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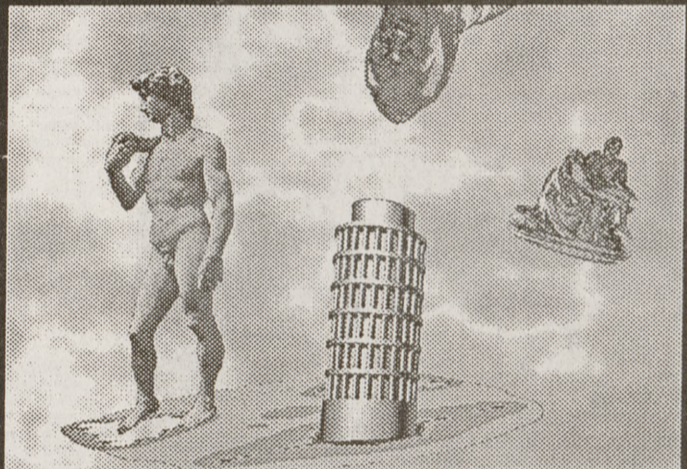
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# ITALY



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# Anderson can't get no satisfaction

□ Despite averaging 13 points per game, the guard expects more.

By Tom Day  
THE BATTALION

Tracey Anderson is far from satisfied. Although he has emerged as

one of the Southwest Conference's top newcomers, the junior transfer guard on the A&M Men's Basketball Team expects more out of himself.

Of course, it is difficult to play your best if you are not at your best, and that is the problem Anderson has had to cope with in his first season with the Aggies.

A&M Head Coach Tony Barone said Anderson has been

playing at only about 80 percent due to injury.

"He has a severely strained groin muscle that really only allows him to practice about half the time," Barone said. "I think if he was totally healthy you'd see some of the things he's capable of."

"He can't finish plays at the end of a break, for example, because he can't get off that leg the way he has to."

Although it may be hard for A&M fans to believe, Anderson has been hindered by the injury most of the season and will have to finish the year hobbled. However, the 6-foot-2-inch transfer out of Blinn Junior College has still managed to post some solid numbers.

Anderson is second on the team in scoring, averaging 12.9 points per contest and third in the SWC in steals with 2.1 a game. He scored a career-high 21 points against Baylor last week and then followed that up with a 19-point, eight-rebound effort against Texas Tech Saturday.

Last season at Blinn, Anderson earned first-team All-Texas Eastern Conference and first-team, all-region honors for averaging 17.9 points, 5.7 assists and 2.5 steals.

"Barring the injury, the transition (to Division I) has been smooth for the most part," Anderson said. "The crowds are bigger and the atmosphere has been different, especially against Texas (Jan. 16). To experience that kind of rivalry is different."

With so many limitations in his playing style due to injury, the junior said fans have yet to see the real Tracey Anderson.

"I can't run as fast or make as many moves and it's been tough adjusting to that," Anderson said. "No one has seen me play to the best of my ability. But that's life and you've just got to take things and run with it."

Despite Anderson's prowess on offense, Barone has been duly impressed with the guard's defensive play.

"He's an outstanding defensive player," Barone said. "He's taken guys out of games and he's been in the conference leaders in steals, and that has dropped dramatically because of the injury."

"I think he's come in at a tough position and been fabulous."

Barone's compliments do not stop with Anderson's defense. The A&M coach has also called him the most intelligent player he has ever coached.

"If you give him a scouting report, he'll memorize it," Barone said. "A lot of guys can do that, but then he carries that over to execution in a game. I've been impressed with his commitment to learning about the game."

Leaving himself very little room for error on the court, Anderson could almost be considered a perfectionist.

"He's way too hard on himself and that's his biggest negative," Barone said. "He demands almost too much of himself sometimes, and that tends to make him put some pressure on himself that he doesn't need."

Anderson said one of the primary factors in his decision to attend A&M was academics. As a kinesiology major, Anderson's goal after playing professional basketball is to eventually become a physical therapist.

