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BASICS Workshops are being offered:

Tuesday, October 1 5:30 p.m.  
Monday, October 28 10:30 a.m.  
Thursday, November 14 noon

Please contact OPSA at 847-8938 or come by room 205 of the Academic Building to register ASAP as seating is limited.

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THE BATTALION  
**SPORTS**

**AGGIES**

Continued from Page 7

squad with a proven running game. They get their answer Saturday. A&M Defensive Coordinator Phil Bennett said the defense has made strides in correcting the problems at BYU with the secondary and pass rush. "A lot of our problems at BYU were due to us and not to them," Bennett said. "We gave them two touchdowns on miscommunication and we've stressed [that]. I think [the secondary's] comfort level is better than what it was at the BYU game. Our kids have a better feel for what we want to do and I think they have a better feel for getting it done." Colorado senior quarterback Koy Detmer anchors a Buffalo offense that ranks eighth in the nation in total offense with 491 yards per contest. Detmer's favorite targets through the air are senior wideouts Rae Carruth (16 receptions for 219 yards) and James Kidd (11-for-158) and junior receiver Phil Savoy (15-for-198). Tailback Herchell Troutman

balances the Buffalo attack. The junior has gained 315 yards this season on 52 carries.

"Colorado can run the ball, they play-action pass more, they drop back and run several more multiple formations and they can attack you in different ways than BYU can," Bennett said. "BYU was good, but this team just presents more problems because they're so much better running the football than BYU was," Slocum said. "The whole package of the talent level of Colorado on offense and defense is excellent. This will be a big test for us." A&M senior linebacker Keith Mitchell said the Aggies have to put constant pressure on Detmer to keep him from utilizing his speedy receivers. "They pass the ball well and we blitz real well, and I think that's a challenge for our defense to go out and stop those guys," Mitchell

said. "You can't give [Detmer] time (to pass). He can drop back and scramble and make things happen on the run, so you can't give him time."

Slocum said the Aggies are going to pick and choose when to expose their young secondary on blitzes. "You get into a contest of scheme vs. personnel," Slocum said. "You can say, 'This is our scheme and we don't care, we're going to run it.' Or you can say, 'This is our scheme, but we also have to be wise not exposing [our players] when we don't have to.'" On offense, the Aggies have a more diversified attack to throw at Colorado this season. In Boulder in 1995, the Buffaloes shut down Leeland McElroy in A&M's one-back set. On Saturday, the Aggies will run multiple formations, utilizing the talented quartet of Sirr Parker, D'Andre Hardeman, Eric Bernard and Dante Hall.

**"In terms of a one game basis, there's not a more talented team on our schedule."**

R.C. Slocum  
A&M Head Football Coach

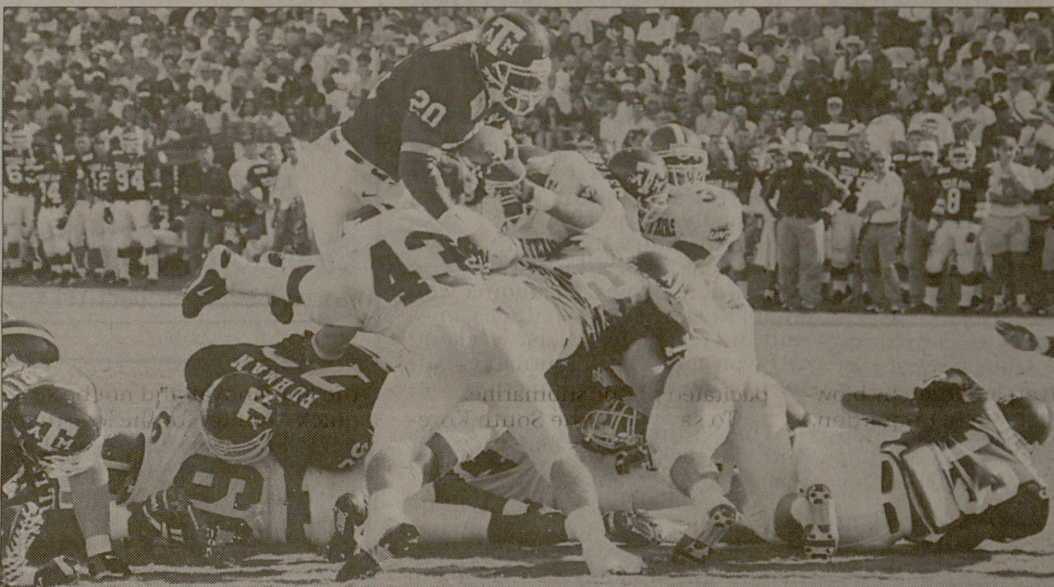
Aggie quarterback Stewart's throwing arm has enhanced the A&M attack season, as wideouts Allen and Donte Hawkins are 1 and No. 2, respectively, in receiving. The Aggies, who entered the test ranked fifth in the total offense, will receive a boost with the return of sophomore tight end Derrick Spiller, starting lineup after a week with a pulled groin. "Hopefully we can stay balanced attack and that we us in both aspects of the Stewart said. "If we make respect the passing game, to open up the running game vice versa." Slocum said beating would get the ball rolling 0-2 start. "Virginia Tech lost two games last season, but came back and had a C season and won the Sugar Slocum said. "There are opportunities still left and our team understands that things can still happen."

