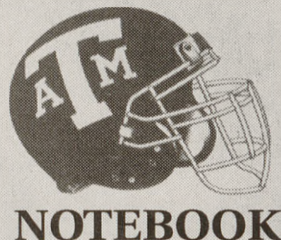


# Aggies take their 5-0 show on the road to Kansas St.

A&M's hopes of a perfect year run through Manhattan



**NOTEBOOK**

*Chris Ferrell*



**CHRIS FERRELL**  
Sports editor

**Put Me In, Coach**

One thing you can count on this week is there will be a bunch of Aggies checking into the game. Over the course of the season, A&M has been using more than fifty players on a regular basis.

"After the game, you have 50-plus players that got to see 'Johnny' play, as opposed to having 30-something," Slocum said. "So when we go out to practice, we have 50 guys that are getting ready to play on Saturday. Regardless of how the game goes this weekend, we will play a large number of players."

**Injury Report**

Junior starting right tackle Cameron Spikes will be held out of contact for 10 days after having a torn retina surgically repaired Tuesday. Spikes sustained the injury in Saturday's 56-17 win over Iowa State. He had started 17 straight games for A&M, but now will miss the Kansas State and Texas Tech games.

Junior corner Shun Horn is listed as doubtful this weekend with an injured hamstring, and sophomore linebacker Chris Thierry is questionable for KSU after being taken off of the field in an ambulance Saturday. Thierry suffered a "stinger" in the 4th quarter against the Cyclones.

**Who is That Masked Man?**

With Spike's injury, the danger of being poked in the eye while on the football field was brought into the spotlight.

That is one of the reasons sophomore tailback Dante Hall wears a dark visor on his face mask.

Hall, known for his juking style of running, said the visor also can give him an advantage while looking up field because defenders can't read his eyes. The visor also can prevent him from being blinded by the sun when looking up to return kickoffs and punts.

**Old-School Wrecking Crew**

When Mike Hankwitz took over as A&M's defensive coordinator, one of his main objectives was to get back to the "bodies flying" style of years past.

When he brought this up to the other coaches, defensive line coach Bill Johnson said the team needed to "regain the rage." Thus, the team's defensive slogan was born, and the players have taken it to heart. They are beginning to look like the Wrecking Crew of years past. The Aggies are gang-tackling and flying at the football with the same fury as that of defenses of old.

*Chris Ferrell is a sophomore journalism major*

The 14th-ranked Texas A&M Football Team heads to Manhattan, Kansas, this week to battle the No. 20 Kansas State Wildcats in what should be the Aggies' toughest test to date. The Wrecking Crew will have its hands full with KSU quarterback Michael Bishop who nobody, media included, has been able to get their hands on. This week K-State coach Bill Snyder announced the media no longer can speak with Bishop, who led Blinn to a JUCO national championship last season. Snyder said football is a team sport, but Bishop is getting all of the media's attention.

Fresh off of my interview last Friday with Dick Vitale, I have these words of advice for Coach Snyder: The kid's a PTP'er, baby! Give him his props. Everybody wants Bishop because, without him, your offense would be "Cupcake City."

**Homecoming Fame**

The Aggies will be KSU's homecoming opponent Saturday, but the game also will be a homecoming for Coach R.C. Slocum, whose first college coaching job came at Kansas State in 1970.

In 1971, Slocum was KSU's head freshman football coach (back before freshman were eligible to play on varsity). One of Slocum's former KSU freshman players, Bud Peterson, will be making the trip to Manhattan with the Aggies. Peterson, now associate executive dean of engineering at A&M, was a receiver at Kansas State, and he and Slocum have remained close over the years.

"That's the only security problem we've got," Slocum joked. "We have one of their former players flying on our team plane with us, but A&M pays him right now, so I'm hoping that's strong enough to keep his allegiance."

# SENIOR PRESENCE

Zerick Rollins anchors Texas A&M's Wrecking Crew

By **JEFF WEBB**  
Staff writer

The talk of Texas A&M football this season is youthfulness. The Aggies are the youngest team in the Big 12 this year which leads one to wonder, who leads the mighty force of nature known as the Wrecking Crew? Ironically, the anchor of the defense, the defensive line, provides the senior presence on the football field. One of these leaders is senior defensive lineman Zerick Rollins.