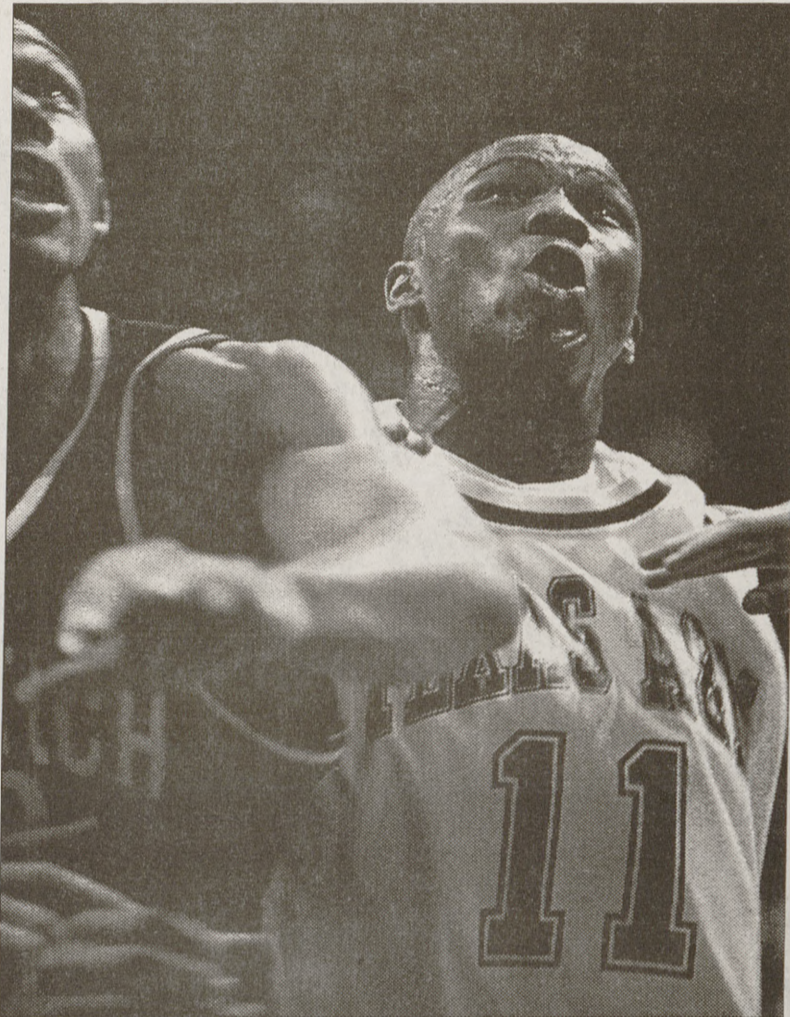
"I've always had an interest in the medical field," Anderson said. "I learned a little bit about it in a program in high school and it's something I want to try."

Impressed with Anderson's progress so far, Barone said the Aggie swingman can be an even more complete player next season.

"He's been more than I expected," Barone said. "If he's not the (top) newcomer in the league, then he's right there."

"I really think when we get him healthy for next year that he's going to be an even better player."

Maybe then, Anderson will be satisfied.



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Texas Tech's Darvin Ham jockeys for position with A&M's Tracey Anderson during Saturday's game. Anderson is scoring 12.9 points per game.

# Family, desire augment Ferguson's game

□ Ferguson has become a key bench player.

By Stephanie Christopher  
THE BATTALION

Lady Aggie senior guard Bambi Ferguson accomplished a goal when she came to Texas A&M.

"It was a dream come true to be a Lady Aggie," Ferguson said.

The Lady Aggies will be losing not only a player this year, but also a three-year letter winner and the team motivator.

Senior guard Lisa Branch said that Ferguson is an irreplaceable asset to the team.

"Bambi gets the momentum going," Branch said. "She gets our team pumped. She is always willing to sacrifice her body for a rebound."

Ferguson said the bond she shares with her teammates and coaches is a foundation for her gutsy, hard-nosed play.

"I am an aggressive person who hates to lose," Ferguson said. "I hustle and play scrappy ball in order to help the team out."

Most players desire to start no

matter what level they play at. Ferguson has started off-and-on for all four years, but said she has learned to be a great role player by doing what she does best.

"I love getting the crowd into it," Ferguson said. "Everyone is important, and I love to keep the adrenaline running whether it is in the stands or on the court."

The change from high school to college was drastic for Ferguson because of the size differences in the two levels of play.

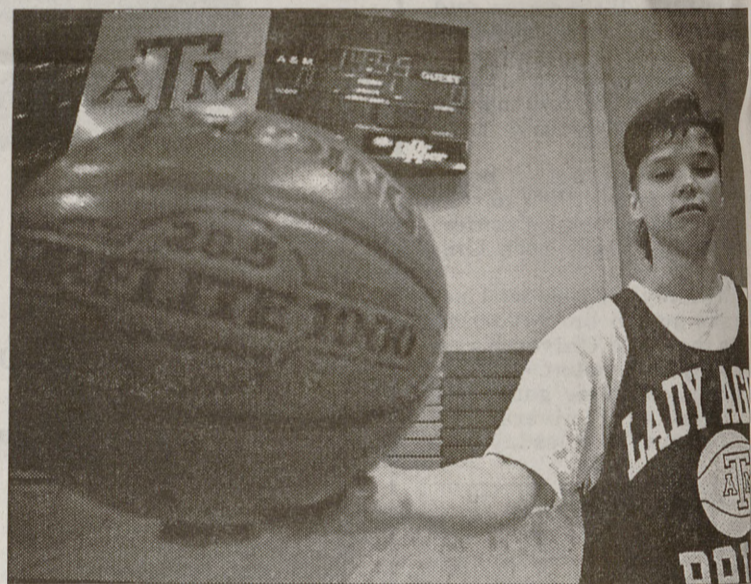
Ferguson grew up in Jayton, Texas. Her graduating class had only eight people in it.

She dominated her division, leading Jayton High School to the regional finals during her senior year while averaging 16.4 points, and 8.6 rebounds a game.

Jayton's superintendent, along with Ferguson's grandfather and stepfather, attended A&M, fueling the Aggie fires in Ferguson at an early age.

"I have always wanted to be an Aggie," Ferguson said. "I grew up around former Aggies."

Branch said that off the court, Ferguson is a quiet person — completely opposite of her personality



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

A&M's Bambi Ferguson always has an eye or a hand on the ball.

on the court.

Unfortunately for Lady Aggie opponents, Ferguson usually only appears against them on the floor — and that is where the trouble

begins.

"Bambi is full of fire," Gibson said. "She's just one of those rah-rah people who always gives 100 percent."

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