September 17, Vednesday · September 17, 1997

# SPORTS 9

## <sup>1</sup><sup>no</sup>Mensik fills team's void **)**Oys

#### By TRAVIS V. DABNEY Staff writer

buchdown in th a 14-yard pass nlike the quarterback in hony Miller football and the point guard 51 seconds left in basketball, the setter in Switzer calle olleyball rarely gets the same ac-Eagles "a must olades and recognition that the who have won prementioned players receive. 'C East titles, war Yet the setter in volleyball is ceres for the home inly as important, if not more ime playoffs. rtant than any command inding the same t dual in any sport. No set, no spike. tisjust that simple. Texas A&M vol-eyball team setter Farah Mensik to be 3-1 a we did last yes ok over the setter position in the 'We will be ag 996 season from Honorable Menbad start on All American Suzy Wente and

t us in a hole." s not looked back les had won, Mensik got her start in sports at d have been mi m early age, as her parents were wid softball players. poor performa

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witzer said.

"I really kind of grew up on the winning field with my parents and mpleted a 46 tensik said eddie Solom Mensik said.

When Mensik entered junior high sho over the im nebegan what would turn out to be wery successful career in volleyball. en he threw. nce in high school, Mensik was Cowboys cause litting time between volleyball and fourth-down p ruled interference, and realized a decision would

have to be made as to which sport would get her full devotion. "I saw that my talents were real-

Mensik was faced with the recruit-

old Southwest Conference schools

but it really came down between

A&M and Arkansas," Mensik said. "I

was told by several people to go to a

place where if I was injured and

could no longer play volleyball that

strong here and that is really what

is just tremendous, I love it," Men-

here and the support that we re-

munity has really been great.'

"Plus the school spirit is so

I would want to go to anyway.'

is what I did," Mesik said.

ing process.

drew me to A&M.'

While Mensik is a very team centered player and is reluctant to talk about personal goals, there are defly suited towards volleyball, so that initely some that exist.

"Sure I would like to be in the top three in the Big 12 in assists, and I After playing three years on varsity in the Houston suburb of Katy, would also like to get some type of all conference recognition in the Big 12, but it is all about the team." I was recruited by most of the Mensik said

When Coach Laurie Corbelli was asked about Mensik and her position with team, it is evident Corbelli and the rest of the team are depending on Mensik a great deal this season.

"She is certainly one of the most critical players on the team this season; she is going to have to make a lot of plays and key decisions," Corbelli said. "She really sets the pace for our offense.

same type of success as on the volas a member of the dean's list.

lady and some what of a perfectionist," Corbelli said "Yet, at the same time she is a very mellow, lowkey individual.



Senior setter Farah Mensik looks to lead the Aggies to new heights

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You must be a degree seeking student and have a total of **95** undergraduate credit hours reflect-ed on the Texas A&M University Student Information Management System. (A passed course, which is repeated and passed, **cannot** count as additional credit hours.)

30 undergraduate credit hours must have been completed in residence at Texas A&M University, providing that <u>prior to</u> January 1, 1994, you were registered at Texas A&M University and **successfully** completed a fall/spring semester or summer term (I and II or 10 weeks) as a full-time student in good standing (as defined in the University catalog).

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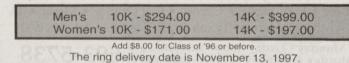
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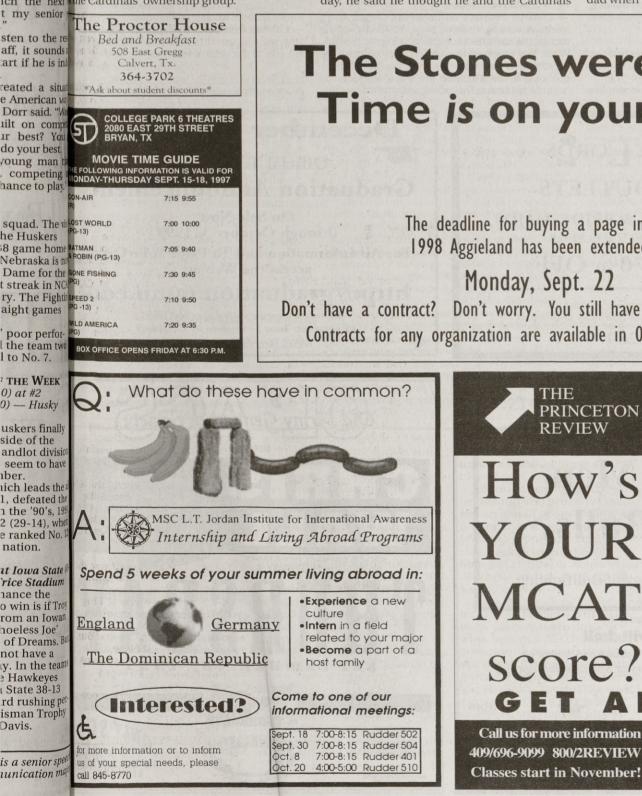
### a fourth season at McGwire's option that We fully expect him (McGuire) to rained his letternish his wonderful career in St. ensive tackle @Louis."

