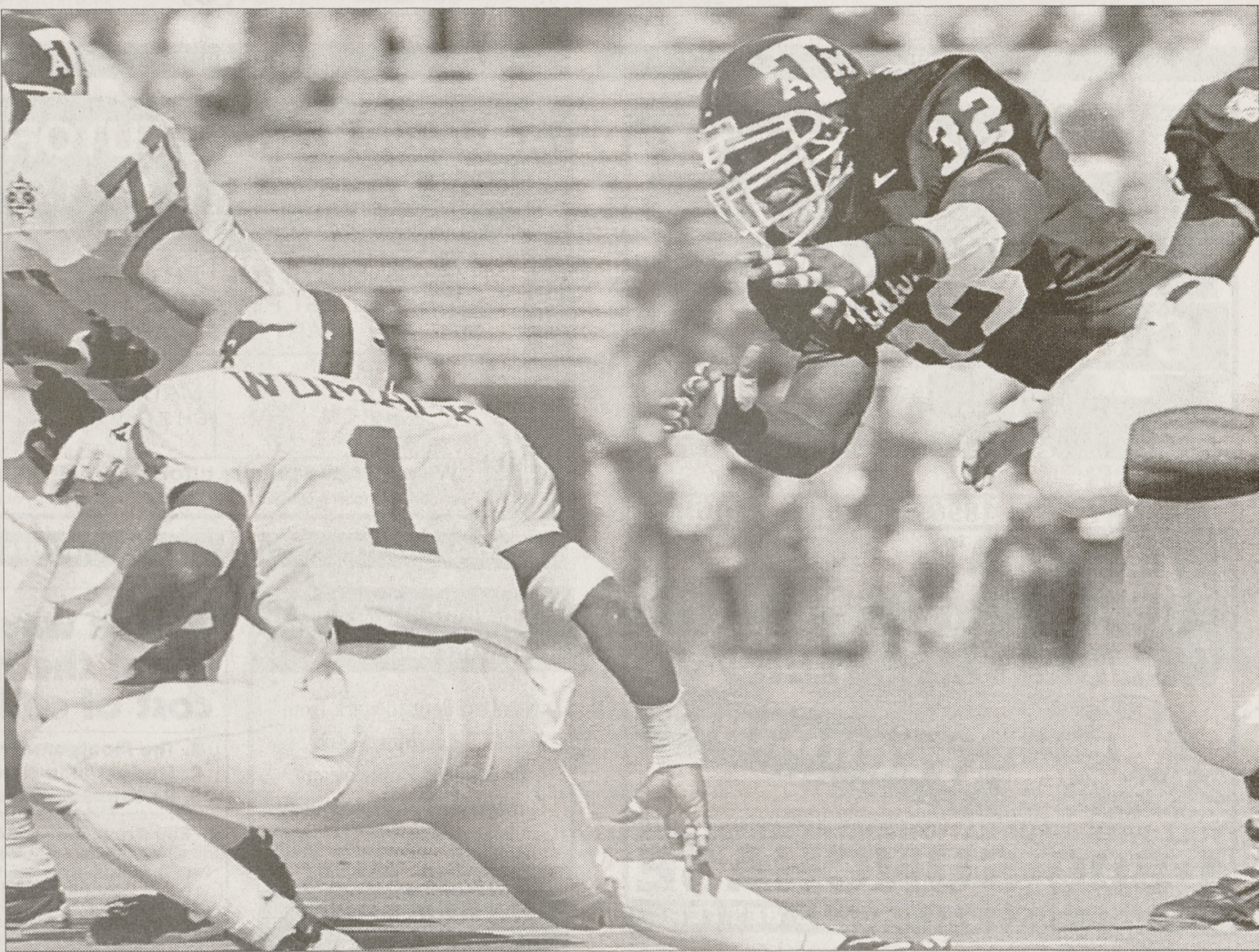
Their heightened morale might be just what the Aggies need going into tomorrow's match-up with Baylor.

The Bears are ready to give the Aggies' their third upset loss of the season. Bennett says that the game will be a good match-up.

"They are a team who controls the ball, they rush for about 230 yards a game, and we give up less than 100 so that's a challenge," Bennett said. "They pride themselves in being a smash-mouth team and we're a smash-mouth defense. It should be a good match-up."

The Aggies' defense has been more or less the highlight of the Aggie season. While the offense

See WALKER, Page 6



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M junior linebacker **Larry Walker II** dives after Southern Methodist University running back **Andre Womack** during last Saturday's 20-17 Aggie win over the Mustangs.

