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- |  |  |
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| Wed., December 5<br>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.   | Thurs., December 6<br>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. |
| Thurs., January 10<br>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Mon., January 14<br>9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.   |

- Make sure you have the correct prerequisite (English 104 or equivalent).
- Come to **Blocker 224** during the force dates and times listed above.
- Bring a letter on departmental stationery from your academic advisor stating that you are graduating in the semester for which you are registering.

No forces will be done during pre-registration or after January 14.

You must come in during these dates to get a seat.

If you can't make these dates, send a representative with your letter and a list of preferred times.

Forcing Information Line: 862-7724

Web site: www-english.tamu.edu/wprograms/forcing.html

**Sports**

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THE BATTALION

Wednesday, November 23, 2001

**Bonds' record ball goes to trial**

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The baseball Barry Bonds swatted for his record 73rd home run is headed to trial.

A judge ruled Tuesday it is unclear who should keep the million-dollar memento — the man who first gloved it, or the man who took it home after a tussle among fans.

Superior Court Judge David Garcia ruled the ball should remain locked up until a trial answers whether it belongs to Alex Popov, who snatched it and says he was robbed in the ensuing struggle, or Patrick Hayashi, who says he found it loose amid the skirmish.

The custody dispute is believed to be the nation's first trial over fan ownership of a ball hit into the stands at a major league stadium.

Popov sued Hayashi days after the San Francisco Giants slugger hit the home run Oct. 7 at Pacific Bell Park. The ball could be worth more than \$1 million, according to the man who brokered the \$3 million sale of Mark McGwire's then-record 70th home run ball in 1998.

But that value will dip if, next spring, someone begins to launch home runs at a pace pro-

jected to surpass Bonds' single-season record.

To protect against potential loss of value, the judge ordered Popov to post a \$100,000 bond within three days. Garcia also agreed to Popov's request that lawyers from both sides go to verify that the ball sitting in a safe deposit box is indeed No. 73 and not a fake.

Outside court, Popov called the results "a victory for the fans."

He said he'd prefer to settle the issue over a beer, but failing that, must press forward.

"The mob mugged me," Popov said. "I want my ball back."

Hayashi shied away from court, but in a written statement said he was compelled to defend his reputation.

Hayashi suggested the ball be put on public display during the legal fight, "so that other fans can appreciate such a historic piece of baseball memorabilia."

Though the facts of the case were not discussed in court Tuesday, both sides made their case outside to a scrum of reporters.

Popov never closed his glove around the ball, said

**AGGIES**

Continued from Page 7

week in the Aggies' recruiting class. Wright is ranked as the fourth-best high school player overall, and the No. 1 shooting guard, in the class of 2002 by ESPN.com and is a consensus top 30-rated prospect. The Sporting News ranks Wright as the No. 6 small forward in the country.

"We feel very good about our recruiting class," Watkins said. "We've met our needs and are excited about having both of these young men for four years."

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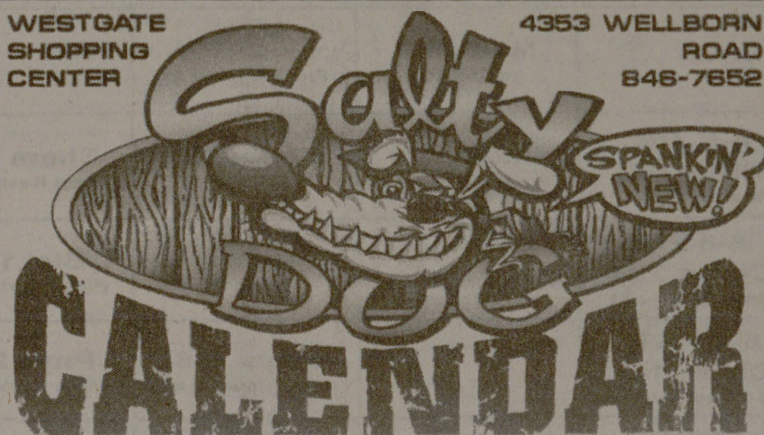
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**FARRIS**

Continued from Page 7

7:18 remaining in the game, Farris is intercepted for the second time, this time by OU's Torrance Marshall. Marshall returns the interception 41 yards for the game-winning touchdown.

Nov. 24, 2000 at Texas: On the Aggies' first offensive play of the game, Farris is intercepted by UT's Greg Brown. Brown takes the interception 10 yards for a touchdown, giving the Longhorns an early lead. Then, trailing by three in the second quarter, Farris fumbles on the UT 10-yard to kill a 73-yard drive. Farris finishes 25-of-43 for 290 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions during A&M's 43-17 loss.

Dec. 31, 2000 against Mississippi State: An otherwise stellar performance by Farris is marred by another late interception, this time at the A&M four-yard line with 2:56 left in regulation. The subsequent touchdown by MSU ties the game and A&M loses in overtime.

Oct. 13, 2001 at Colorado: The eventual Big 12 North champions escape with a win after Joey Johnson returns a Farris fumble 52 yards for the game-clinching touchdown late in the fourth quarter. The fumble spoils remarkable performance by Farris, who finished 30-of-49 passing for 334 yards and three touchdowns. Farris never seems to recover from the turnover and his stats drop significantly.

Nov. 10, 2001 at Oklahoma: One week after being blanked by Texas Tech, Farris finishes the game against the No. 3 Sooners 10-of-20 passing for 59 yards, the lowest output of his career. For the second straight week, A&M does not score an

offensive touchdown.

Nov. 23, 2001 at Texas: The Aggies finish their regular season with three wins for the first time since 1996 after losing 21-7 to the No. 1 Longhorns. Farris completed 16-of-37 passes for 123 yards. In the fourth quarter, Farris 6-of-13 with one interception.

In all honesty, it was a fumble in Colorado that began this season that marked the beginning of this season's slide for Farris. Leading to and including the Colorado game, Farris completed 133-of-218 passes (61 percent) for an average of 239.3 yards per game.

In the five games since the setback in Boulder, Farris completed 70-of-129 (54.3 percent) for 131.6 yards per game.

These stats come on the heels of being touted as one of the Big 12's premier passers the outset of the season. Farris finished the season on the list with Texas's Chris Simms and Texas Tech's Kingsbury.

By comparison, in his games against ranked opponents this season, Kingsbury completed 66.7 percent of his passes, averaging 311.8 yards per game.

It is those games against ranked teams — OU, Colorado and Nebraska — that separate the championship-caliber teams from the mediocres from the also-rans.

Unfortunately for the Aggies, Farris has yet to find himself in big-game situations. And just like last season, without a gamer directing the A&M offense the Aggies finished 2001 as just a mediocre team.

True Brown is a sports journalist.

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