

## Aggies land Bryan native

BY JEFF SCHMIDT  
The Battalion

Bryan High School senior Ty Warren sealed the deal on another strong Texas A&M recruiting class when the highly rated defensive lineman committed to play football for the Aggies.

Warren announced his intentions at a press conference Tuesday in Bryan High Athletics Director Marty Criswell's office.

"I think it's a good place for me," Warren said. "I fit in, I like the coaches and all the players. This is my town. This is where I fit in."

Warren, a 6-foot-5-inch, 280-pound defensive end, had 119 tackles and nine sacks last season for the Vikings and was recognized as one of the most highly sought-after prospects in the country.

Warren brought three hats to the press conference, symbolizing the three schools he was considering: A&M, the University of Tennessee and the University of Southern California. Warren then put on the A&M hat and said, "I'm going to be here at A&M."

Warren said playing close to home was a major factor in his decision.

"I'd rather come out of the tunnel with all my friends yelling for me than with other families yelling for their kids," Warren said. "I'd

feel like an outsider."

Warren said he told A&M coaches this past weekend during his official visit that he was coming to A&M and said the coaches expect him to play right away at the rush-end position.

Warren said the pressure he felt to attend his home-town school initially made him want to leave Bryan-College Station.

"My intent was to go out of town," he said. "I just felt like I needed to get away."

Warren said eventually the pressure of going to A&M started to make sense.

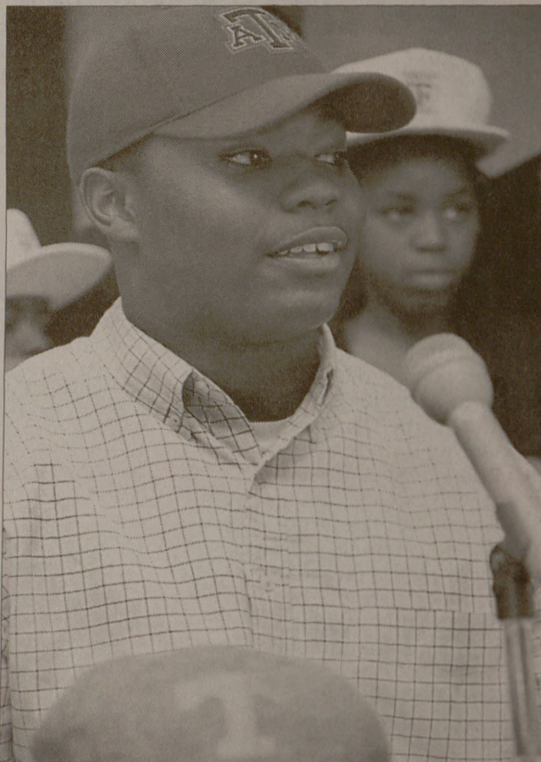
"I sat back and thought about it and prayed about it," he said. "God put me where I'm supposed to be."

Despite reportedly committing to USC earlier in the recruiting season, Warren said Tennessee was his second choice because he liked Knoxville's big, college-town atmosphere.

"They were pretty equal," Warren said. "But I felt more comfortable with A&M because I have my support right here in Bryan-College Station."

Warren said he developed a close relationship with USC coach Shawn Slocum, son of A&M coach R. C. Slocum, but he felt moving to California would have been too big a step.

"I just felt it was a little too fast for me going from Bryan to Los Angeles," he said.



Defensive end Ty Warren committed Tuesday to A&M. Warren chose A&M over USC and Tennessee.

## First female pole-vaulter makes A&M track history

BY BEN WESTBROOK  
The Battalion

Last week at the Red Raider Invitational in Lubbock, freshman Erica Boren set the Texas A&M women's pole-vaulting record while taking home the gold in her first-ever collegiate track meet.

Actually, Boren set the only school record for women's pole-vaulting as the first female pole-vaulter in A&M history.

Although she may never be compared to such women as Susan B. Anthony or Joan of Arc, Boren is in her own small way bringing men and women closer to equality at A&M.

Boren said the role of trailblazer is nothing new to her.

"It takes me back to my high school years at Oregon," she said. "Me and one of my teammates were pioneers there, too."

