

JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Senior running back **Eric Bernard** rushed for 81 yards on 15 carries in Saturday's game at Kyle Field against Baylor University.

RB Bernard battles through two setbacks

BY DOUG SHILLING
The Battalion

When senior running backs Dante Hall and D'Andre 'Tiki' Hardeman went down with injuries this season, fans were quick to question who would step up and take their place.

Would sophomore fullback Mar Toombs become the Aggies' number one rushing option? Would freshman running back Weber get the chance to showcase the talent that brought him to College Station all the way from California?

All the while, the most viable option to step up and take the

reins sat back from the spotlight, anxious to make good on his second chance to be the Aggies' feature back.

Senior running back Eric Bernard, an almost forgotten member of the Aggies backfield, has filled in nicely for the injured Hall and Hardeman.

Bernard is grateful for the chance, but he is just happy to still be in football after knee injuries nearly ended his A&M career.

Bernard had everything going for him after his sophomore season at A&M. He was one of four Aggie running backs to rush for over 500 yards that season, he ran

SEE BERNARD ON PAGE 10.

No 'I' in this Jameson

Selfless A&M safety quick to credit others for success

BY BETH MILLER
The Battalion

He returned an interception for a touchdown and blocked a punt against Baylor last weekend. He broke up three passes and posted seven tackles in 1998 against Louisiana Tech, which was his first time to start in a college game. In high school, he earned all-state honors and was named MVP his senior year.

But Michael Jameson does not like to take credit for any of it.

The Texas A&M junior safety attributes his success to his teammates and coincidental circumstances. He said sometimes he is just in the right place at the right time.

"I don't go out there and do things by myself — we are all in this together," Jameson said. "Sometimes I may be put in the right positions to make big plays, but I know other times other people make plays, get sacks, tackles for a loss and stuff like that, too."

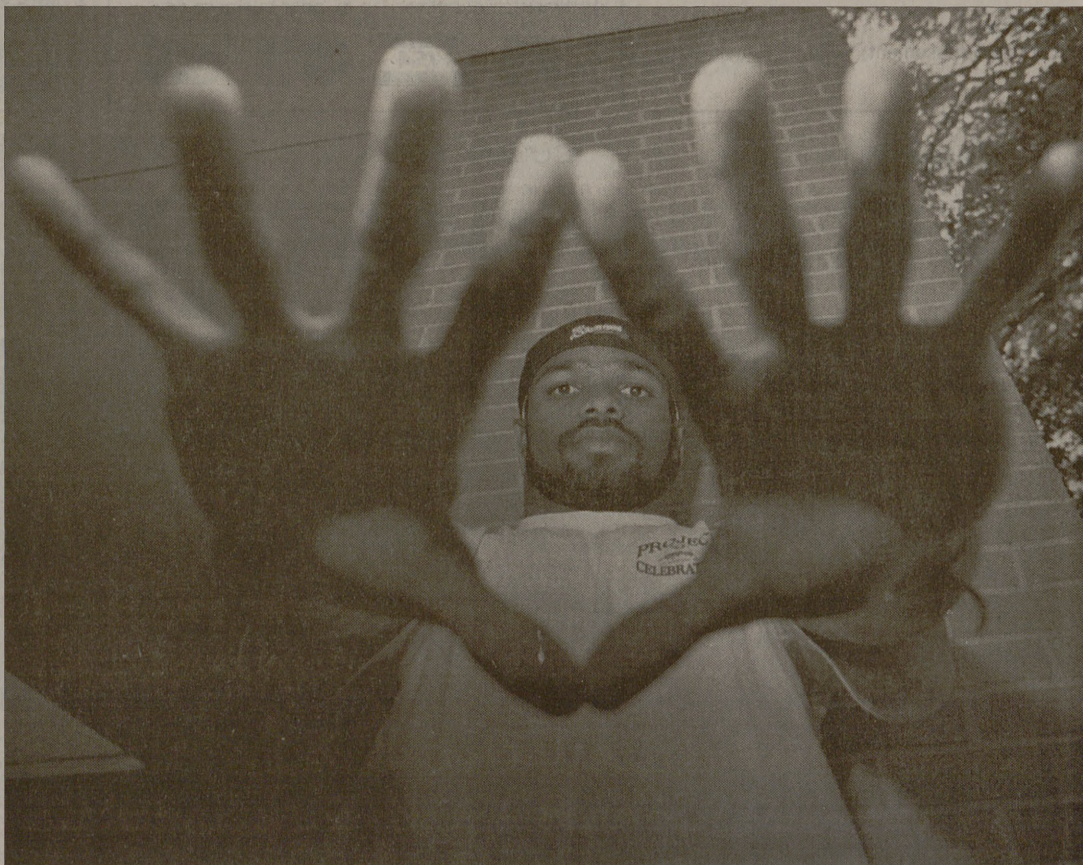
Even when he lettered in track and field in high school, Jameson managed to turn it into a team sport — he ran relays.

"Track relays are like football because you are out there together," he said. "You don't want to let the other three [runners] down, so you practice and improve yourself so you don't let them down."

Jameson has certainly not let his teammates down this season. In addition to his touchdown against Baylor, Jameson scored on a 26-yard interception return two weeks earlier against Southern Mississippi. He is also fifth on the team with 28 tackles and has forced a pair of fumbles.

A&M defensive backs coach Ron Milus said that although Jameson is modest in his accomplishments, he is admirable for picking up where departed star Rich Coady and other defensive greats left off.

"He has become a very good football player," Milus said. "In the summer, going into this year, we told him, 'Mike, we need to have you



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Junior safety **Michael Jameson** has three interceptions this season, two of which he returned for touchdowns. **Jameson** has posted 28 tackles in the Aggies' five games.

gain some weight' because he was going to be the new piece to the puzzle back in the secondary. And I know he went into the whole thing thinking that he didn't want to be the weak link because we had Rich Coady back there for so long."

Milus said Jameson is opportunistic on the football field and looks for chances to make interceptions and other big plays, like his blocked punt against Baylor.

His friend and teammate, sophomore cornerback Jay Brooks, said Jameson puts his heart and soul into everything he does — on and off the field.

"He displays emotion in football and other things — he puts everything in the basket,"

Brooks said. "I remember one time he was learning logic, and he was finally understanding it; he was so excited."

He said Jameson's shining moment in his college career was probably when he started against Louisiana Tech in 1998.

"When he started against Louisiana Tech, it was the expression on his face," he said. "His first college start — for his family to see him on the field, it was very exciting for him."

Jameson converted that excitement into seven tackles and three broken-up passes against the Bulldogs. He finished the season

SEE JAMESON ON PAGE 12.

Olive Garden

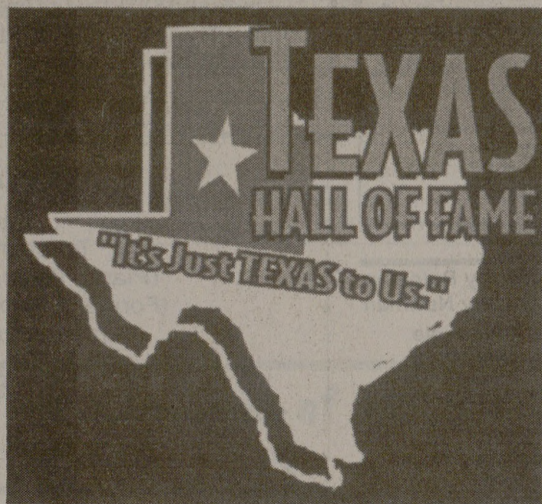
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