

the Battalion

Countdown to Signing Day

Aggies pleased with recruits as decision deadline approaches

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

The countdown is on. With only eight days left until National Signing Day, Texas A&M football coach R.C. Slocum and his staff have been hard at work on the recruiting trail. Armed with a Big 12 Championship and an appearance in the Nokia Sugar Bowl, the Aggies are looking to attract a top-notch recruiting class to College Station. So far in the recruiting season, A&M has not been disappointed, receiving oral commitments from 23 players. Oral commitments are non-binding and can be switched at any time. The first day an athlete can sign a letter of intent is Feb. 3. Along with their current commitments, the Aggies are currently in the running for many highly regarded recruits from out of state who are still deciding where they want to attend college. Two of the Aggie recruits are currently enrolled at A&M for the spring semester and will count against last year's scholarship total. Jesse Hunnicutt signed with A&M last year, but because of a mistake by the NCAA Clearinghouse, was declared academically ineligible. The

NCAA realized their mistake during the 1998 football season and Hunnicutt was allowed to enroll for the spring semester. John Kirk graduated from high school a semester early and enrolled for the spring semester. Both Hunnicutt and Kirk will be eligible to participate in spring practice. NCAA rules allow Division 1-A schools a total of 85 scholarships for football in a year. A school is allowed to give a maximum of 25 scholarships in one year. Since two of A&M's recruits count against last year's totals, the Aggies, in essence, could sign 27 players to letters of intent. The Aggies received a pleasant surprise when quarterback Mark Farris decided to come to A&M after spending four years playing minor league baseball in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization. Farris originally signed with the Aggies in 1994 but decided to play for the Pirates after they selected him in the first round of the major league baseball draft. Farris will try to follow in the footsteps of former minor-league baseball players turned major-college quarterbacks Akili Smith from the University of Oregon and Chris Weinke from Florida State University. The Pirates are paying for Farris' tuition, and he will not count against this year's scholarship limit.

Browsing the Webb

Truth proves stranger than fiction

Basketball is fake — it's wrestling that is real. But only Mick Foley's doctor knows for sure. On a World Wrestling Federation pay-per-view Sunday night, Foley, wrestling as Mankind, unsuccessfully defended his WWF title belt against Rocky "The Rock" Maivia. In an "I Quit" match, a no-rules bout ending only when one of the participants pleads he can't go on, Mankind took a beating only comparable to Texas A&M men's basketball forward Dhanne Jones in 1998 All-Big 12 voting. After being handcuffed in the ring, Mankind stood up to the brunt of 10 headshots from The Rock's metal folding chair before collapsing in surrender. His bloody head and face was a testament to wrestling's all too-real brutal violence.



JEFF WEBB

A&M frontcourt basketball players Jones, Aaron Jack, Jason Boeker and Joe White, who threw the full-court pass on the final play that won the Aggies' thrilling last-second affair in Waco against Baylor, attended Sunday's World Championship Wrestling house show. Jones, the leading returning scorer in the Big 12 Conference with a 18.0 points per game average, was clad in his red and black "nWo" Wolfpak shirt, and Boeker sported his Brett Hart T-shirt, running up near the ring with his camera when the "Hitman" made his entrance for the main event. Basketball and wrestling incest. It happens everywhere. Karl Malone joins forces with "Diamond" Dallas Page. Dennis Rodman double-teamed with "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan. ("Rodzilla" was a better entertainer as a basketball player than an athlete as a wrestler.) But wrestling is harder than basketball. No one puts you into a jackhammer while you're on the free-throw line.

You don't have to worry about a flying-elbow drop off the scorer's table when you bring the ball up court. When a guard diamond-cuts his way through the lane, no one waits to send him reeling with a "Stone-Cold Stunner." However in basketball, as in wrestling, if the referee doesn't see it, it's not a foul. There are more torn biceps, sprained ankles and blown-out ACLs in a year of WCW Monday Nitro than a season of basketball. It takes real athletes to survive in wrestling, but maybe it takes real winners to play in basketball, a place where the winners are not predetermined. But perhaps the most interesting difference between the two is in basketball, you don't have the option of saying "I Quit" to end a match. Bravo, Aggies.

Jeff Webb is a senior journalism major.

