

FALL ACTIVITIES SURVEY

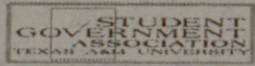
Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote Vote

**GO VOTE ON-LINE
ON APRIL 23rd and
24th!!!!!!**

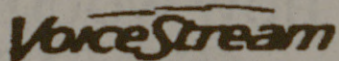
**FALL ACTIVITIES SURVEY
VOTE. TAMU.EDU!!!**

Starting Tuesday April 23rd Go To **VOTE.TAMU.EDU** to cast your ballot on the ideas that you would like to see for this Fall in place of normal Bonfire activities.

Email any questions to Fac@stugov.tamu.edu
Check Out The Ideas At The Following Web Site
FAC.tamu.edu



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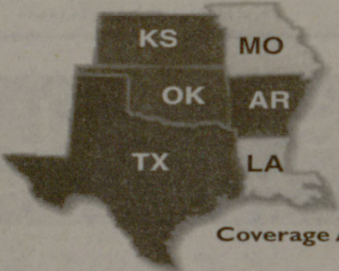


* 500 Anytime, Anywhere Minutes Nationwide Plan for \$39.99/month, unlimited weekends

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- * Pagers
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IT'S A JUNGLE OUT THERE...
YOU NEED A GUIDE TO SURVIVE

Some strategy, tips, and tricks from Industry Professionals

But mostly we will be answering your questions

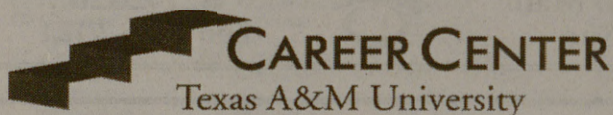
Tuesday, April 23, 2002

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center

505 George Bush Drive

Call 979-845-5139 for details



Chats & Chews

with

Dr. Malon Southerland '65
Vice President for Student Affairs

April 23, 2002
11:00 am - 1:00 pm
MSC Foyer



- Ask Questions
- Voice Concerns
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For more information log on to the Division of Student Affairs <http://howdy.tamu.edu>

Rebuilt Bills ready for resurgence with Bledsoe

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — By getting the quarterback they wanted in a trade with New England, the Buffalo Bills could become next season's version of the Patriots — a team that rises from the bottom of the NFL to the top.

The Bills got Bledsoe on Sunday when they finally worked out a compromise to the impasse that had stalled the deal. Instead of giving up this year's first-round draft pick, No. 4 overall, Buffalo gave up next year's, which with Bledsoe on board figures to be considerably lower.

"Everybody's happy," six-time Pro Bowl guard Ruben Brown said. "In my opinion, which probably ain't even worth a nickel, just by adding Drew Bledsoe to the mix, we didn't have to pick up anyone in the draft. Adding him, that really makes us a formidable team."

The trade came one day after the Bills bolstered their offense by selecting UT offensive tackle Mike Williams with their first round pick, as well as LSU wide receiver Josh Reed in the second round.

Bledsoe, the first overall pick in 1993, lost his job after being hurt in the second game last season. When he was healthy, he could not get his job back from Tom Brady, who led New England from a 5-11 record in 2000 all the way to a Super Bowl championship. The Bills were 3-13 last season but quick turnarounds are the norm these days — the last three teams to win the NFL title were a combined 17-31 the previous seasons.

In his first comments since the trade, Bledsoe said he had come to respect the Bills playing against them twice a year during his career.

"I could not be more enthusiastic about jumping into the next phase of my career, and contributing to the success of the Buffalo Bills," he said in a statement released by the teams.

Bledsoe might be the Bills' most high-profile addition, but he is far from the only one.

Under general manager Tom Donahoe, the Bills have spent the past six weeks bolstering a young but promising lineup with eight free agents — including linebacker London Fletcher and offensive lineman Trey Teague — and 10 draft picks, led by Williams, considered an instant starter.

Not since the mid-to-late-1980s, when the Bills were

Stacking the goods

As in past drafts, the most popular position this year was defensive back. Tight end, a position often ignored in recent years, fared well with 24 selected, the most ever in a seven-round draft.

