

Football recruits prepare for August

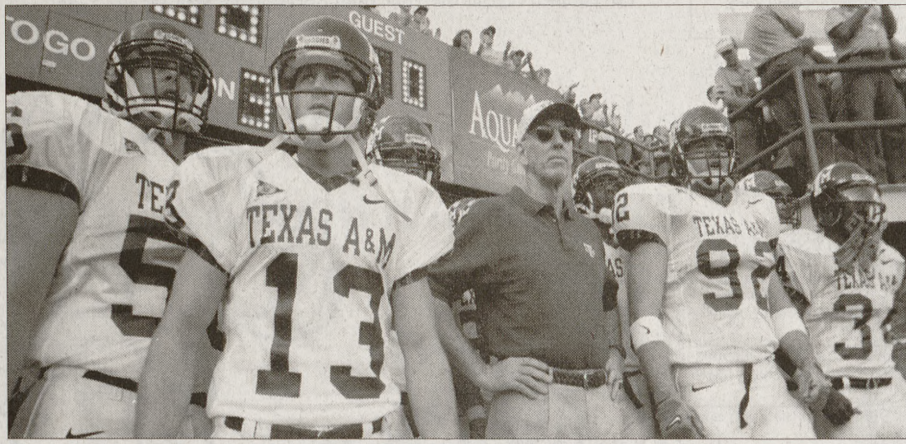
MIKE MORAN
The Battalion

Every August thousands of freshmen arrive at Texas A&M fearing the adjustment to college life. For 22 new Aggies, August will bring hard-hitting run-ins with upperclassmen twice a day. These freshmen will be forced to run miles in 100-degree heat and challenged to perform better than ever before. These 22 are the newest recruits of the A&M football team.

Tim Cassidy, associate athletic director for football operations at A&M, said there are many adjustments incoming freshmen must make when coming into a collegiate athletic program.

He said they will have to adjust "to a social standpoint, academic standpoint, freedoms of being away from home, and from being the best athlete at a school or in a district to competing against the best of the best."

Football coach R.C. Slocum said it is ideal to recruit a few guys at each position every year, but injuries and other factors make that tough. He



Recruits are set to join A&M coach R. C. Slocum and the team for the upcoming season.

said the defensive backfield needs immediate help from the incoming class.

"I'm not sure which of these guys is going to show up ready to play, but we got [six] of them," Slocum said. "We took a number of guys based on

man-cover skills."

Jonte Buhl is a high school All-American out of Pflugerville, Texas, and he is expected to line up at cornerback. Dawon Gentry, defensive back for the Aggies, was an All-American running back

at Denison High in Denison. Fellow defensive back Keelan Jackson was a two-time All-District safety from Garland High.

Slocum said Adam Black, of Houston, is a solid guy who could have played anywhere in the country, but committed early to A&M.

Two other defensive back additions are graduates of La Marque High. Kevin Magnum earned All-District honors last year, while Mike Pinesette spent the last two years playing at Blinn College.

Cassidy said the receiver position needs help and junior-college transfer Robert Ferguson may be able to step right in.

Slocum said A&M was interested in Ferguson out of high school, but he was unable to meet academic requirements.

"Robert was outstanding out of high school but didn't meet the qualifications. He went to Tyler Junior College and can now fulfill his dream of playing at Texas A&M University," Slocum said.

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Website sells A&M playbooks

MARK PASSWATERS
The Battalion

Sportsplaybooks.com, a Website started by three Austin high school coaches — ostensibly for other high school coaches and players — has been selling the playbooks of several major football programs, including Texas A&M, the University of Texas, Auburn University and the University of Arkansas. For \$9.95, anyone could purchase a copy of the teams' playbooks.

Athletic officials in College Station, Austin, Auburn and Fayetteville attempted to downplay the impact of the website.

"It's not something that we'd want out there, but we weren't getting into a panic," said Tim Cassidy, A&M's associate athletic director for football operations, noting that the site came to A&M's attention last month after it was advertised in *USA Today*.

Athletic officials have no idea how the playbooks came into the hands of Sportsplaybooks.com and have no suspects. The site was shut down — at least temporarily — after lawyers representing A&M threatened a lawsuit, claiming the playbooks were the property of the University. However, the message on the company's Website states that "We will try and resolve any issues so we can be up and running again sometime this summer."

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L.A. fan riot no surprise



SHAUN FITZPATRICK

The official handbook to sports rioting describes the following three rules:

1. Anything made of wood or metal is an

appropriate weapon for the destruction of probable targets, such as windows.

2. It is necessary to ignite massive bonfires so that people can not only see the destruction of windows, but also engage in acts of senseless looting, while running around like the children in *The Lord of the Flies*.

3. The riot must commence at the

end of a hard-fought victory, thereby disgracing both the city the riot is in and the team they were apparently rooting or looting for.

Monday night after the Los Angeles Lakers defeated the Indiana Pacers, 116-111, to secure yet another NBA championship, the city of Los Angeles turned once again into a war zone. The results of the night's victory melee included two torched police vehicles, several vandalized businesses, 12 people with minor injuries, at least a dozen arrests and many broken windows.

A few days prior to the scene in Los Angeles, violence broke out in Brussels, Belgium, as Turkish soccer

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King defends against Baylor University Feb. 2, 2000 in Reed Arena.

King joins Big 12 best

MATTHEW L. THIGPEN
The Battalion

Texas A&M sophomore Bernard King was named to the Big 12 Conference's 12-member basketball team which will compete in Europe.

The 2000 Big 12 Freshman of the Year, King will join players from each of the 12 schools in the conference.

King started all 28 games his freshman year and was the only freshman to average more than 15 points (16.9), four rebounds (4.8) and four assists (4.1) per game. Additionally, King enters the 2000-01 season as the league's top scorer.

King is a two-time Big 12 Rookie of the Week and a member of the

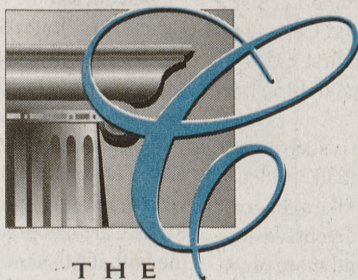
league's All-Freshmen team. King broke conference records for freshmen in scoring average, total points (474), three-pointers per game (2.82) and points in a game (34).

When asked if he is excited about traveling overseas, King replied, "I've never been out of the United States before. I just want to go there and beat them."

A&M basketball coach Melvin Watkins praised King's performance last season.

"King is a very talented young man," Watkins said. "I think that to be competitive in the Big 12 you must get players of his caliber."

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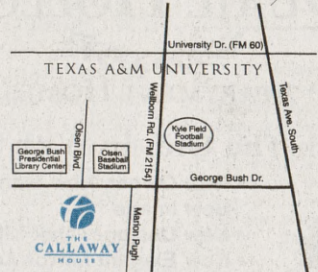
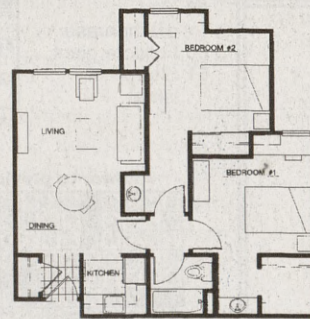


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