## **THE BATTALION** SPORTS

New blood infuses women's Elite Eight

1997 ncaa.

women's final fou

ARGO, N.D. (AP) — Gene Roek chuckles when he thinks of nen's basketball teams coming the warmth of Georgia, Misppi, Texas and California to play in snow-covered Grand Forks. ome of them have never been orth Dakota before.

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ays on the field.

without bra

d to qualify hope it's about 40-below the they get here," said Roebuck, h Dakota's head women's basall coach. "Not so much for bas-NEOUS all, but just to make them sufsmuch as we have this winter.' his year's NCAA Division II Elite t tournament has some new, YCLE ng faces, including one team torcycle. Bou has been in the division for just years. Meanwhile, powerise North Dakota State is conles, still under w uously absent.

West Texas A&M (29-1) goes up ck, custom leat 1800mi. 268nst another Elite Eight newner, California-Davis (27-2). West is has been to the tournament rebefore, but has not come away now! 1-900-4 st be 18 yrs. hachampionship title. The two ms played each other earlier this be 18yrs.+ , with West Texas winning 81-75, w Natasha Taylor, who averages points per game.

Call 1-900-835 Coaches say the new blood will Serv-U (619)6 New Star War s Back!!! Insp tup the tournament, despite the ntially bitter climate outside.

Continued from Page 7

aver, who has the ability to create

"She makes a difference (on the

d), because she makes things hap-

en," Tucker said. "She's a very solid

ayerout there. She does her job well

disaplayer that's going to come up

BRIEFS

nd make that spectacular play."

A&M football begins

spring drills today

The Texas A&M Football Team will

tart spring drills today at Kyle Field

"I'm excited about getting back

cum said. "Our players have

en enthusiastic in the off-season

rogram and I know they are anxious

This year's team will be coached

several new faces. Quarterbacks

ach Ray Dorr, wide receivers

ach Steve Kragthorpe, defensive

indinator and inside linebackers

oach Mike Hankwitz, and offensive

n work from pion the football field," Head Coach

get to work.

North Dakota won the honor of hosting its first Elite Eight tournament starting Wednesday after dashing the hopes of four-time defending

champion North Dakota State. The Sioux (25-4) upset North Dakota State 73-66 in the final minutes of the North Central Region title game March 9, breaking the Bison's 45-game

winning streak. Still beaming from that win on the road, Roebuck said his players are preparing for what they know will be a grueling quarterfinal matchup with Edinboro, Pa. (24-8). 'Edinboro shoots a

lot of three-point shots and they've got a lot of said. "So we've got to be all over the place on defense.

Meghan Miller leads all Edinboro scorers, averaging 14.9 points per game. She collected 23 points in Edinboro's 70-68 East Region win over High Point, N.C., two weeks ago.

Coach Stan Swank said his team is not familiar with the Sioux, but respects any club that beats the four-time reigning champs on their own turf.

"If you can beat North Dakota State on their court, then you have to be good," he said.

But Roebuck is not overconfident. "I think the biggest thing for us is not getting too excited about not only being in this tournament, but hosting it, too," he said.

The first quarterfinal game Wednesday has Delta State (Miss.) making its 11th NCAA tournament appearance against Southern Indiana. Delta State (25-5) already has three Division II titles to its credit under head coach Lloyd Clark.

With North Dakota State out of the picture, some coaches see Delta State as the team to

good post shooters," Roebuck beat. But Southern Indiana head coach Chance Dugan believes her team can do it. 'We're pretty much mirror im-

ages of each other," Dugan, whose team is making its first Elite Eight appearance, said of Delta State. The two teams played once in

the regular season, with Southern Indiana winning.

'They've got the revenge factor on their side now, but I think it looks

chose leave her hometown, Man-

teca, Calif., to come to A&M. Long

said she was immediately attract-

ed to Aggieland and knew she

"I loved the traditions and it was

wanted to come here.

pretty good for us," Dugan said. Another team making its first Di-

vision II tournament appearance is Kennesaw State (Ga.), which brings the best record (30-1) into the Elite Eight tournament.

Tuesday • March 18, 1997

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Kennesaw State joined Division II just three years ago and already has amassed impressive numbers. Poland native Joanna Cuprys, a 6-foot-3 forward, leads all scorers going into the tournament with 26.4 points per game, including 92 of 185 3-pointers for 49.7 percent.

But even head coach Colby Tilley wonders if his team's success in the Peach Belt Athletic Conference will carry over against some of the better-known teams.

"Our conference doesn't get a lot of respect," he said. "The pressure we're under is to try to represent our conference and our school to the point that we get some respect.'

plays Bentley Kennesaw (Mass.) in the quarterfinal round Wednesday. Bentley (26-5) has qualified for seven Division II tournaments in the past nine vears. The team made it to the championship round once, in 1990, losing to Delta State.

"I know I need to get better at things, and there are a lot of things I need to work on," Long said. "As a team though, I think we are coming together and jelling as a team should." Evans said she anticipates Long

will contribute greatly to the Lady Aggies in the years to come. "She's a player that's going to

help us for the next four years, and she's going to be a big part of our program," Evans said.

