

News in Brief

Force pilots crash

ANTONIO (AP) — An Air Force military training plane crashed into a field on the south side of San Antonio on Friday afternoon. Crew members were on a training mission when the plane went down. They were rescued by ambulance at Hall USAF Medical Center in San Antonio where they were in good condition.

Leaders lose statement

WORTH (AP) — Eleven members of the Heritage High School board have lost their right to the school's suspension for a no-drinking pledge at an off-campus camp. The board also ordered the school principal to order the teens to return to school in the district's education program.

Cart

editors to use carts during the U.S. Senior Amateur Championship and the U.S. Senior Women's Amateur Championship.

The Senior PGA Tour also permits players to use carts during qualifying rounds and Senior tournaments.

"First, nothing in the rules of golf prohibits the use of a cart," Nowlin wrote. "Second, most players choose to walk when given the opportunity to ride because they feel walking gives them an advantage over walking."

Showdown in South Bend

TEXAS A&M AT NOTRE DAME
• SATURDAY, SEPT. 2 — 12 P.M.
• NOTRE DAME STADIUM
• SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

Aggies, Irish set to open season

By BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

The No. 25 Texas A&M football team opens its regular season this weekend in South Bend, Ind., home of the College Football Hall of Fame and one of the most respected institutions in sports — Notre Dame football.

Notre Dame has always been more than just a team. For years, it was the team, winning national championships and Heisman Trophies left and right.

Arguably the most successful college football program in the 20th century, the Fighting Irish have been embattled in the 21st.

For years a mainstay in the Top 10, Notre Dame has not finished there in six years. In two of the last three seasons, the Irish did not even finish in the Top 25, a phenomenon unheard of until recently. Last year, they finished 5-7 in their first losing campaign since 1986.

Notre Dame's coach, former Texas A&M defensive coordinator Bob Davie, has been blamed for most of the pro-

gram's recent losing trend. He said that his team wants to make a statement in the A&M game.

"Texas A&M has been on our minds since November," Davie said. "As a coaching staff and as a football team, you put so much preparation into the first game and you want to get some rewards because you have so much invested."

The Aggies feel the same way. After finishing last season with an embarrassing loss in the Alamo Bowl, A&M is as anxious as the Irish to get back on the field.

"I've had Notre Dame on my calendar since we lost to Penn State last year in the Alamo Bowl," said senior wide receiver Chris Taylor. "You don't want to think about that all off-season."

Taylor said that the off-season was especially bitter for him and his offensive teammates because of their zero-point performance against Penn State.

"You never want to get shut out," Taylor said. "But last year's over. Small mistakes caused our offense to stall, and

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FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M linebacker Jason Glenn and the Aggie linebackers look to answer any and all questions about the Wrecking Crew defense Saturday against Notre Dame.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M linebacker Roylin Bradley hopes to put untested Notre Dame quarterback Arnaz Battle under pressure early Saturday.

Head coaches' history adds new dimension to Saturday's game

By JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

R.C. Slocum and Bob Davie have a lot of history. For the first time, they meet on opposite sides of the field, calling the shots in a game both need to win.

It would be easy to turn Saturday's Texas A&M vs. Notre Dame football game into a battle for

bragging rights. Three coaches used to work at A&M, 20 players are from Texas, and, now, all of them wear blue and gold.

But Saturday's game is about much more than rights or record. It is about getting a start on a season that both Davie and Slocum hope is more successful than 1999's.

Both teams had a sub-par season in 1999 at a school that has a history of winning. Both coaches subsequently faced some criticism. Both teams failed to make the pre-season Associated Press Top 25 poll, where they have been mainstays in recent history. But it is a new season and now they have a fresh start ... against each other.

Slocum's Aggies need a win to build momentum for a run at Big 12 South foes Oklahoma and Texas. Davie's Irish need a win to be able to survive arguably the toughest opening-season schedule in the country against Texas A&M, Nebraska, Purdue and Michigan State.

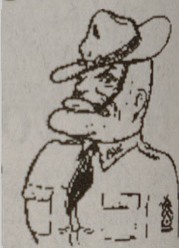
But Slocum and Davie's per-

sonal history draws as much attention because of the dimension it adds to this year's opening game.

"I think this year, playing Texas A&M is probably even bigger, not just because of how we finished last year, but we have so

See **COACHES** on Page 9.

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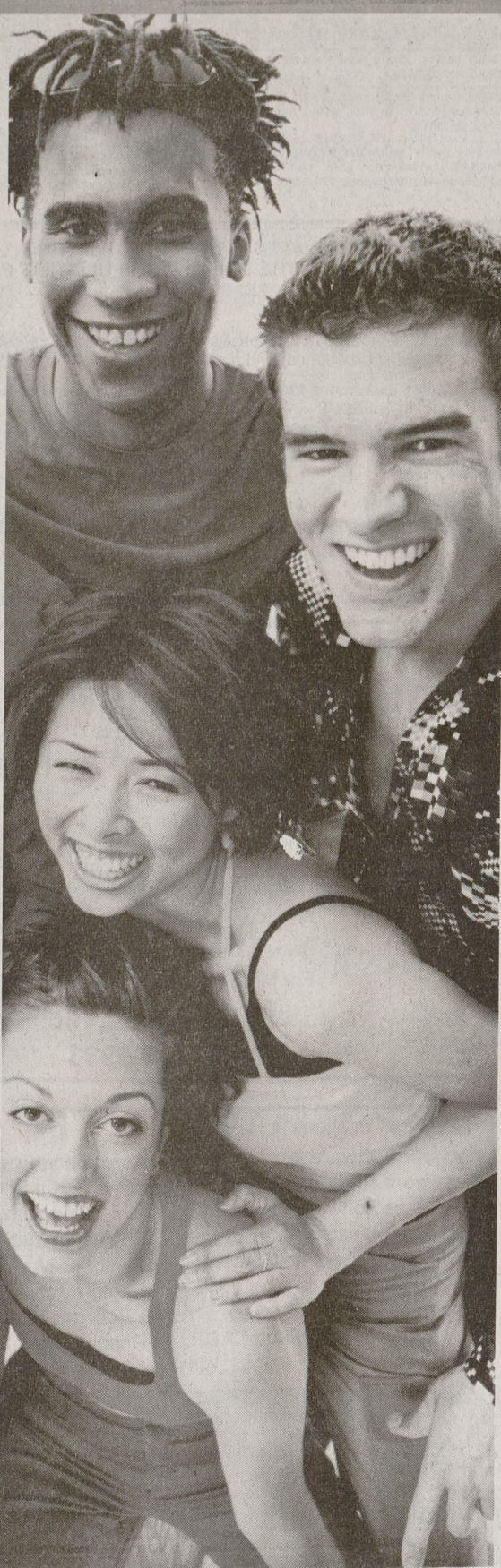
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