

Back in the swing of things

Veteran Quesada adjusting to crowded front court

BY MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

It's no coincidence that Dario Quesada's favorite professional player is Chicago Bulls' small forward and reigning Sixth Man of the Year, Toni Kukoc. Quesada, a junior power forward on the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team, is himself a displaced European, hailing originally from Madrid, Spain.

Despite being a little homesick when he arrived in Aggie land three years ago, Quesada was soon right at home with his new surroundings. However, adjusting to the brand of basketball played in the United States, as opposed to the European style, was not so easy.

"I'm not scoring as much as I was last year. I'm not shooting as well as I was last year."

Dario Quesada
Junior power forward

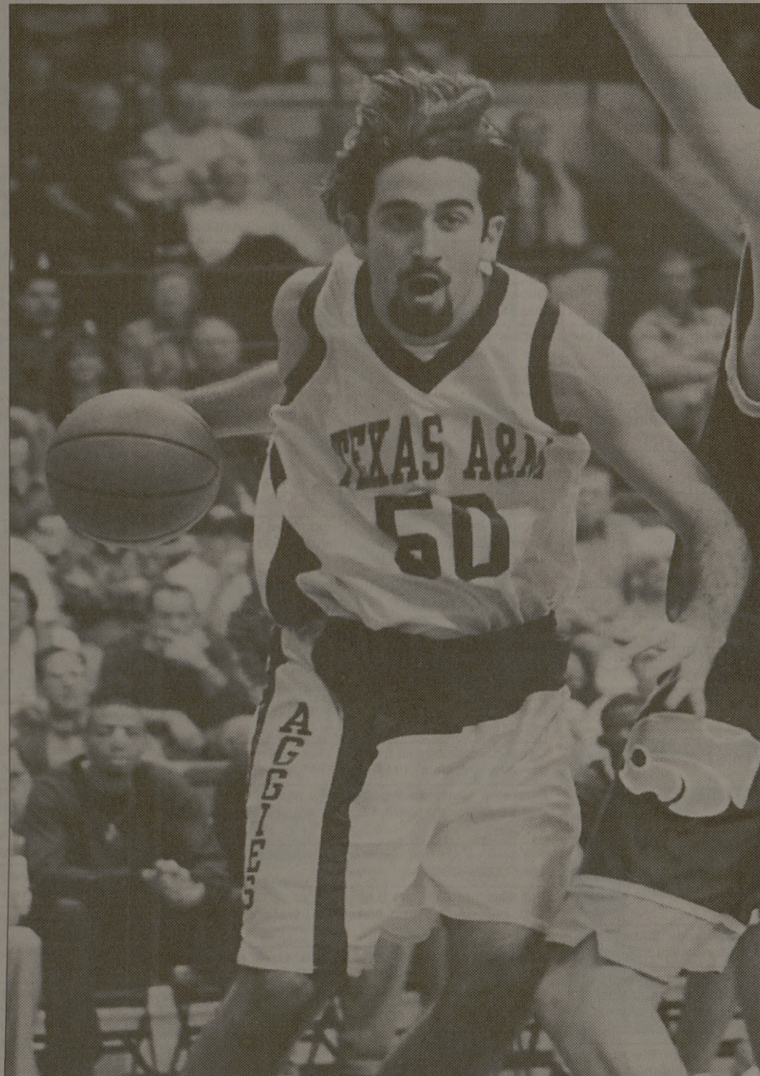
"Basketball is a completely different world here than in Europe," Quesada said. "American basketball is way more physical and way more up-tempo, and it took me a while to get used to it. It was something I had to acquire slowly."

But the engaging Spaniard sees acquiring new skills an asset for someone who would like to play professional basketball one day.

"I really see myself playing basketball overseas," Quesada said. "I would love to play basketball in the NBA, but that's something that I realize is hard to do."

"I could be playing pro basketball right now, I just really want to get my degree. But I want to play at a higher level, and I think after my senior year I'll be ready to do it."

As far as the here and now is concerned, Quesada's role on the team is not as pronounced as it was last year. He and sophomore forward Brad Stricker are not the only big men on the team anymore.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Junior forward **Dario Quesada** is averaging five points and seven rebounds a game.

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Aggies ready to build on success of first conference win against Missouri tonight

BY JEREMY FURTICK
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team was finally able to rid itself of the pesky monkey on its back. The Aggies broke their eight-game losing streak with a win over Kansas State Saturday.

But the Aggies will try to keep the monkey from coming back when they take on the University of Missouri at G. Rollie White Coliseum tonight at 7.

Senior guard Tracey Anderson said the Aggies are not so much basking in their victory as collectively sighing with relief.

"Getting that first win really takes the pressure off us," Anderson said. "We have a little momentum now."

A&M Head Coach Tony Barone said the win boosted the team's confidence, but did not change the attitude they will take into tonight's contest.

"Anytime you win a game it makes it a lot easier to practice, play defense, even run and jump because you've gained some confidence," Barone said. "Our attitude has never been in doubt, and it shouldn't change the whole season."

Junior forward Dario Quesada said the team was struggling with the loss of many close games during the last month.

"Whenever you come so close to having three or four wins and come up with all losses, it means a lot to finally put a win behind you," Quesada said.

Anderson said now the team is looking at the season in a new perspective.

"We're ready to get it rolling now and put a string of wins together," Anderson said. "I think we could surprise some people the rest of the season."