#### Collegiate Judo Championship in the

145-pound division. Judo Coach Bob Perez was selected

as honorable mention coach of the year. The Judo Team will be traveling to the Liberty Bell Classic in Philadel-

#### Eagles sign former **Cowboy's kicker**

phia this weekend.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - In front of television crews, newspaper reporters, even an ESPN sportscaster, the Philadelphia Eagles rolled out the pomp on Monday to introduce their brand-new, \$2.45 million ... kicker?

The Eagles expect Chris Boniol, a 25-year-old that they lured away from conference rival Dallas last week, to be an impact player.

"Chris is one of the top young kickers in the business," said head coach Ray Rhodes. "He's one of the top kickers in terms of hang time.'

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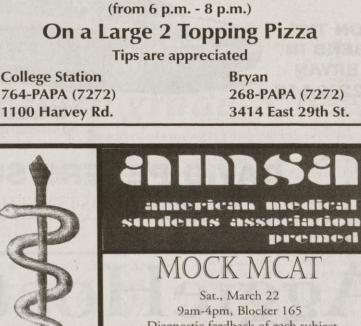
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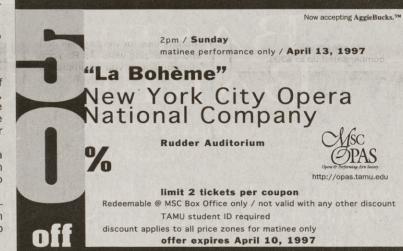
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Long acquired her competitive nature and aggressive style of play by growing up with an older sister who plays softball at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. Tucker said Long is a talented

"My sister made me work so hard growing up," Long said. "She took me to all of her practices, and then I would have to go to mine. She got on to me a lot, especially when we played together, but it helped me. I look up to my sister a lot.

Long was recruited by several other Division I schools, but

coordinator and offensive line coach **SPORTS** Steve Marshall will be making their debut on the coaching staff.

"I have been impressed with the additions to our coaching staff," Slocum said. "There already seems to be a good chemistry on the staff and they are looking forward to work ing with our players."

A&M will return six starters on defense, and nine on offense to round out a 44-man roster.

#### **12th Man Foundation** host spring barbecue

The 12th Man Student Foundation's Spring Baseball Barbecue benefiting the Diamond Darlings and Aggie Athletes Involved will be held on Wednesday, March 19, at the Olsen Pavilion.

The event will include two guest speakers and several student athletes.

Unlike the baseball team's game against the University of Houston, the barbecue will not be rescheduled. The barbecue is open to the community and will begin at 5:30 p.m. and last until 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 a plate.

#### Judo team places at championships

The 1997 National Collegiate Judo Championships were held at the University of Kansas last weekend.

Four members of the Texas A&M Judo Team were included in the 160 competitors from 40 male university teams and 18 women's teams which competed. Randy Ramirez, Steve Bushman, Jackie Bavard, and Kim Fulda all made the trip to Lawrence, Kan. Helping the women's team place

third overall, Bayard defeated three opponents to win her first National

for me because it's big and the tradition here is awesome, and I love it.' Long said she is pleased with her freshman season so far but hopes to continue improving some aspects of her game.

huge," Long said. "I am a people per-son and I love to talk. A&M is perfect

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udy Abroad Programs, 161 Bizzell Hall West, 845-0544



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Participate in the Intellectual/Research Community The Graduate Student Council Research Week Here on the TAMU Campus -- the Week after Spring Break!

March 17, 1997

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Texas State Graduate Leadership Initiative -- Open to all graduate students, faculty and administrators.

March 18, 1997

2:00 p.m. Special Guest Panel discussion with students on "Applied Research Making the Links from the Bench to the Public." Guests include Dr. Gilman, NCAR, Dr. Lomax, TTI; and Dr. Alexander, Baylor University -- Open to the Public -- Cain Hall Viewing Theater. 4:00 p.m. Opening Reception -- Third Annual GSC All-University Research Competition Special Guest Speaker: Dr. Ray Bowen, President TAMU -- Open to the Public -- food served -- Fosyth Gallery, MSC.

7:30 p.m. Special Lecture, Dr. Soffen, Director, Goddard Space Flight Center, and Biologist on the Viking Mission to Mars, will speak on "Life on Mars." -- Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public.

March 19, 1997

7:00 a.m. Set up -- Poster and Speaking Competition -- Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall. Event is open for public viewing Wednesday through Friday.

2:00 Dr. LeMone, Senior Scientist, recently elected to the National Academy of Engineering, currently at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, her topic, "Women in Science." -- Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public. Informal reception after the reception.

March 20, 1997

Research and Poster Competition Exhibit -- Rudder Theatre Exhibit Hall 2:30 p.m. Dr. Miller, Editor, Science News Magazine, will speak on "Science and the Media: What Graduate Students Should Know." -- Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public -- Reception to follow in the Rudder Theater Exhibit Hall. The GSC is proud to promote this activity, sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology Journalism, and the Office of the

March 21, 1997

Research and Poster Competition Exhibit Open -- All Day -- Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall 2:00 Research Competition Awards Ceremony to honor all participants and award recipients. Rudder Theater -- Open to the Public -- Reception to Follow in the Rudder Theater Exhibition Hall

All Events Are Free -- Don't Miss the Opportunity to Attend and be a Part of the Intellectual Community! Direct Questions to Amy Kardell 845-9925 E-mail akardell@ttiadmin.tamu.edu.