# Family, tradition sold Colon

The freshman quarterback joins his brother Chris, a junior linebacker on the A&M squad.

By Kristina Buffin  
THE BATTALION

This year, his role is that of a student. Like many freshman quarterbacks, Kevin Colon, is using his first year at A&M to learn the system and prepare to become Corey Pullig's successor.

"He's doing well fundamentally," Offensive Coordinator Steve Ensminger said. "The last couple of weeks he has proven that he is learning the system. I'm pleased with his effort."

"I test him every week, and he did outstanding last week."

Colon, who is from Deer Park, chose A&M primarily because of his brother, senior linebacker Chris Colon.

"I came here because of my brother and the fact that A&M has one of the best teams year in and year out," Colon said. "My brother and I are able to spend more time together, and he has shown me around and introduced me to people."

At Deer Park, Colon passed for over 3,800 yards and 37 touchdowns. In his senior year, Colon completed 93 of 172 passes for 1,618 yards and 19 touchdowns and led his team to a 10-2 record and the second round of the Class 5A playoffs.

One of the things that attracted the A&M coaching staff to Colon was his intelligent signal-calling and his ability to

learn the offense. "He has a strong arm," Ensminger said. "He doesn't stay long in the pocket. He just needs to work on his footwork. The problem is that he does not get many reps in practice. It's hard to get reps with the first quarterback trying to get in his reps."

Although Colon and Pullig are from the same town, Colon didn't have a chance to meet Pullig until he became involved in the recruiting process.

"We moved to Deer Park after Corey came to A&M," Colon said. "I talked to him, but I really didn't know him. During recruiting last spring, we became better friends."

Pullig has become Colon's mentor and is showing him other techniques and adjustments that Colon does not learn from the play books.

"I think that (Pullig) is one of the best quarterbacks in America," Colon said. "I ask him questions, and the reason I look up to him is because I don't know as much of the offense as he does and I want to learn more of the offense."

Ensminger said that it is important for a young quarterback to have an older player to take them under their wing.

"It's good to have another person who can explain it differently," Ensminger said. "Corey can explain what he saw and what he did better sometimes than I can."

This season, Colon got the opportunity to play in A&M's game against Tulsa. Colon was 1 of 3 for 17 yards and wrapped up the 52-9 victory.

"He did good and bad," Ensminger said. "He had one bad pass and one bad

read. But these types of mistakes happen because he needs reps to get used to the system."

Colon's goal for his first year is to be able to learn the Aggie offense well enough so that in the spring he can get in as many reps as possible.

"Right now, I'm trying to learn the offense as good as I can," Colon said. "I want it to be second nature. I want to be there in case something happens with Corey and be able to win. I want to know enough by next spring to where it is all reaction."

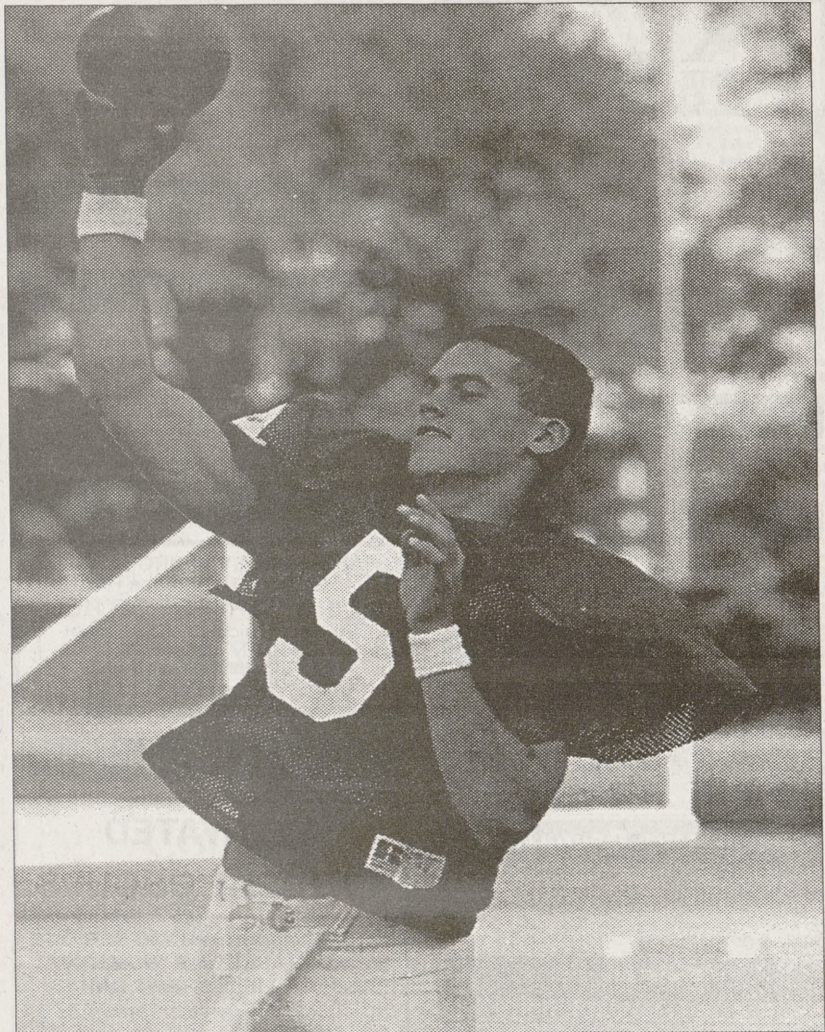
Next year, Colon will compete with Tennessee transfer Brannndon Stewart for the starting quarterback job.