**HARDEMAN**

Continued from Page 7

Despite the glory of those experiences, Hardeman said it was his first game he played as an Aggie that he remembers most. "My most memorable moment so far was when I scored my first touchdown [against Tulsa]," Hardeman said. "That showed me I could compete at the college level and be successful. Before that, I had questioned myself, and now I have confidence." What many people don't know about Hardeman is his nickname — "Tiki." The

name was given to him by his father. "My father went to Vietnam and learned that Tiki means 'little one' in Vietnamese," Hardeman said. "I was his first born son so he passed the name on to me." Hardeman, however, is no little one. Standing 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighing in at 225 pounds, Hardeman has a forceful presence on the field. However, it is his drive and determination that brings him success. "D'Andre is a very focused player," Rucker said. "He is vocal only to an extent, but leads the other guys by example. He makes sure to do the little things right and concentrates on being a team player."



Sophomore tailback **Eric Bernard** leaps over the pile for a touchdown against North Texas at Kyle Field Saturday.

**BERNARD**

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"The Alamo Bowl was a great experience," Bernard said. "It was my first real chance to get a lot of playing time at running back. I just waited on my turn to get into the game. I'd been waiting all year. I just went in and did what I know I'm capable of doing." Prior to gaining a spot in the running back rotation for the Alamo Bowl, Bernard impressed the A&M faithful with his play on defense and special teams. He totaled seven tackles as a defensive back and on special teams. But Bernard said that his days as a defensive back are finished. "Those days are behind me now," Bernard said. "All I want to play is running back." Bernard has displayed his explosive style of play often this season. The sophomore has carried the ball 34 times for 235 yards, reaching the end zone twice. Bernard is averaging 78 yards per game on the ground, and his 6.9 yards per carry leads the team. Against the University of North Texas last week, Bernard racked up 98 yards on 13 carries and scored a touchdown as the Aggies' running game steamrolled the Eagle defense for 312 yards. "I think we finally came together as a team," Bernard said. "I was worried because I didn't think we understood the big picture, the team concept. We finally realized that we had to play together as a team to win. My line did a great job and that allowed me to get the yardage I got." After Bernard's superb start this season, one might wonder if the running back has any chinks in his armor. Bernard said that while he has the ability to effectively read the holes

opened by the Aggie offensive line, he has trouble moving laterally. "I'm a little stiff laterally," Bernard said. "But I can quickly see the hole open up. I'm more of a slasher." A&M Running Backs Coach Ken Rucker said that Bernard is able to overcome his weaknesses because of his hard work. "His strengths overcome his weaknesses," Rucker said. "He's such a diligent worker. Whatever his weaknesses are, he's going to work so hard to make his situation better that they become his strengths." With a young corps of talented running backs at A&M, it is possible for any one of them to emerge as the leader. However, Rucker said that the coaching staff does not worry about who receives the most amount of playing time per game. "It doesn't matter to me because they're all so talented and want to do well when they get in the game," Rucker said. Bernard said there is a friendly rivalry that exists between the backs. "We're all real close," Bernard said. "We all have a competition in practice. We'll tell each other what we can do better or that they should have done this or that. But it's not serious. We're all having fun." Illustrating the mutual respect the backs have for each other, sophomore running back D'Andre Hardeman said Bernard comes into the game and simply gets the job done. "He's a great back," Hardeman said. "He and Sirr [Parker] split time. When Sirr comes out of the game, he goes in and keeps on pounding and crushing the defense. They're like a 1-2 punch." A strong bond also exists between the backs and their coach. "[Coach Rucker] is real spirited," Bernard



Sophomore tailback **Eric Bernard** takes a breather during the game against North Texas.

Said. "That helps me because he talks to me and off the field. I look at him as a senior. I listen to what he has to say and I don't mind, even though at times he thinks I don't listen to him. But maybe that's broken. Bernard and the Aggies do not know the rest of their season will unfold or if they gain a spot in the Top 25. But the team can learn a valuable lesson from its sophomore running back from Tulsa that good things come to those who wait.

**1997 Recruitment and Admissions Information**

**Check It Out!**

Where: Rudder Theatre  
When: Friday, September 27  
Time: Session I 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
Time: Session II 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

For more information  
Call Admissions Counseling, Texas A&M University  
845-3741

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