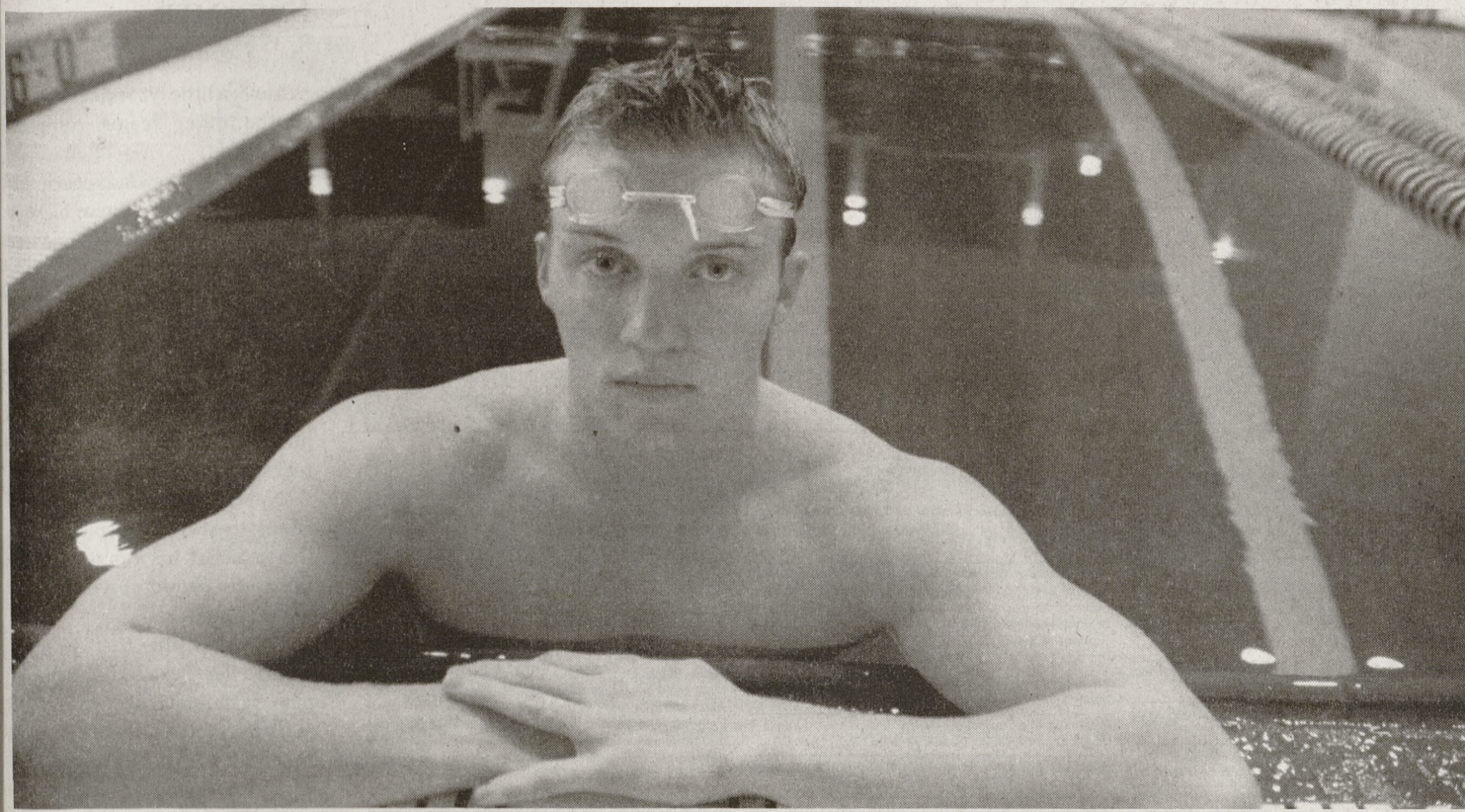


## Silent challenge

### Aggie swimmer to compete in 2001 Deaf World Games



Chris Nelan, sophomore kinesiology major and A&M swimmer, will compete in the Deaf World Games (DWG) in Rome in the summer of 2001.

**MIKE MORAN**  
*The Battalion*

If anyone ever told Chris Nelan there was something he could not do, he did not hear it. This is not only because Nelan is driven to succeed — he is deaf. The Texas A&M sophomore is a member of the A&M swim team and has recently been chosen to represent the United States in next summer's Deaf World Games (DWG) held in Rome.

At the June 23-25 DWG trials in Indianapolis, Ind., Nelan placed first in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle, 200-meter freestyle, 400-meter freestyle and the 100-meter butterfly. En route to winning five gold

medals, he set the American record in the 50-meter freestyle for swimmers in the S15 disability category. Competitors qualify for S15 if they have less than 50 percent hearing in their most prominent hearing ear.

Nelan said that, because of his strong performance at the trials, U.S. team coach Bob Laughna will probably be counting on him to carry the team. Nelan said he will compete in the five events he qualified for in the trials and also may fill in holes on the U.S. relay teams.

