

The Battalion

## A&M travels to Shreveport

### Sixth-ranked Aggie Football faces off with Louisiana Tech

BY BETH MILLER  
The Battalion

Warning: Contents under pressure. May explode upon opening. The sixth-ranked Texas A&M Football Team, after being bottled up in the confines of an off-season full of hot and humid two-a-days, will surge across the Sabine River into Shreveport, La. for its debut performance against the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs.

A&M coach R.C. Slocum said he feels confident heading into the 1999 season and into the Aggies' first game with the current roster. "I'm anxious to see the offense," Slocum said. "I think this offense has more capabilities than we've ever had."

Slocum said he has been impressed with what he has seen in practice as far as the kicking game goes, and he is anxious to watch the offense with starting quarter-

back Randy McCown and fullbacks D'Andre "Tiki" Hardeman and Jar-Mar Toombs. He also said he is confident about the Aggies' wide receivers this year.

However, Slocum said the team has a disadvantage in playing Louisiana Tech this weekend since the A&M opponent already has a game under its belt, and since it will be a home game for the Bulldogs.

In last year's game, the Aggies shut down star quarterback Tim Rattay, the nation's top returning quarterback who has broken Louisiana Tech career and single-game records and who leads in touchdown passes and total offense.

Rattay threw 239 yards against the Aggies, which was 320 yards below his average in Tech's first two games against the University of Nebraska and the University of Central Florida. A&M also rushed 210 yards against the Bulldogs,



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Senior cornerback **Jason Webster** blocks a field goal last year against Texas Tech University.

while holding them to 84.

Junior linebacker Cornelius Anthony, in looking toward the rest of the season, said this weekend's game may not be one of the team's major battles, but it impacts the Aggies' record as much as all the other games, so he considers it of

the same importance.

"A lot can be done with your first game," Anthony said. "You can gain momentum, and as one of [our] goals of winning the Big 12, [we] have to take every game on

SEE FOOTBALL ON PAGE 11.

## Kitchens offers Ags dose of consistency

BY AL LAZARUS  
The Battalion

As Terence Kitchens prepared for the Texas A&M Football Team's 1998 spring drills, the red-shirt freshman place-kicker couldn't help but feel confident about his situation.

After spending the 1997 season as backup to senior Kyle Bryant, the position would be open in the fall and was seemingly Kitchens' for the taking.

Then one day, shortly before the Aggies were set to begin spring practices, an innocent little "pop" in his right hip sent Kitchens back to square one.

While maxing out on squats,

he pulled his right hip flexor, an injury that left the right-footed Kitchens unable to kick for four months.

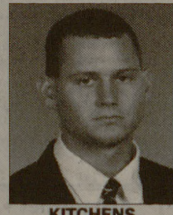
By the time July rolled around, with practice only a month away, Kitchens was finally able to start kicking again. But as he would soon learn, the long road back was just beginning.

"It was like learning all over again," Kitchens, now a junior, said. "My leg just wasn't fully ready."

He was forced to take a back seat once again in 1998, this time to sophomore Russell Bynum. It was not an easy pill for Kitchens to swallow.

"It was hard at first to sit back and be the No. 2 guy," he said. "And at the time, I thought that was my one chance, so that also added to the heartache of last

SEE KITCHENS ON PAGE 11.



KITCHENS

## Aggie soccer team visits SMU Mustangs

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Women's Soccer Team will play its first road game of the season in Dallas tonight at 7:30 against Southern Methodist University. Both the Lady Aggies and Lady Mustangs are 2-0 this season.

A&M coach G. Guerrieri said he thinks this game will be very challenging for the Aggies.

"I'm expecting this to be the hardest game of the season, so far," Guerrieri said.

A&M comes into tonight's game with two shutout victories under its belt. The Aggies beat Oklahoma State

University 4-0 Friday and added a 5-0 victory over the University of Oklahoma Sunday.

SMU also comes into tonight's match after enjoying a victorious weekend. The Lady Mustangs defeated the University of North Texas, 3-0, and the University of Houston, 3-0, last weekend in their first two games of the season.

Guerrieri said the Aggies might see some similarities between SMU and Oklahoma, but is worried the Lady Mustangs will be better prepared for the game.

"I'm really concerned that they have a lot of speed," he said. "They'll play a similar system to what we just

saw this weekend against Oklahoma, but the personnel is probably much better."

Sophomore midfielder Cameron Chom, who was named to Soccer America's Team of the Week after earning three assists against Oklahoma, tying the A&M record, said while tonight's game will be difficult, she is confident that her team will be successful.

"We have a really strong team, a strong bench," Chom said. "I think we can go out there and beat them and play hard."

Guerrieri said the Aggies have been

SEE SOCCER ON PAGE 11.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF Volleyball begins season in Michigan

The Texas A&M Volleyball Team kicks off its regular season today at the L&L/Michigan State Volleyball Classic in East Lansing, Michigan.

The Aggies take on Clemson University and Michigan State University in their first round matches.

The Tigers return all six starters from last season's team that finished 22-11 and advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

The Aggies will also battle Eastern Kentucky University and Cleveland State University in their second-round matches Saturday.



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Junior forward **Nicky Thrasher** dribbles the ball past a defender last weekend against Oklahoma State.

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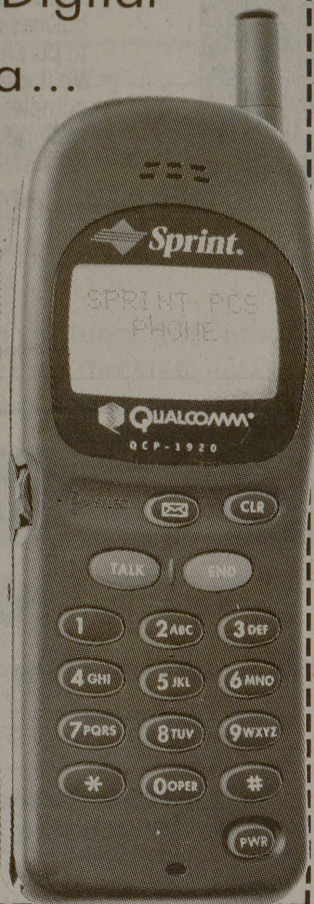
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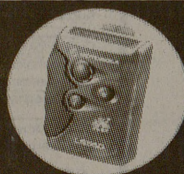
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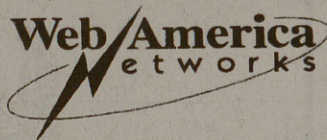
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