Position

Center	7
Guard	13
Offensive Tackle	16
Wide Receiver	33
Tight End	24
Quarterback	15
Running Back	26
Kicker	3
Defensive End	23
Defensive Tackle	19
Linebacker	27
Defensive Back	52
Punter	2
Kick Returner	1

School

Five or more players
Miami
Tennessee
Florida
Georgia
Ohio State
Virginia Tech
North Carolina
Notre Dame
Kansas State
Oregon
Stanford
UCLA
Brigham Young
Colorado
LSU
Michigan State
South Carolina

Conference

Twenty or more players
Southeastern
Big Ten
Pacific-10
Big East
Big 12

SOURCE: Associated Press

drafting the likes of Jim Kelly, Bruce Smith and Thurman Thomas as the core of team that won four straight AFC titles, has there been such a sense of hope in western New York.

"I'm really excited about it," receiver Eric Moulds said. "I feel like we're a legit contender. Not just a contender to win a division. But we're looking for bigger things right now."

Moulds' assertion is not as farfetched as it might sound.

Not only have teams come off losing years to reach the Super Bowl. Two other teams, New Orleans in 2000 and Indianapolis in 1999, made the playoffs a year after going 3-13. The Colts, in fact, improved to 13-3.

The trend is the result of the cyclical constraints introduced by the NFL salary cap, combined with savvy moves made by management to restock talent.

In Buffalo, the credit is going to Donahoe, who took over 15 months ago. In that time, Donahoe has overhauled an aging, salary cap-constrained team to put it in a position to compete for free agents and afford what is left of the 10-year, \$103 million contract Bledsoe signed last year.

"I was a little worried about Donahoe early on with the fire

sale that we had that first year got here," Brown said. "But it's paying off."

Bledsoe stabilizes the quarterback position that has been uncertain since Kelly retired, following the 1996 season.

Williams, at 6-foot-5 and 275 pounds, is expected to immediately fortify an offensive line that was banged up and in disarray last year. Buffalo also addressed its defensive line needs with end Ryan Doss and tackle Justin Bannan.

With free agency, the Bills strengthened other positions, adding strong safety Ed Jenkins, linebacker Eddie Robinson, tight end Dave Moore and kicker Mike Hollis.

As promising as things look and with Bills fans suddenly lining up for season tickets, Donahoe remained guarded.

"We were determined at the end of last season to do whatever we could to make this team better," Donahoe said. "But really, at this point, that's all we've done. We're a better football team on paper. Unfortunately, I've never seen any games played on paper. So we still have a lot of work to do."

Need

Continued from page 7

"We've got to hold them at bay and do the short game well," Johnson said.

However, to contend in the Big 12, hitting is a requirement. It is true that most of the time good pitching will beat good hitting. But it is also true that a .174 batting average in the biggest series of the season to date will not get the job done if the Aggies want to entertain serious thoughts of making a run at the Big 12 championship and a possible regional host site.

The most glaring hole against Baylor came from a pair of players the Aggies needed to produce. Matt Alexander (hitting in the No. 2 slot) and Neal Stephenson (hitting in the No. 4 slot) both went 0-for-Waco. Stephenson finished the series 1-for-11 while Alexander was a horrendous 1-for-14 and saw his batting average dip below the .300 mark.

But the Aggies are not out of the race. A&M still has nine games against Big 12 opponents,

and six of those are against teams that are ahead of A&M in the standings, including a three-game set against conference-leading UT.

"We knew going (into the Baylor series) that it was going to be a tough series because both teams are contending," Johnson said. "It doesn't mean one team isn't contending anymore. I can't have a lot of complaints. I'm not worrying about what is behind us. We've had some games we should have won. Nobody in the conference is going to wave the banner yet. I'm happy to have the 31 wins, but that isn't going to be enough. We still need to punch in some more at the end."

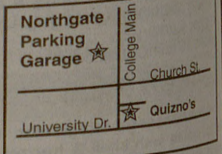
But again, hitting will be the key, especially against Texas which has a staff ERA of 2.48, the best in the conference.

But if the current hitting trend keeps up, the Big 12 title that last visited Aggieland in 1999 will have to wait at least another year.

True Brown is a sophomore agricultural journalism major.



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