

Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum announces 22 new recruits signing for the 1997 season.

### Class of 2001 primarily comprised of Texans

By JAMIE BURCH  
THE BATTALION

A high school football player often spends his senior year thinking how good college life will be — out of the house, away from parents and in the limelight. This notion of a collegiate utopia often results in top recruits fleeing Texas for football paradises far from home. But since the inception of the Big 12 Conference, home-grown talent has been staying home — and the Texas A&M Football Team has benefited greatly.

Of the 22 signees comprising A&M's 1997 recruiting class, 20 played high school football in the east-central Texas triangle.

Head Coach R.C. Slocum said he is happy

Texas players have chosen to stay in state. "I'm very pleased that there appears to be a trend for some of the better players to stay in the state of Texas," Slocum said. "Those guys, by in large, are more successful. They have fewer problems when they're close enough that their families can be here and be supportive of them."

"Every weekend they'll walk out of the locker room, and regardless of how they played, someone's going to be waiting at that door to say 'it's okay.' I think that support carries on throughout their whole life."

Slocum said he realizes recruits previously left Texas because of the dismal state of the Southwest Conference.

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# Signing Day 1997

Aggies reel in 22 new recruits, including 17 on defense and five on offense

By MATT MITCHELL  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Football Team ended months of speculation Wednesday, signing 22 recruits to letters of intent to play football for the Aggies next fall.

Feb. 5 was the official signing day for recruits around the country, with commitments coming as early as 8 a.m.

A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said the signees are a talented bunch athletically, but the coaching staff looked at other traits, such as good character and good academic skill.

"I'm impressed with them (the recruits) as people first of all," Slocum said. "We tried to put a high priority on the kind of people we recruited. I feel very good about these young men, and I believe this is the best group overall academically, and I think they're good athletically."

Seventeen of the Aggies' 22 signees are projected as defensive players; Five defensive linemen, six defensive backs, four linebackers, and two defensive ends.

Defensive lineman Rocky Bernard (Baytown Sterling), linebacker Roylin Bradley (LaMarque), linebacker Christian Rodriguez (North Mesquite) and defensive back Jason Glenn (Houston Nimitz), younger brother of former A&M standout Aaron Glenn, are the prize defensive recruits of this year's class.

## REPORT CARD

### TEXAS A&M RECRUITING THE CLASS OF 2001

- Quarterbacks C+ — no one waiting to follow Stewart's footsteps
- Running backs A — insurance for a RB possibly heading west
- Wide receivers F — 'passing attack' ushered out with Ensminger
- Offensive line B — family legacies should be enough
- Defensive line A — recruits might have to grow up in a hurry
- Linebackers B — Bradley, Rodriguez bolster anchor of Wrecking Crew
- Defensive backs A — Glenn, talented class should shore up secondary

James Vineyard, THE BATTALION

Slocum said the Aggies helped themselves at the defensive line and secondary positions, two areas hit especially hard by injuries and graduation.

"I think the best thing is that we had a clear need in the defensive line area," Slocum said. "That's an area where we lost players. We had seniors pretty much carry the group last year and it was vitally important for us to get some quality defensive line candidates. And I think we did extremely well there."

Perhaps the most glaring problem

area for the team, last year, was the inexperienced secondary that was further weakened by injuries to what was already a shaky lineup.

"Last year, we were very thin in the secondary, and we needed some additional help in the secondary," Slocum said. "It was bad in terms of experience last year, but we also just didn't have enough numbers."

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# Lady Ags end four-game slide with 66-63 win over Oklahoma

By LARA L. ZUEHLKE AND DENNIS RAMIREZ  
THE BATTALION

"It wasn't a pretty game, but we really don't care ... It's a win and we'll take it."

This was the sentiment held by Texas A&M Head Coach Candi Harvey after the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team defeated Oklahoma University 66-63, last night at the Rolie White Coliseum.

The Lady Aggies improved to 8-12 overall and 2-8 in Big 12 competition, while the Lady Sooners (5-14, 1-8) extended their losing streak to eight.

Coming off the loss to Iowa State University Saturday, the Lady Ags were out for revenge.

"There's no feeling like it, especially coming back home after the long road trip," senior guard Lana Tucker said. "It (the win) was really needed for our confidence. We've worked hard and it's not that effort

hasn't been there, but I think we need some kind of reward and we got it tonight."

