

ESPN's 'Gameday' headed to College Station

By BLAINE DIONNE

The Battalion

For the first time since the show's inception in 1993, ESPN "Gameday" will broadcast live from Kyle Field on Saturday from 10-11 a.m. for the 23rd-ranked Texas A&M football team's matchup with the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners.

A&M has been featured on the show only once before, in 1995, when it set up shop at the Aggies' game against the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Steve Vecchione, the coordinating producer of "Gameday" who scouted College Station for the show, said the cable network has been wanting to come to Kyle Field for quite some time.

"We've visited A&M twice before," Vecchione said. "A couple of years ago, we looked at the Nebraska/A&M game, but we ended up having to go elsewhere that week-end. We even looked in '96, but that never worked out."

Vecchione said Kyle Field presents a unique location for the crew that will be advantageous to the University.

"It's a beautiful stadium with a lot of tradition," Vecchione said. "The way we will set up should make the 'Home of the 12th Man' stand out."

Host Chris Fowler, along with analysts Lee Corso and Kirk Herbstreit, will be located between the Netum Steed Laboratory and the side wall of the west stands, with their backs facing the student section of Kyle Field.

The stage will sit eight feet off the ground in an effort to have the "Welcome to Aggieland" and "Home of the 12th Man" signs displayed prominently just over the anchors' heads.

The "Gameday" crew will arrive in College Station on Friday afternoon and tape a short segment to run the rest of that night on "Sportscenter." The segment will be taped at the stage between 4 and 5 p.m.

Penny King, senior associate athletic director for busi-

ness, said normal A&M gameday protocol will be changed due to the show's presence.

King said all people with a ticket will be permitted into the stadium beginning at 9 a.m.

The Corps of Cadets is scheduled to march in twice on Saturday, the first to coincide with the show's opening shot, an aerial image of the stadium with the Aggie Band on the field and the Corps on the track.

King said the Athletic Department is hoping for a record-breaking turnout of students in the morning.

"Kansas State had 15,000 people for the start of the show," King said. "We are encouraging everyone to come early. We want the student sections totally packed because there will be cameras everywhere recording the crowd."

In an effort to entice people to show up early, head yell leader Ricky Wood said he is setting up an impromptu yell practice that will continue throughout the show.

"Midnight Yell is still on Friday," Wood said. "But starting at about 9:45 Saturday morning, we're going to start doing yells for the show. We really want the stands packed to show the country what A&M is about."

Not to be outdone by other schools, A&M is opening the temporary bleachers in the south end zone for the first 2,000 ticket holders who bring in signs to get their chance to be on television. After the show, all signs will be collected in keeping with normal Kyle Field regulations and the sign holders will be moved to their assigned seats.

In other developments, in addition to the normal Maroon-Out at all football games, fans are being called to conduct a Towel-Out of Oklahoma by bringing their 12th Man towels to the game.

Calling the game for ABC Sports will be Brent Musberger on play-by-play and Gary Danielson handling color commentary. Jack Arute will report from the sidelines for the network.

Injury, illness take toll on Aggie basketball

By JASON LINCOLN

The Battalion

Texas A&M basketball coach Melvin Watkins had plenty of concerns already this year — new players, young veterans and a grueling schedule, to name a few.

With an exhibition game against Australia's Team Ezybonds at 7 p.m. in Reed Arena to open the season, Watkins is forced to add another worry to his list — injuries.

At least three Aggies who started part of the '99-'00 season will miss tonight's game with the Aussies as they recover from injuries ranging from simple tendonitis to major surgery.

Tomas Ressa, Aaron Jack and Andy Slocum will not play tonight against Team Ezybonds. Four other Aggies, suffering from less serious injuries, may or may not play.

"I've been here 18 years and I've never seen this many injuries this early in the year," said A&M trainer Mike Rieke.

Ressa has suffered the most, from his development of a staph infection and appendicitis in October. The illness landed him in the hospital for 12 days and in the ICU for five.

While fighting the infection, the lanky forward, who had bulked up to 230 pounds during the off season, lost 24 pounds. Ressa is out of the hospital but is still on intravenous antibiotics and will be out of action at least until the first part of December.

"Tomas was a sick, sick guy for a while," Kummer said. "But his spirits are back. Now he just has to get back to himself (physically)."

Jack, A&M's lone senior starter and one of just three upper classmen on the roster, suffered a concussion early in A&M's practice schedule. The injury still causes him headaches and he will have to wait at least one week after the headaches stop to play.

It is his first concussion in more than three years, and his first since joining the Aggie squad. However,

the 6-8 forward was plagued by a series of concussion at Penn State earlier in his college career that eventually prompted his transfer to A&M.

Slocum, the team's starting center in 1999 as a true freshman, is suffering from tendonitis in his right shoulder.