#### **BILL DEWITT** CARDINAL'S EXECUTIVE

ngs the total package to nearly \$40 million. rill it be before One of McGwire's agents, Bob Cohen, said the trated and laugger could have commanded at least another llion per season on the free-agent market. In-

outlook on inead, he wanted to stay so much he not only a plan for expedior less, he agreed to defer about 25 percent n said. "The d the money until he retires. The negotiating ontrol of is knocess took only a week or so and the deal was fian do is try to alized late Monday night.

"We fully expect him to complete his wonvery day. d's plan for merful career in St. Louis," said Bill DeWitt, head ach the next the Cardinals' ownership group.



ST. LOUIS (AP) — The St. Louis Cardinals have The deferred money and below-market salary ark McGwire for at least three more seasons, and will allow the Cardinals to attempt to re-sign pitchers Andy Benes and Todd Stottlemyre. ey did not have to tear up the team to keep him. McGwire, who joined Babe Ruth last week as Benes, who is 28-17 in two seasons with the Cardinals, has a player option on his deal. The team he only players with consecutive 50-homer seas, signed a three-year, \$28 million deal Tuesday. has an option on the contract of Stottlemyre, 26-The deal includes a \$1 million signing bonus 20 in two seasons with the team.

'There's a lot of money being passed around, a lot of questions about how much guys are being paid and people looking for the last dollar,' general manager Walt Jocketty said. "I can assure you that Mark McGwire did not do that. We're trying to structure it so we can keep everybody.

McGuire signs three-year deal

The Cardinals had a \$44 million payroll without McGwire. They're counting on a healthy increase in season-ticket sales to help bridge the gap. "We've got a pretty high payroll relative to baseball and relative to a marketplace this size," DeWitt said. "But this city can support it because it's such

a great baseball town. McGwire also is donating \$1 million a year to establish a charitable foundation to benefit sexually and physically abused children. McGwire had

trouble keeping his composure describing the foundation, pausing for a half-minute at one point. "Let's just say children have a special place in

my heart," McGwire said. "I just really believe a guy in my position can really help out. The Cardinals acquired McGwire, 33, from

Oakland on July 31, the trading deadline. On Friday, he said he thought he and the Cardinals

were a perfect match, and that there was a good chance he'd be back.

this season.

McGwire thinks the Cardinals, injury-riddled and 69-80 heading into the final weeks, should be back in the postseason next year. The fans who show up at Busch Stadium two hours early to watch his tape-measure shots in batting practice also played a part in him staying.

"I tell you what, it makes me float every time I come to the ballpark, to play in this stadium and play in front of these fans," McGwire said. "I'm overwhelmed. I'm going to say that probably for the rest of my career.

It did not hurt that McGwire is playing for his longtime Oakland manager, Tony La Russa. La Russa has an option for the next two seasons and

it is all but certain he will be back. 'I'm not speaking for him, but I don't think I would have signed if he wasn't coming back,'

McGwire said. Then he turned to La Russa and said, "All right?" McGwire has 51 home runs, 17 with St. Louis, and needs one to tie his career best set last year.

He entered the day one home run behind Seattle's Ken Griffey Jr. for the major-league lead. Before he came to town, McGwire was said to

prefer the West Coast because his 9-year-old son ves in southern California with his mother. Matthew McGwire gave the Cardinals a thumbsup after a recent visit and had two words for his dad when the deal was announced: "all right!"

## The Stones were right. Time is on your side.

As the Aggies move forward this season with so many expectations, Off the court, Mensik has proven Mensik still looks at some of the herself in the classroom with the more abstract details of playing volleyball court. She is a three time leyball here at Texas A&M. GTE Academic All-American as well "The feeling that you get walking out onto the court at G. Rollie White

'Farah is a very driven young sik said. "Volleyball is really growing ceive from the students and com-

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