"America has always won at the DWG, and next summer the team is going to look to me to be the guarantee," Nelan said. "But I'm not going to put too much

pressure on myself."

Nelan said he feels he still has room to improve since he has only been swimming year-round for the last three years.

"The coaches here have helped a lot," Nelan said. "I've improved 10-fold since I got here. This is one of the fastest pools in the nation, and when you train with fast guys, you get fast."

Nelan said this is his first trip to Europe, and he is planning on making the most of it.

"We only swim the first six days, and the games last for about a week and a half, so I should get to

See SWIMMER on Page 4.

## Women's tennis signs No. 1 doubles player

**CHRISTINA OHAERI**  
*The Battalion*

Texas A&M tennis signee Majorie Terburgh finished her career at Tyler Junior College (TJC) with two team national championships and individual rankings of No. 1 in doubles and No. 3 in singles.

Terburgh originally planned to attend the University of Kentucky, but things did not go according to plan. She laughs as she reflects on the path that led her to Texas A&M.

"I was supposed to go to Kentucky, but my SAT was too low, so I went to TJC," Terburgh said. "I am so glad I did, though, because if I went to Kentucky, I would not have had the chance to come to A&M."

Originally from Bloemfontein, a small farming community in South Africa, Terburgh found A&M to be a comfortable atmosphere.

"I'm just a country girl," Terburgh said. "When I took a visit to the University of Houston, I didn't like it because the city was so big. I feel more relaxed and at home at Texas A&M."

Terburgh felt at home not only in College Station, but also with the team.

"Majorie is really into being a part of the team. She is going to fit in just fine," said junior Aggie teammate Leah Killen. "She has had great results in her junior college career and will be a great asset to the team."

Terburgh is currently finishing up her associate's degree at TJC and is training hard in preparation for her arrival at A&M.

"She was outside in 95-degree weather running sprints," said former Texas A&M women's tennis coach

and current athletic director at TJC Tim Drain. "She wants to contribute from minute one."

After her arrival in Texas, Terburgh has been interested in A&M. She likes everything the University stands for, so when she was introduced to Drain, a bond was quickly formed. Although Drain said the school sold itself, he did call A&M

**"Majorie is really into being a part of the team. She is going to fit in just fine."**

— Leah Killen  
junior tennis player

women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke to inform him about the South African sensation. After a February recruiting trip, the deal was sealed. Kleinecke believes Terburgh will bring experience and a winning attitude to the team.

"Majorie's got a very aggressive game. She is fast on the court and works very hard in her running and weight training," Kleinecke said. "I look forward to her playing in the top part of the lineup."

Terburgh has set high goals for herself as well. Individually she wants to play at the No. 1 spot, and she would like for the team to be ranked in the top 20.

Terburgh will major in kinesiology at A&M. She will remain in the United States and will not return to South

## Groff, Potter select first Aggie equestrian head coach

**REECE FLOOD**  
*The Battalion*

The Texas A&M equestrian team ended its first season as a varsity sport

with a fifth-place finish at nationals, and two riders captured three individual national championships — all without the guidance of a head coach.

Even with this success, Texas A&M Athletic Director Wally Groff and Dr. Gary Potter, professor of animal science and leader of the Equine Sciences Program, decided it was time for someone to take the reins and selected Tana Buckner for the position.

Buckner said she is excited about being A&M's first equestrian head coach and she looks forward to breaking new ground with her team.

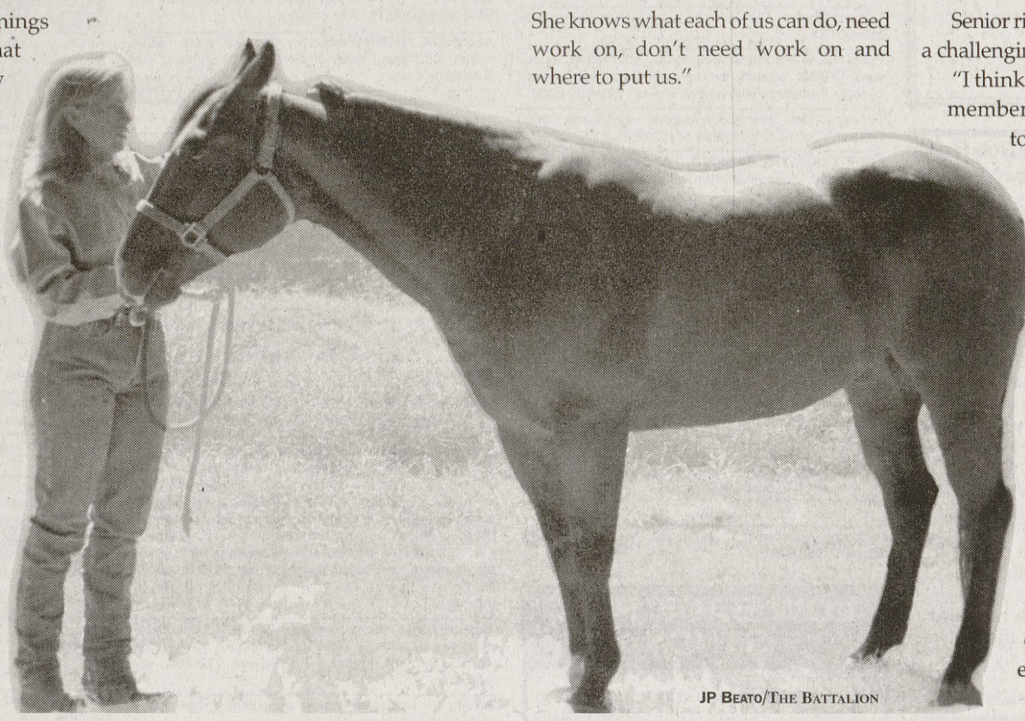
"There's no set rules or anything set in stone," Buckner said, "so we're