Boren, from Philomath, Ore., said she began pole-vaulting because of her physique.

"Everyone called me 'muscles' because of my upper-body strength, which is important in pole-vaulting," she said.

Boren was named Athlete of the Year at Philomath High School, which she said was a surprise to her because school officials "usually give it to people who letter in two sports."

She also qualified for the state championship meet all four years of her high-school career, taking home first place in 1997, her junior year.

Despite spraining her ankle her senior season, Boren still managed to place third in the state meet.

A&M Assistant Coach Ed Marcinkiewicz, who scouted Boren at her senior state meet, said he was impressed by the pole-vaulter's resolve in the face of injury.

"You see someone compete like that and feel they have a chance at success," Marcinkiewicz said.

When Boren was at high school, her track coach said she would never be able to vault because she is left-eye. But Boren, who had an accident when she was months old, said her doubts did not discourage her.

"I was encouraged by pole-vaulting coach [Boren's father] who had first-hand track experience."

"I'm very thankful for my coaches ... I wouldn't be able to do any of this without them."



— ERICA BOREN  
A&M POLE-VAULTER

speed, a hard task more difficult for some than for others. Boren has not been a problem child.

"It really hasn't made a difference," she said. "I'm thankful that I can see the world through another eye and can do things that I can do."

For Boren, the glass is half full. She does not mind being known by her friends and family as "Erica the Pole Vaulter."

Once while eating at a restaurant, she decided to have a little fun. She ordered a drink and waited for the waiter to bring it.

"I thought the waiter was funny, but he had a heart attack," she said.

Like other pioneers, Boren is quick to acknowledge the help she has received along the way.

"I'm very thankful to my coaches both in high school and college, because I wouldn't be able to do any of this without them," Boren said.

The Texas A&M Track & Field Team is glad, too.

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## K-STATE

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conference, is frustrating, but adds that she feels her team is close to a breakthrough.

"Our goal is to win, everybody's saying, 'well, you're playing people close,'" Gillom said. "But playing people close still goes in the L-column, and we're not satisfied with that, we want to

win. My staff and I are on them [the players], we're trying to tell them it's going to just keep going and good is going to happen."

That "something good" have to happen without the leading scorer, forward Sharpe, who averages 18.1 and 9.8 rebounds and is day-to-day after spraining in the final minute of the State game.

## McGwire meets Pope

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Mark McGwire got his summit meeting with the pope after all.

McGwire, who was raised in the Catholic church, met briefly with Pope John Paul II Tuesday night before a youth rally at the Kiel Center. The two shook hands just before the rally began.

"When he learned the pope would be here he was hoping it was going to work," St. Louis Cardinals team spokesperson Brian Bartow said.

"It was on-again, off-again, then it came together rather quickly."

During his address, the pope referred to McGwire, who set a major-league record with 70 home runs last season.

"I'm told there was a lot of excitement in St. Louis during the cent baseball season," he said. "Well, two great players were competing to break the run record."

"You can feel the same excitement as you train for different goals of bringing his message to the world."

The home run king was for a St. Louis Cardinals function and a dinner for him as the city's Baseball Year Sunday and McGwire had planned on departing home in Southern California before the pope arrived Tuesday afternoon.

Instead, McGwire left private jet of one of the Cardinals' owners soon after the meeting.

## Rangers sign pitcher Morgan

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Pitcher Mike Morgan has agreed to terms with the Texas Rangers on a 1999 minor-league contract with Oklahoma, the Texas team said Tuesday as the right-hander became the 100th of 133 free agents signed.

Terms were not disclosed.

The Rangers also invited Morgan to the team's major-league spring training camp as a nonroster player.

Morgan, 39, was traded to the Chicago Cubs from Minnesota on Aug. 25 and went 0-1, with a 7.15 ERA in five starts the rest of the year.

The Cubs won four of those 18 games and 17 starts with Minnesota Twins in 1998, worked at least six innings in those starts and left the game or tied 13 times.

One of four players in league history to play with different teams in his career, made his league debut with Oakland Athletics in 1978.

Morgan's stint with the Cubs was marred in 1997 when manager Ray Knight ordered him out of the clubhouse for sexual harassment.

Olsen said he could no longer play for the