

THE BATTALION

# Aggies don pads in practice



True Brown

The Texas A&M football team practiced in full pads for the first time in spring drills for about two hours on the grass practice fields. For the second straight practice, junior linebacker Jarrod Penright was limited to doing light conditioning.

Football head coach R.C. Slocum said the players were ready to get back in to full pads.

"This was a good practice," Slocum said. "The kids were excited to get out here. We had a beautiful day, and we had a good afternoon."

Slocum said the Aggies would use the second half of Friday's practice to scrimmage.

and he ran inside pretty good."

**Tight end targets**

**Offense on top**  
During 11-on-11 drills A&M's offense looked good, especially in passing situations. Junior quarterback Mark Farris had only one incompletion against the first team defense and went 4-for-4 against the second-team defense.

Freshman receiver Terrence Thomas and sophomore Jamaar Taylor were Farris' favorite targets during the drills.

Freshman running back Derek Farmer also looked solid, breaking three lengthy runs in a row against the second team defense.

Junior tailback Dwain Goynes, who was switched from wide receiver to the offensive backfield at the beginning of spring drills, showed off his speed on a few runs in goal line situations.

"I've been pleased with that move," Slocum said. "He went out there today and had some good full-speed stuff on the inside drill

After spending much of last season without an experienced tight end on the field, tight ends coach Tam Hollingshead five freshmen working out under his direction Thursday: Thomas Carriger, Haven Massey, Joey Perot, David Ross and Donny Stringer.

Carriger, a converted defensive lineman, saw most of the action at tight end for the Aggies after a rash of injuries sent A&M scrambling for a replacement.

Of the tight ends currently on the team, Carriger and Perot are the front-runners for the starting job in the spring but will compete with new recruits Patrick Fleming, Quinlin Germany and Taylor Schuster for the starting job.

"We've got a lot of young guys that are going to have to step up (at tight end)," Slocum said. "That's a big step to get up to this level, but we're counting on those freshmen coming in."

## Bagwell leads Astros over Indians

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. (AP) — Jeff Bagwell's shoulder is still hurting. His swing looks more than healthy, though.

Bagwell, who had surgery on his right shoulder this winter, homered twice Thursday to lead the Houston Astros to a 5-3 win over the Cleveland Indians.

Bagwell hit a solo shot to right field in the sixth inning and then pulled a two-run homer to left in the eighth off Jeff D'Amico (0-2).

"It's getting there," Bagwell said as he reached into his locker left-handed while balancing the

mountain of ice wrapped on his right shoulder. "There's not much I can do but push through it."

That is exactly what he did last year, playing in 161 games for the Astros despite the pain in his shoulder. This spring, he had been playing mostly as the club's designated hitter before returning to first base last week.

Tripp Cromer also homered for the Astros. Reliever T.J. Mathews his first win of the spring and Pete Munro worked one inning for the save.

Houston starter Dave Mlicki allowed two runs and five hits in six innings.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

### Aggies host Big 12 leading Oklahoma

The 17th-ranked Texas A&M baseball team hosts the 18th-ranked Oklahoma Sooners in Big 12 action this weekend at Olsen Field.



ALEXANDER

First pitch on Friday and Saturday is set for 7 p.m., while Sunday's series finale starts at 1 p.m.

A&M (18-9, 5-4 Big 12) is ranked 17th by Collegiate Baseball, 19th by Baseball America and 21st by Baseball Weekly.

The Aggies snapped a four-game losing streak on Tuesday

when they rallied to beat Sam Houston State, 5-2, at Olsen Field. Texas A&M had previously fallen to UT-San Antonio and then lost all three games at No. 11 Nebraska last weekend.

Oklahoma (15-5, 3-0) is ranked 18th by Collegiate Baseball and 22nd by both Baseball America and Baseball Weekly. The Sooners are coming off a tough series with Arizona State in Phoenix.

A&M took two of three games from the Sun Devils as they won the first (6-3) and third (7-5) games of the series while dropping the second game, 6-4.

Oklahoma did not play a mid-week game this past week, and leads the Big 12 standings by percentage points thanks to a three-game sweep of Missouri to open league play.

### Tennis

Continued from page 5

tournament last week, where they beat Rice and with 300 Division I tennis teams. Anyone that's ranked in the thirties is a great team that has a chance at beating any team in the country."

The Aggies also had four individual players ranked nationally: Newport, No. 88 senior Jarin Skube and No. 104 freshman Lester Cook. Freshman Ante Matijevic debuted in the rankings at No. 92.

The duo of Newport and Cook was ranked as the No. 26 doubles team in the first doubles' ranking of the season that was released earlier this week.

"In the past few years, A&M has done an amazing job at finding great players," said Tulsa head coach Vince Westbrook. "They have established themselves as one of the best teams in the country, and A&M is a great environment to play in. We know that in college tennis any team can win on any given day, so we look forward to heading out there and seeing how we can do."

Also playing well for the Aggies are senior Keith From and sophomore Khaled El Dorry. After struggling to begin the season, From has scored four consecutive singles victories, and El Dorry has been the most consistent player on the Aggie team, standing undefeated in dual match competition.

"We've talked a lot this season about finding what role everyone fits in on this team," Cass said. "The leadership role that Ryan, Keith, and Jarin have had to take on this season is very important for the success of this team, and I think Ante and Lester are easily among the top five freshmen in the country. And with Khaled being undefeated so far, he's given a huge lift to this team."

### Tulsa

Continued from page 5

because it gives us a great deal of confidence and momentum going into singles play."

In singles, the Aggies have been led by Roland this season, as well as by senior Olivia Karlikova, a strong player as of late; however, each of the last four wins by the Aggies has been dominated by the team's play on the singles courts.

"Our depth is our strength," Kleinecke said. "When you get the strong play at our top courts, it puts an exclamation on just how deep we are."

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classifieds continued from pg. 6

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