Among the other players injured are the team's leading point scorers and starting guards Jamaal Gilchrist and Bernard King. King averaged 16.9 points on his way to Big 12 Newcomer of the Year honors while Gilchrist provided 9.4 points per game from the point guard position.

Gilchrist is listed as doubtful with a groin strain and King is questionable with a groin strain and a strained back.

The A&M coaching staff has not yet decided who will play at point guard if Gilchrist cannot play.

Forward Brian Brookhart and guard Dylan Lead round out A&M's red cross list, but both are probable for the game.

A&M can take some solace in the fact that tonight's game will not count toward its record, but the injuries will hamper the learning experience provided by exhibition contests.

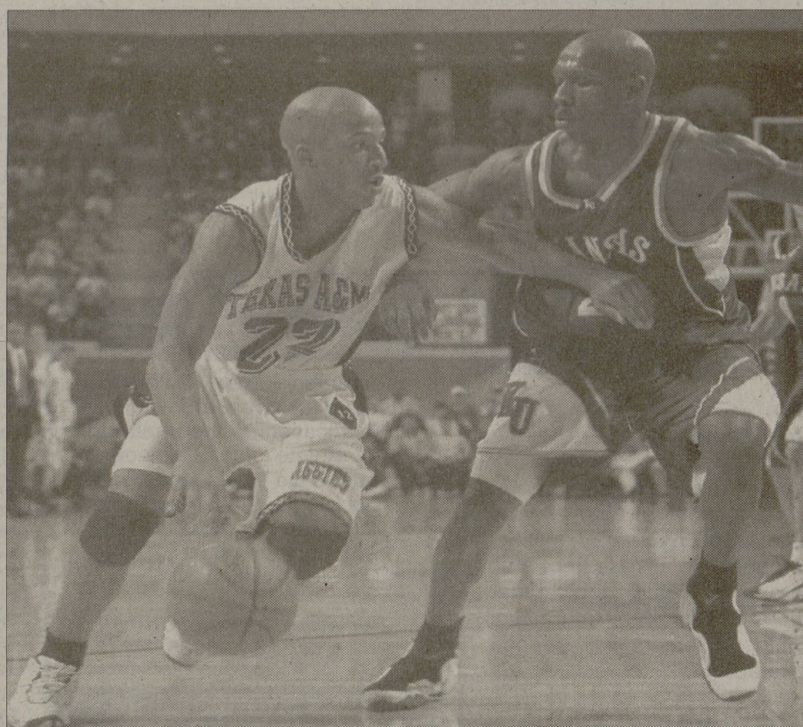
"We're looking forward to our first exhibition," Watkins said. "We wanted to look at a bunch of different combinations, but because of the injuries we may not get as much out of this as we'd like."

Ezybonds was 0-3 on its American tour going into Monday night's game at Sam Houston State.

The Aussies are led by 6-8 forward Scott Mitchell, averaging 17.3 points, and 6-5 guard Damien Anderson, averaging 13.7 points.

The Aggies will debut three heralded newcomers who were part of a Top 25 recruiting class.

Due to the injuries, rookies Nick Anderson and Nolan Butterfras, along with sophomore transfer Keith Bean, will likely log a number of minutes.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION
Andy Leatherman and his Aggie teammates will try to pick up the slack in the absence of many starters for their exhibition opener tonight at 7.

Aggie Ring Delivery

ON NOVEMBER 10TH, 2000 THE ASSOCIATION HAS PLANNED A PARTY IN YOUR HONOR!

HERE'S WHAT YOU DO TO JOIN IN THE CELEBRATION:

- Come pick up a numbered ticket anytime after 8:00 a.m.
- Return to the building around 2:00 p.m. to enjoy the festivities we'll have food, drinks, and games set up for your enjoyment.
- Then at 3:00 p.m. we will start delivering rings!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!
WE'LL SEE YOU ON NOV. 10TH
AT THE CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. ALUMNI CENTER!

SPONSORED BY

The Association
OF FORMER STUDENTS

We are The Aggie Network!

GOLD'S GYM®

SICK OF THE REC CENTER YET?

JOIN GOLD'S GYM NOW FOR ONLY

\$7.00 + tax

Offer ends Monday, Nov. 13th

OVER 45,000 sq. ft. of PURE FITNESS!

Group Fitness Classes • Ladies Only Area • Spinning Classes
Free Child Care • Free Personal Training • Tons Of Free Weights
Fitness Center • Strength Equipment • Kardio Kickboxing
Pro Shop • Plus More!

COLLEGE STATION 764-8000 • BRYAN 822-8000
• VISIT US ON THE WEB - WWW.GOLDSGYM.COM •

GOLD'S GYM®
BRYAN • COLLEGE STATION

JOIN NOW FOR ONLY

\$7.00 + tax

HURRY! OFFER ENDS MON., NOV 13th