Texas A&M almost missed out on the benefit of Rollins' services. Originally a student-athlete at the University of Oklahoma, Rollins transferred to College Station after his freshman year. A standout at Kashmere High School in Houston, Rollins committed to the Oklahoma program run by Howard Schnellenberger in 1995.

"You're kind of young and you're recruited by a lot of people, and I had my best recruiting trip to OU," Rollins said. "The main reason why I transferred was because my father was ill. I wanted to pick a good school as far as education, and I felt A&M was the best place to be."

Rollins was the one to originally contact A&M about a transfer. Some thought there would be

problems because Coach Schnellenberger did not want to let Rollins out of his scholarship, but he eventually relented. Defensive line coach Bill Johnson was indifferent about the transfer at first, but is pleased he has another leader on the defense in 1997.

"I didn't really worry about it at the time, but he stuck to his guns and he knew what he wanted," Johnson said. "I'm glad he did [transfer]. It was good for us that he did."

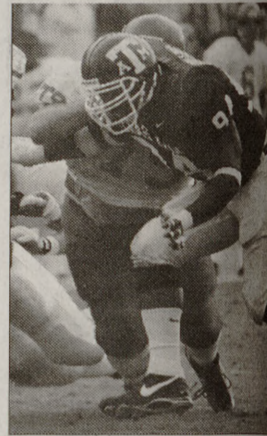
With the lack of experience on the team this season, having a seasoned veteran like Rollins teaches the team a lesson in focus and commitment.

"Zerick is a very mature person. He's a guy that means business. He has a good work ethic and desire, and this program means a lot to him," said Johnson. "If these kids would just take their attitude, their work ethic, their commitment to this program, those kids will be great players down the road."

"I think he's a leader to the whole team," said line mate Brad Crowley. "He leads with a great example."

Rollins had an excellent example of a football player when he was younger. His older brother Joseph played offensive line at Lamar University while Zerick was growing up.

"I was in elementary school when



DAVE HOUSE/PHOTO

Senior **Zerick Rollins** transferred from OU after his freshman year. He was playing college football at OU. "Any time you have a player playing college football, you want to look up to them."

Rollins also looks up to some NFL's greatest stars, Buffalo Bills end Bruce Smith. Despite praise given to the Wrecking Crew this season, there are many more left to be played. Rollins said there is still more work to be done.

"I had to work a long time for an opportunity. I have a lot of work and I still have a lot to give."

# Swedish import Anna Becker big hit in Texas

By **MARGAUX HARRIS**  
Staff writer

Anna Becker, a member of the Texas A&M Women's Golf Team, is a little modest when it comes to describing her talents on the golf course.

Becker, a sophomore business major from Lund, Sweden, admits that coming to Texas A&M was quite an adjustment.

"It [the transition] was kind of hard," Becker said. The heat could have affected my golf game. I left all of my friends and family. All of this affected my game."

Now that she has made it through her first year, she expects things to improve.

Becker started playing golf at the

age of six and began competing at age 12. For 10 years she and her father traveled together to participate in tournaments across Europe.

"This [college] was a great difference," Becker said. "I am now playing with a team — it was just individual before."

Becker said the earlier an athlete begins playing a particular sport, the more experience he or she gets.

"If you play too much, you will get sick of it," she said. "But I'm glad I started early."

During the fall of 1996, Becker established herself as one of the top freshmen in the Big 12 Conference. She competed in four tournaments, resulting in three top-20 finishes.

Despite her accomplishments,

Becker said she does not feel she played well last year.

"The first year is always hard," she said. "It was hard being away from home."

Becker said she is playing this year and hopes to continue to improve in the spring.

She said the atmosphere at A&M has helped her make the transition.

"I think it's awesome," she said. "It can't really be better. The professors are great so everybody is really friendly."

Becker had offers from other schools, but chose Texas A&M because of its reputation as a great sports school.

"I knew Isabelle [Rosberg] she said it was a great school," Becker said.