Aggie Recruiting '99

Pos	Name	Ht	Wt	Speed	Hometown
QB	Colby Freeman	6-3	205	4.47	Brownwood, TX
RB	Maurice Harris	5-10	180	4.37	Aldine, TX
RB	Reggie Duncan	5-9	210	4.43	Killeen, TX
RB	Oschlor Fleming	5-10	195	4.45	Denton, TX
RB	Ellison Collins	6-3	190	4.42	Huntsville, TX
TE	Fred Spiller	6-5	245	4.75	Aldine, TX
TE	Tashumbrae' Brown	6-5	240	4.76	Dallas, TX
WR	Richard Whitaker	5-9	195	4.45	Jacksonville, TX
OL	Alan Reuber	6-7	275	4.95	Plano, TX
OL	Britt Lively	6-5	290	5.0	Silsbee, TX
OL	John Kirk	6-5	290	5.2	Athens, TX
OL	James Milkavich	6-3	265	5.0	Alief, TX
DE	Shannon Mitchell	6-4	240	4.5	Navasota, TX
LB	Damien West	6-2	235	4.7	Sugar Land, TX
LB	Jared Morris	6-4	245	4.7	Brownwood, TX
LB	Toron Wooldridge	6-0	230	4.35	Houston, TX
LB	Jesse Hunnicutt	6-3	225	4.6	Canyon, TX
DB	Sam Davis	6-0	180	4.37	Humble, TX
CB	Sean Weston	5-10	170	4.4	Gardena, CA
CB	Reggie Waddell	5-11	175	4.4	Dodge City CC, KS
S	Jason Frederick	6-0	205	4.4	Houston, TX
S	Everett Smith	6-2	200	4.6	Compton, CA
S	Terrance Kiel	6-0	200	4.45	Lufkin, TX

all oral commitments are non binding

HAZING PENALTIES

- ★ **FAILURE TO REPORT HAZING**
Fine up to \$2,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail
 - ★ **HAZING: NO SERIOUS BODILY INJURY**
Fine up to \$2,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail
 - ★ **HAZING: SERIOUS BODILY INJURY**
Fine up to \$4,000 and/or up to 1 year in jail
 - ★ **HAZING RESULTING IN DEATH**
Fine up to \$10,000 and 6 months - 2 yrs. in jail
- Except where hazing results in death, the student may be required to perform community service in lieu of confinement in jail.
- ★ **THE STUDENT MAY ALSO BE SUBJECT TO UNIVERSITY DISCIPLINARY ACTION IN ADDITION TO OR REGARDLESS OF ANY PENALTY IMPOSED BY THE STATE. University sanctions range up to and including removal from the University.**

Next Week ... "Questions?"

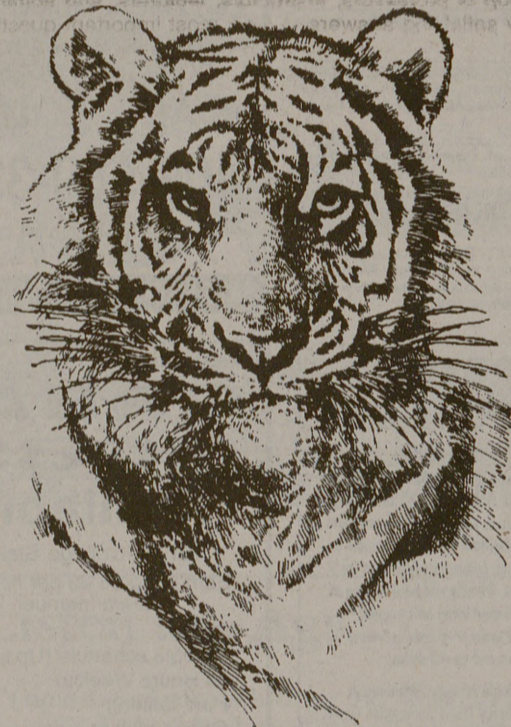
To report hazing, contact one of the following offices:

- The Department of Student Life - Student Conflict Resolution Services:
Call 847-7272 to report any incidents of hazing.
- The Office of the Commandant:
Call 458-1341 to report hazing involving members of the Corps of Cadets.
- The Department of Student Activities:
Call 845-1133 to report hazing involving members of a recognized student organization.
- University Police Department:
Call 845-2345 to report any incidents of hazing.

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- 2/17 - On-Campus Interviews