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**Tuesday** 

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29th St.

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**OMSTOCK** 

intinued from Page 1A

mstock was trapped for hours beneath the fallen . Logs lay across his 12 feet for vis, his right bicep and over r putt was tru; face. The only internal outt for the vian damage he experienced a split liver from the fall, his right wrist and left le were crushed. His right was twisted up at an angle ar his head. n the fairway On hands and knees near

disarrayed pile of logs, lergency crews could see beautiful bump. e I was in a gutter," he . When he was finally ed from the stack and ryk chipped of shed to College Station eet on No. 13. Weld something the stack and control of the stack and any chipped of the stack and the s uld sense enough emerncy room staff hovering ound him to know his contion was serious. ad with a two-

Furyk's put They told me, 'We're ing to shoot you up,' and I id 'OK, if I don't make it, my family I love them, aid. "A whole month and a left his stall turned into a second. I ke up before New Year's. Comstock vaguely recalls ple who visited him in the dical Center in the days fore he fully regained conar putt, and F-10usness. But for most of month-and-a-half he was up on the 625, a coma, he recalls nothing a "crazy morphine dream

Surgeons amputated omstock's left leg above the nee and removed dying tishe day, when he from his legs and buted 2 inches ancks. He underwent more rgeries than can be counted, e said, telling of a surgery hat lasted days, with a break the stage wk a vernight when staff wrapped in plastic while the sur-

The log that had been on Comstock's is caused nerve damage left him with no feeling ow his waist. The nerves owly began to regrow and he nnow feel everything above ankle, he said.

After regaining conscious-, Comstock remained in intensive care unit at the dical Center for 40 days ore being transferred to

Hospital in Dallas, near his hometown of Richardson.

Therapists at Zale devoted Comstock to rehabilitation.

He was finally released in April 2000, but Comstock's time at home was yet another ground for recovery. He continued outpatient therapy five days a week, learning how to maneuver in a wheelchair and how to pull together the strength to walk, a few steps at a time, with the assistance of a walker and prosthetic leg. His therapy dropped to

He wears out, but he's not down. A lot of people would have been very bitter, but his attitude throughout all this is that he's go to do what he's got to do.

> - Dixie Comstock John's mother

three times a week, then two, before being bumped back up to three. Once right-handed, he had to learn to write with his left hand, the hand that was free during the seven hours he was under the fallen

His hopes of coming back to A&M in Spring 2001 were delayed when therapists decided he needed more time at the advanced Dallas facility. Instead, Comstock attended Richland Community College near home and gathered 24 credit hours toward his degree at A&M.

Comstock's mother, Dixie, said her son never gave up.

"He wears out, but he's not down," she said. "A lot of people would have been very bitter, but his attitude throughout all this is that he's got to do what he's got to do."

Comstock simply says it is a waste of energy for him to be angered by what has happened.

I have to spend my energy

Lipshy University towards rehabilitation and getting back to where I was, not in being upset about an accident," he said. "Besides, I'm going to light [Bonfire] 2002. It won't be the same, but it'll be something ... one of those things to help people

get over the collapse Coming back to school for the fall and "getting away from me again," his mother said laughing, is the greatest step Comstock has taken in his recovery. Her son is learning how to walk again, how to write again and how to drive again, and he is "absolutely elated," she said.

"I know he loves it down there," she said, explaining that her biggest worries for him were when he got back behind the wheel this year. "I know he has a million numbers he can call, and a million people who would come whenever he needs them.'

Today, Comstock attends physical therapy three times a week at A.P. Beutel Health Center and can only walk in short bursts of energy. He tires easily. But his sense of humor shines when he talks about being back on campus, especially in a wheelchair.

"The hardest thing is getting around in this chair," he said. "You have to take these flight patterns to get to class. It can be bad, especially to get there and realize that now I have to go all the way around again to get in.'

"But I just want to get better, finish my education," he added, "and get out into the world."

Now a junior, Comstock bears the scars of something the Aggie family always will mourn. But like the energetic freshman he once was, Comstock has something emblazoned on him to show his pride in his school and everything he's through.

A few days before he moved back to College Station, Comstock got a tattoo: over his shoulder blade, if he will show you, is a 4-inch tall, 3-inch wide Bonfire, with the words "The 13th Man" written underneath.

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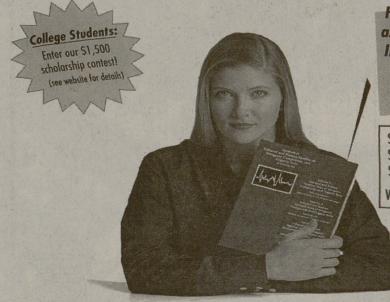
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