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- John, I'm in Scotland, working for Dowell. I love it! Sorry I didn't say goodbye! Karen
- Karen, What about us? What about me? What about the ring that I bought you? John
- John, I'm sorry, but it really is a great job! I'm a Field Engineer Trainee, working offshore! Karen P.S. The ring turned green!
- Karen, Will Dowell hire me? Will they send me to Scotland too? Do the Scottish men really wear skirts? John
- John, I don't see you working in the field! You're more of the office type. Sorry, Karen. P.S. They're kilts you idiot!
- Karen, You don't even know me! I could be a good Field Engineer! What is Dowell looking for? John
- John, Dowell hires mobile, adaptable engineers, who like hands-on work. You won't even change the oil in your car! Karen
- Karen, I'll let Dowell decide! Where do I sign up for an interview? Can you put in a good word for me? John
- John, Submit your resume to the Placement Center ASAP or attend Dowell's information meeting on 10/22/97, interviews on 10/23-24/97 Please don't tell them you know me! Karen

# Loose Diamonds

| Marquise Cut |       |          |                               | Oval  |       |         |                               |
|--------------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Carat        | Color | Clarity  | Price                         | Carat | Color | Clarity | Price                         |
| 1.51         | H     | SI2      | \$7850 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT | 1.07  | I     | VS1     | \$4850 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT |
| 1.21         | K     | SI3      | \$4150 <sup>00</sup>          |       | I     | SI2     | \$3146 <sup>00</sup> UGA CERT |
| 1.04         | I     | SI1      | \$5100 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT | .75   | D     | SI1     | \$2990 <sup>00</sup> UGA CERT |
| .94          | K     | SI1      | \$2915 <sup>00</sup>          | .66   | K     | VVS2    | \$1439 <sup>00</sup>          |
| .87          | D     | SI2      | \$3475 <sup>00</sup> UGA CERT | .32   | H     | SI1     | \$550 <sup>00</sup>           |
| .83          | H     | SI1      | \$3465 <sup>00</sup>          |       |       |         |                               |
| .73          | G     | SI3      | \$2365 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT |       |       |         |                               |
| .49          | F     | SI1      | \$1736 <sup>00</sup>          |       |       |         |                               |
| .49          | J     | SI2      | \$1155 <sup>00</sup>          |       |       |         |                               |
| .44          | F     | SI1/VVS2 | \$1250 <sup>00</sup>          |       |       |         |                               |
| .31          | I     | SI1      | \$475 <sup>00</sup>           |       |       |         |                               |

| Princess Cut |       |         |                               | Round Cut |       |         |                               |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Carat        | Color | Clarity | Price                         | Carat     | Color | Clarity | Price                         |
| .93          | H     | VS2     | \$3800 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT | 1.07      | H     | SI1     | \$5700 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT |
| .65          | H     | SI2     | \$1340 <sup>00</sup>          | 1.07      | H     | SI2     | \$3700 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT |
| .57          | H     | SI2     | \$1050 <sup>00</sup>          | .93       | J     | SI2     | \$3070 <sup>00</sup>          |
| .52          | G     | VS1     | \$1638 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT | .91       | J     | SI2     | \$3250 <sup>00</sup>          |
|              |       |         |                               | .71       | H     | VVS2    | \$2985 <sup>00</sup> IGL CERT |
|              |       |         |                               | .33       | H     | VVS2    | \$790 <sup>00</sup> IGL CERT  |

| Emerald Cut |       |         |                      | Pear Shape |       |         |                               |
|-------------|-------|---------|----------------------|------------|-------|---------|-------------------------------|
| Carat       | Color | Clarity | Price                | Carat      | Color | Clarity | Price                         |
| 2.12        | L     | VVS2    | \$8000 <sup>00</sup> | 1.02       | J     | SI1     | \$3575 <sup>00</sup>          |
|             |       |         |                      | .92        | K     | VS2     | \$2550 <sup>00</sup>          |
|             |       |         |                      | .79        | K     | SI1     | \$1850 <sup>00</sup>          |
|             |       |         |                      | .71        | D     | SI1     | \$2830 <sup>00</sup> UGA CERT |
|             |       |         |                      | .49        | H     | SI1     | \$1375 <sup>00</sup>          |

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