Barone said the team's main concern



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Sophomore **Calvin Davis** goes up for the shot amongst Texas defenders Jan. 15.

with the Tigers (10-9, 2-5) is their size.

"We're concerned about their physical strength combined with our limited numbers," Barone said. "We're going to have a tough game from the physical standpoint. We have to play very intelligently and watch the foul trouble."

Quesada said the Aggies will cause some match-up problems at the shooting guard and small forward positions.

"We have pretty similar teams," Quesada said. "But with Jerald (Brown) at the two (shooting) guard and Calvin (Davis) at the three (small forward), they will have a tough time finding a good match for them."

Barone said the Aggies' quickness, usually an asset, could work against them tonight.

"We have great quickness but that might get us into trouble in this game," Barone said. "Because of our short bench, we'll have to play more tentatively than usual. We can't afford to get into foul trouble."

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Dorr brings experience, enthusiasm to offensive staff

BY KRISTINA BUFFIN
THE BATTALION

Traveling may come with the job, but it seems as if the Texas A&M Football Team's new quarterbacks coach, Ray Dorr, has seen his share of the United States.

A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum announced five days before Christmas that Dorr would succeed former offensive coordinator and quarterback coach Steve Ensminger, sending Dorr to a new town and new program.

Dorr has been involved in seven programs throughout his 30-year coaching career. His jobs have ranged from graduate assistant at Akron University in 1967 to offensive coordinator under John Robinson at the University of Southern California in 1992.

Dorr said despite the number of college programs he has coached under, he is excited to be involved with the Aggie program.

"This is a great place," Dorr said. "There are a lot of neat traditions. If you look around the country at the various traditions — sure USC has the horse. A&M has something special. The stu-

dent body is so tied into the traditions, to be an Aggie is special."

After Dorr arrived in Aggie land, he went into the Memorial Student Center to familiarize himself with the abundance of traditions.

Dorr said he now knows what most students learned about at their freshman orientations — Muster, Silver Taps, yell practice and the Corps of Cadets.

"I am trying to acclimate myself to the customs of A&M," he said. "Like not wearing a hat in the MSC, the Aggie ring and all the traditions that reach further than athletics."

Dorr has known Slocum for several years, through various clinics and conventions that college coaches attend. He said Slocum would always joke around and say "someday I'm going to get you to coach for me."

"When he called, he said this is someday," Dorr said.

Dorr has served as an assistant coach at the University of Kentucky for the past four years and has coached several NFL quarterbacks including the Viking's Warren Moon, the Oiler's Chris Chandler, the Eagles' Rodney Peete, for-

mer Los Angeles Raider Todd Marinovich and USC standout Rob Johnson.

"Throughout most of my career, I have coached quarterbacks," Dorr said. "For three years I coached receivers and running backs. I have been very fortunate."

"A&M has something special. The student body is so tied into the traditions."

Ray Dorr
A&M quarterbacks coach

From 1984-87, Dorr was the head coach at Division II Southern Illinois University. He said, while he enjoyed his head coaching stint, there simply was not an enthusiasm for football in the Southern Illinois administration.

"In this profession, the No. 1 goal is always to reach for the golden ring, the top of your profession, to be a head coach," Dorr said. "I have been with

great programs but I was not happy with the situation (at Southern Illinois).

"When A&M offers you the opportunity, you just can't say no."

Dorr arrives at a time when A&M has suffered its worst season since 1983 when the team was 5-5-1 under Jackie Sherrill. Dorr said he is working with the players in their effort to avoid this type of season again.

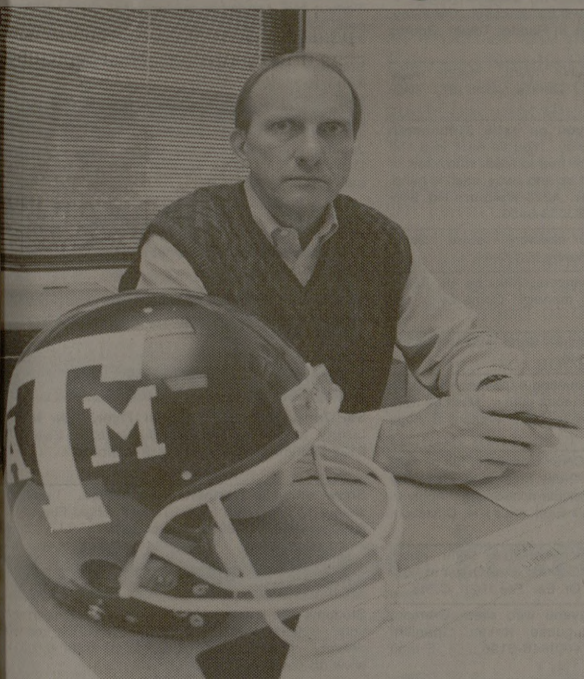
"I hope to get this message across, but the players have to buy into it," Dorr said. "If they continue to work as hard as they have been, the dividends will pay off."

"Slocum talked about the character of the team and about how this is 'their team.' I believe in this statement."

Dorr will work under new offensive coordinator, Mike Sherman, who was promoted from offensive line coach. Dorr said it is a plus to work for someone who already knows the system.

"He is an extremely well-organized person," Dorr said. "He is very open to suggestions but in the same breath knows what he wants to do."

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Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

A&M quarterbacks coach **Ray Dorr** came to A&M from the University of Kentucky where he held the same post.

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