

# Sports

Wednesday, August 29, 2001

THE BATTALION

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## Aggs await opener



**AGGIE FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK**

### Tough place to begin

When McNeese State comes into Kyle Field on Saturday, the odds will be against them.

Under Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum's lead, the Aggies are a perfect 5-0 in season openers at Kyle Field and are a perfect 26-0 against non-conference opponents since 1989 when Slocum took the reins.

To further dash McNeese's hopes, the Aggies have lost only seven games at home in the 12 seasons under Slocum.

### The man to count on

Fifth-year senior Jay Brooks has made a name for himself as a big-play guy, by blocking four punts last season, all of which were turned into Aggie touchdowns.

Brooks has scored three touchdowns in his career, and each came by a differ-

ent way. The Killeen Ellison High School grad has returned a fumble for a touchdown, scored on an interception return and jumped on a blocked punt to put points on the board.

Brooks' fumble return came against No. 2 ranked team Florida State in 1998, when linebacker Christian Rodriguez sacked Chris Weinke and allowed Brooks to scoop up the fumble in the Kickoff Classic.

### Warren steps up

Junior noseguard Ty Warren posted 38 tackles during his sophomore season and posted a tackle for loss in nine of the 11 games last season to make the 300-pounder a strong candidate to receive All-American honors after this season.

Warren also tied for the team lead in sacks in 2000 with five. Warren posted career bests in tackles at seven tackles against Texas and Texas Tech last season as well.

The Aggies will take on McNeese State Saturday at Kyle Field. Kickoff is set for 6 p.m.

*Brian Ruff is a junior sports management major.*



Texas A&M senior Jay Brooks blocks a punt by Oklahoma's Jeff Ferguson during a game last season. Brooks blocked four punts in 2000 and all four led to Aggie touchdowns. The Aggies will square off against McNeese State on Saturday.

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Equestrian team holds tryouts

The Texas A&M equestrian team is holding open tryouts for the approximately 80-member squad. Any A&M student interested can attend an informational meeting at 5:30 p.m. in room 115 of the Kleberg Food and

Animal Science Building. No experience is necessary, and those interested should bring a pen and a calendar.

The equestrian team competes in classifications ranging from beginner to open in both English and western disciplines.

Last season, the Aggies' English team captured the Zone

7 Championship.

#### A-rod homers as Rangers beat Twins

(AP) — Alex Rodriguez hit his 40th home run, becoming the second shortstop in major league history to reach the mark in four straight seasons, and the

Texas Rangers beat the Minnesota Twins 10-1 Tuesday night.

Rafael Palmeiro, Randy Velarde and Frank Catalanotto also connected for the Rangers, who lead the majors in home runs with 199. Texas has hit 28 homers in its last 14 games.

The loss, coupled with

Cleveland's 8-3 victory over Boston, dropped the Twins 5 1/2 games behind the Indians in the AL Central. Minnesota is 14-31 since the All-Star break.

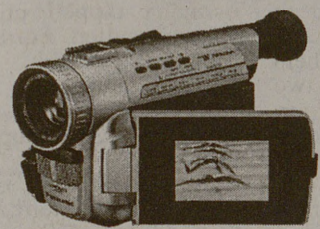
Rodriguez joined Ernie Banks (1957-60) as the only shortstops with four straight 40-homer seasons.

Rodriguez and Palmeiro each

had two-run homers in helping Texas take a 5-0 lead after three innings against Rick Reed (2-3).

Velarde added a solo shot in the sixth and Catalanotto hit a three-run homer in the seventh.

Darren Oliver (11-8), who had lost four straight starts to the Twins, allowed three hits and one run in seven innings.



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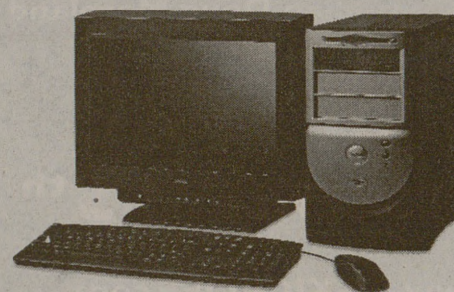
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