"He has an excellent opportunity," Ensminger said. "If he works hard now and in the off season he will have the opportunity to compete for the position."

## Brotherly Love

Recent brother combinations on the Aggie football team.

- 1.Colon: Chris (1992-) LB and Kevin (1995-) QB
- 2.Venetoulis: Terry (1989-93) PK and Manoli (1994-) PK
- 3.Dausin: Randy (1983-86) OL and Chris (1989-93) OL



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Freshman quarterback **Kevin Colon** warms up during practice at Kyle Field.

## THE BATTALION'S 1995 STAFF PICKS

THE MATCH-UPS	THE BATTALION'S 1995 STAFF PICKS																Celebrity Guest Picker	
	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	SPONGE	COMMENTARY	
#22 A&M at Baylor	Baylor	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	Baylor	Baylor	A&M	Baylor	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M: Ags take Battle of the Brazos	
#14 Virginia at #16 Texas	Virginia	Virginia	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Virginia	Texas	Texas	UT: Cavs can't rustle Bevos .....	
Rice at #25 Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Rice	Texas Tech	Tech: Raiders show guns to Owls	
Tulane at TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	Tulane	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	TCU	Tulane	TCU	Tulane	TCU	TCU: Green Wave can't drown Owls	
SMU at Houston	Houston	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	Houston	SMU: Who would't pick'em now?	
#8 Kansas State at #2 Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Nebraska	Kansas State	Nebraska: K-State not that good..	
#19 Penn State at #18 Iowa	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Iowa	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Iowa	Penn State	Penn State	Iowa	Penn State	Penn State	Penn State	Iowa	PSU: Iowa's 5-0 vs. fluff schedule	
#7 Kansas at #15 Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Kansas	Kansas	Oklahoma	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Oklahoma	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Kansas	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	Kansas: Heck of a hoops game too	
Princeton at Harvard	Princeton	Harvard	Princeton	Princeton	Harvard	Princeton	Harvard	Harvard	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Princeton	Harvard	Princeton	Harvard	Harvard	Princeton: The smart kids duke it out	
Oilers at Bears	Oilers	Bears	Bears	Oilers	Oilers	Bears	Oilers	Bears	Bears	Bears	Oilers	Bears	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers: Week off makes staffers stupid	
49ers at Rams	Rams	49ers	Rams	49ers	49ers	49ers	Rams	Rams	49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers	49ers: Elvis has entered the lineup	
Indians vs. Braves (series)	Indians	Indians	Braves	Braves	Braves	Indians	Indians	Indians	Braves	Indians	Indians	Braves	Indians	Indians	Braves	Indians	Indians: Too many weapons .....	
Last Week	0-10-1	9-1-1	8-2-1	8-2-1	9-1-1	10-0-1	9-1-1	9-1-1	8-2-1	10-0-1	10-0-1	9-1-1	10-0-1	7-3-1	9-1-1		125-25-15 (.803) w/o Nick .860	
Cumulative	40-37-3	59-18-3	57-20-3	60-17-3	58-19-3	59-18-3	54-23-3	57-20-3	53-24-3	58-19-3	59-18-3	59-18-3	55-22-3	46-31-3	53-24-3		827-328-45 (.708)	