getting to do all the beginnings of it. It's kind of scary in that you don't know exactly what direction it's heading, but it's also a lot of fun and exciting, and I'm looking forward to the directions that it is going to go."

Buckner is stepping into a position she already knows. She served as the western discipline coach for the Aggie equestrian team last year while completing the requirements for a master's degree in agriculture.

Senior rider Danielle Aeck thinks Buckner's familiarity with the program will make it stronger.

"She knows what she's doing," Aeck said. "She knows how to help us all and our little quirks.



Tana Buckner will serve as head coach for the Texas A&M Equestrian team. Until now the team has lacked a head coach.

She knows what each of us can do, need work on, don't need work on and where to put us."

Senior rider Tiffany Pate is expecting a challenging season under Buckner.

"I think now that she knows all the members ... it's going to be a lot tougher this year," Pate said.

"I think she is going to expect more from us and want more from us."

Before coming to A&M, Buckner coached the English and western disciplines at Colorado State University while earning her undergraduate degree in equine science. She thinks her previous coaching experience helped her gain her new position.

"I have an awesome opportunity here," Buckner said. "I was lucky enough to be where I was and get a foot in the door and get this opportunity be-

cause they're hard to get."

Since last year was the equestrian team's first year as a varsity sport, A&M's Athletic Department chose not to assign a head coach then. It went instead with graduate assistants Buckner and Meghan Nolan. Nolan will be joined by another graduate assistant to replace Buckner.

Despite its lack of a coach last year, the equestrian team found success and proved it was one of the top programs in the nation. Buckner said taking over a program on the rise may bring additional pressure.

"There is always going to be that pressure," Buckner said. "You always want to be the best, but then next year you've got to try to equal it or do better, and I totally believe we can do better."

Buckner said having the opportunity to do what she loves for a living is a dream come true.

"To get coaching in, to get teaching in and to still be able to ride these horses — it's the full package — plus I get paid for it," she said.

## Netum Steed training facility tones athletes, offers students health care

**MIKE MORAN**  
*The Battalion*

Inside the Netum A. Steed Physiology Research and Conditioning Laboratory, one will find athletes from all sports working out using specialized equipment. The mission of the 23,736-square-foot facility located near the southwest corner of Kyle Field is to enhance the athletic performance of the Texas A&M student athletes.

The lab, constructed in 1984, contains one of the largest weight rooms in the country. Mike Clark, assistant athletic director and strength and conditioning coach, said there is no better place in the country to train collegiate athletes.

"Not counting offices and bathrooms, this facility has 18,000 square feet to train athletes," Clark said. "It has a tremendous surface and enough space to do some dynamic movement exercises. Because it is so wide open, we are able to do things most people can't."

Clark has been able to utilize the facility's space through the development of a modular station which combines a rack, bench and platform. He said he got the idea of a modular station while visiting a workout facility in a small Romanian town in 1984.

He said when he came to A&M in 1990 there was not an immediate need for the development of the modular stations. After about a year and a half, more athletes be-

gan utilizing the facility, and coaches started asking him to design workout programs for their sports. Clark teamed with Wynmor, a division of York Barbells, to develop what was originally called the "Aggie Power Station" but is now known as the Wynmor Modular Station.

"We are able to do 90 percent of our lifting at the modular stations," Clark said. "During a workout, we could potentially have 60 athletes doing the same movement and 120 training at the same time."

Clark said another change during his tenure at A&M is an increase in the number of athletes using the facility during the summer. He said that the first summer session he was here, about 40 football players stayed to work out. The number increased to 55 for the second session. He said the number slightly rose the next year as other athletes noticed the improvements in the players who stayed. Clark said now there are only one or two players who do not stay the entire summer to take part in the voluntary workouts.

"Coaches can't require anything from the players in the summer, but the athletes just come in and do it because they know it is better for them," Clark said.

The center also contains the Applied Exercise Science Laboratory. This part of the facility focuses on testing athletic performance and physical fitness. The laborato-



Junior agricultural economics major and football player Stowe Campbell does squats at the Netum Steed Laboratory weight room.

ry has more than \$500,000 in equipment, including research-grade ergometers, two electrographic stress-testing systems and two automated gas-analysis systems for

See NETUM STEED on Page 4.