

Sports

Catching up with ...

Derek Spiller redefines the tight end position at A&M

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Last weekend against Louisiana Tech, Spiller came through for the Aggies with three receptions for 20 yards including a two-point conversion, using his speed to break open and make the plays.

"It was a big play in the ball game," tight ends coach Tam Hollingshead said. "We were sitting on 19 points and we needed to get the game to 21 points, so we went to Derrick on a two-point situation.

"It was an excellent play, and he ran a really good route to free himself up. So that was a really big play for us."

Spiller was selected to the second-team All-Big 12 Conference in 1997.

With 659 career yards in 36 games and an average of over 15 yards per reception, he has consistently come through for the Aggies when called upon. According to Hollingshead, Spiller's strength, size, and speed make him an "extremely fine athlete" that gets the job done when it's needed.

With Spiller teamed up with either tight end Dan Campbell and RoDerrick Broughton, the Aggies have a formidable option with tight ends.

SEE SPILLER ON PAGE 11.



GREG McREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION
Derek Spiller caught three balls against La. Tech.

Strickland battles back from injury for playing time

BY ABBY LITTLE
The Battalion



An injury can ruin a career, or it can make a career stronger. In junior outside hitter Summer Strickland's case, her ankle injury has made her a stronger player.

During her freshman year, she badly sprained it, knocking off a bone fragment, and underwent two surgeries to repair the damage.

It was frustrating to Strickland to not be able to play much her freshman or sophomore year, but Strickland said she thinks she has overcome the injury.

"I started playing again this season and it was still bothering

me a lot," Strickland said. "I could only do one practice a day during two-a-days.

That was really frustrating. It's feeling really good right now and I think it is almost to full strength."

A&M Volleyball Team coach Laurie Corbelli said she thinks Strickland took her injury in stride.

"It's too bad that it has been such a long-term injury," Corbelli said. "She has managed it well. I think being an athlete is a lot about injury management and mentally not letting it distract you. I think she has made great strides in learning how to manage it. It doesn't appear that she is letting it bother her anymore and I'm real proud of that."

Because of her ankle injury,

Strickland saw limited action for the past two years. She is starting more this season and she said she likes her new role.

"It's been pretty good," Strickland said. "I think I'm playing OK. I like starting more than sitting on the bench, that's for sure. I like my role a lot. I'm having fun out there, which is probably the most important thing."

With her starting more, she has improved and set new career highs. She bettered her career high for digs twice this season, the first time against Georgia Tech with 14 and the second time against Southwest Texas State with 16.

SEE STRICKLAND ON PAGE 11.

Taking the **GRE** in November? **2** reasons YOU should take The Princeton Review now

- 1 We're smarter**
Our students have higher average score improvements than students who took other courses.
- 2 There are few guarantees...**
...in life. We are one of them. If you are not happy with your score, we will work with you again for free.

Classes start this weekend!
Call today!

THE PRINCETON REVIEW
409.696.9099
www.review.com

The Princeton Review is not associated with Princeton University or IES.

FACULTY, STAFF, & STUDENT LEADERS!



E.A.C.T. (First-time Aggie Contact Team) is a program where faculty, staff, & student leaders contact new Aggies to welcome them to the University and ask about their experiences at A&M. E.A.C.T. will be conducted Mondays through Thursdays, September 28 - October 15 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM.

Please volunteer your time and energy to help our new Aggies feel at home. You should be able to find a sign-up brochure in your department. If not, feel free to call Yvonne Pena at 845-5826. The sign-up deadline is September 21. Thank you in advance for your time and commitment.

Aggie Orientation Leader Program

STUDENT LIFE Department of Student Life Student Life Orientation

STOP BY OUR BOOTH FOR A FREE T-SHIRT



AND THE CAREER OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME.

CAREER FAIR
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
9 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
REED ARENA

Trilogy is building the next great software company. Our goal is to become a \$1 billion company before 2001. As a result of our growth objectives, the business opportunities for you are boundless. Depending on your interests, you can lead a business unit, pioneer a vertical industry, spin off a subsidiary, or launch a product line. At Trilogy, your options are unlimited.

Send Resumes to:
vanessa.santamaria@trilogy.com
stacy.wellborn@trilogy.com

TRILOGY

6034 W. Courtyard Dr.
Austin, TX 78730
t 512.425.3400
f 512.794.8900

www.trilogy.com
Trilogy is an equal opportunity employer.