A&M shot 33 percent (22-65) from the field overall but deteriorated in the second half — losing their comfortable 14 point lead. Harvey said the defense was the determining factor in the game.

"We won this game on the defensive end," Harvey said. "We persevered and withstood their little run there at the end. It was a great effort win."

Tucker said the Aggie defense did not allow Oklahoma to stick to its game plan and control the paint.

"We kept them out of the paint area, and we tried to push them out of their comfort zone," Tucker said. "We tried to make them set up their

offense real high and not let them get too deep into their offense. The more pressure we put on the ball, the better we do all around."

Another important component came from the charity stripe, where the Lady Aggies found themselves shooting 74 percent, adding key points to help them pull out the victory.

"Whoever stepped up to the line was going to have to hit their free throws to keep the lead and we did," freshman guard Amy Yates said. "We stepped up and we hit our free throws really well. The end play was a little sloppy, but we still came out on top."

Harvey credited the bench play for giving the Aggies a lift when they needed it down the stretch.

"I thought we got great bench

play," Harvey said. "Jennifer Burrows had an outstanding game tonight and did a super job on both ends of the floor."

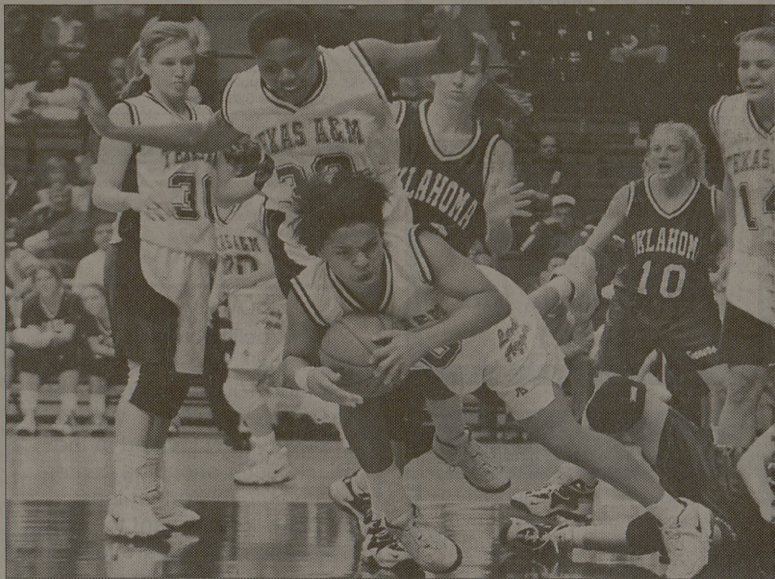
Along with the great performance by Burrows, freshman guard Kera Alexander, Tucker and Yates combined for 34 points and 13 rebounds. Freshman forward Prissy Sharpe dished in eight points, five boards and three steals.

After putting everything together, being carried by a strong defensive game and excellent free throw shooting, the Lady Ags were able to overcome adversity and chalk up a win despite other shortcomings.

Harvey said what the team needs to do now is put components together to find another win.

"It was a tremendous win, but in the same regard we need to build on it," Harvey said.

"We need to take this to Saturday and move forward."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Sophomore guard Kerrie Patterson grabs a rebound and ends up falling on the floor during the fight for the ball against Oklahoma last night.

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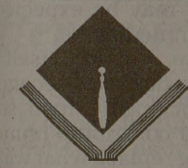
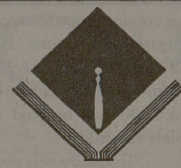
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- |   |   |
|---|---|
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| ECON 203: Principles of Economics               | HIST 105: History of the United States    |
| HIST 106: History of the United States          | MATH 141: Business Mathematics I          |
| MATH 166: Topics in Contemporary Mathematics II | POLS 206: American National Government    |
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	HIST 106-508	PSYC 107-501
BIOL 114 all sections		PSYC 107-505
	HORT 201-500	PSYC 107-508
CHEM 101 all sections		
CHEM 102 all sections	MATH 142-502	VTTP 423 all sections
CHEM 107-501 through 533		
CHEM 222 all sections	MGMT 105-501	ZOOL 220-501 through 511
CHEM 227 all sections	MGMT 211-501	
CHEM 228 all sections		
	PHYS 202-517 through 520	
ECON 202-511		
	POLS 206-502	
GENE 301 all sections	POLS 206-506	

\*Subject to change