

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Taking dead aim

Tasker turning heads a long way from home

By Rob Phillips
THE BATTALION

Three years ago, Texas A&M senior men's golfer David Tasker ran out of challenges on the links in his native Australia.

A winner of 11 amateur and eight junior tournaments, Tasker wanted stiffer competition in his budding golf career. Unfortunately, college and high school athletics don't exist Down Under, just club sports.

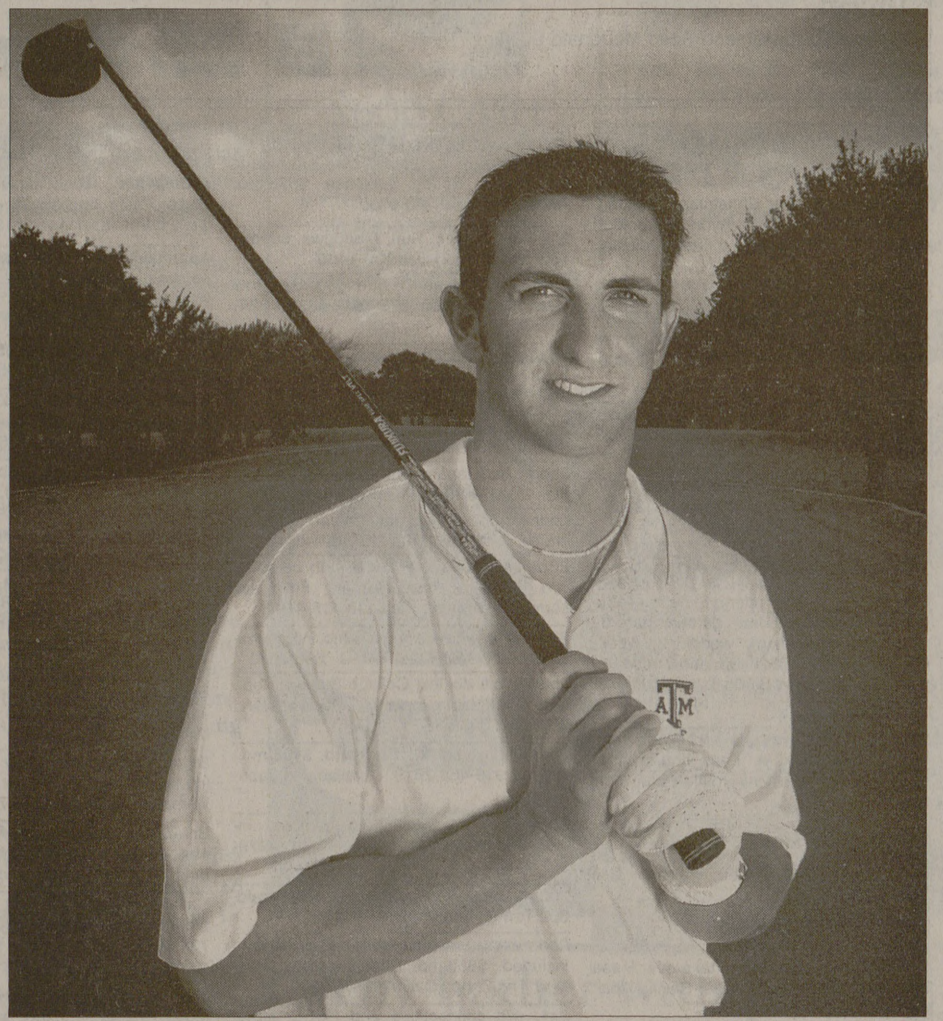
"I had a few friends that came over (to the United States) and said it was just awesome," said Tasker, a senior accounting major and captain of the A&M team. "They said you basically get paid to go to school and travel around playing golf."

It sounded like a paid vacation to Tasker, who through some self-promotion received a full scholarship to the New Mexico Military Institute in 2000.

Tasker epitomized the term "scholar athlete" over the next two years in Roswell, N.M., becoming a two-time All-Conference and All-Region pick, a two-time NMMI Scholar-Athlete of the Year and NMMI's Athlete of the Year in 2002. He also became valedictorian of his graduating class in 2002.

"He's one of the best ball-strikers I've ever seen," said A&M coach J.T. Higgins. "He has a very classic golf swing that repeats over and over, he's good off the tee and he's got a tremendous short game. As far as physical skills, he's probably as good as anybody in the country."

Tasker almost left for Georgia State to play out his final two years of eligibility



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior David Tasker has enjoyed some success since leaving his native Australia for the United States in 2000. Now, Tasker is A&M's team captain and one of three seniors on the team.

until he got a phone call from Higgins, who heard about Tasker from one of his former players.

Greg Robertson, now the associate men's golf coach at Purdue, had a sister who knew Tasker at NMMI.

"She called him about David and he

called me," Higgins said. "As soon as I saw David play I knew I wanted him on our team."

Tasker made an immediate impact at A&M last season, leading the team in

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JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M outside hitter Melissa Munsch goes for a spike during the Aggies four-game win against Baylor on Wednesday night.

Aggies oust Bears in four-game win

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team got one step closer to the postseason with a win over Baylor in a hotly contested four-game match Wednesday night.

The game was the Aggies' ninth-straight win over Baylor, dating back to 1999. None of the current Aggies have ever lost a match to the Bears.

The win also marked A&M's ninth-consecutive 20-win season. The Aggies have eclipsed 20 wins in 10 of the 11 years since A&M coach Laurie Corbelli arrived in College Station.

"The program strives for that every year," Corbelli said. "It's significant that we were able to reach that mark before Big 12 play is over."

The Aggie front line dominated as three players finished with double-digit kills.

A&M senior outside hitter Carol Price had a standout performance and tied her season high of 17 kills, committing only one error with a hitting percentage of .571.

"I was connecting really well

with (junior setter Lexy Beers)," Price said. "We had a great scouting report, so I knew where the defense was going to be. They were very easy to read."

Laura Jones and Melissa Munsch also scored big as they finished with 18 and 17 kills respectively.

Overall, the Aggies finished with a hitting percentage of .396, which was a season high and an A&M all-time high in a four-game match.

Setting Price and the rest of the Aggies up most of the night was Beers, who finished with 46 assists.

"The passing tonight was really good," Beers said. "It made it easy for me to set up all three hitters and all three hitters were on tonight, so it made it really easy."

For the Bears, outside hitter Stevie Nicholas led the way with 28 total points and 26 kills. Nicholas, who sat out last year due to a degenerative knee injury, moved back into the front line for the first time this season.

"Unpredictable, so fast, so

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Cowboy's defense falling by the wayside

By Stephen Hawkins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING, Texas — The Dallas Cowboys aren't taking full advantage of having the NFL's top-ranked defense.

They've been shut out twice their last four games. They've gone six quarters without scor-

ing a touchdown, the last coming in a 10-6 win.

"We've got to understand we're trying to do different things. We're searching for answers," quarterback Quincy Carter said Wednesday. "The bottom line is we're 7-3 and still in first place."

Not for much longer if they don't start moving the ball and

scoring points again.

After averaging 25 points in each of the first six games, they Cowboys have scored just 31 points — total — the last four. They gained less than 300 yards three times the last month, and in a 400-yard performance against Washington had to overcome four first-half turnovers to win.

Things don't get much easier for the Cowboys on Sunday when they play Carolina (8-2), which has the NFC's best record and what Dallas coach Bill Parcells says is the best defensive front four in football — better, the coach says, than Tampa Bay and New England.

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Anti-Transgender Violence Did Not End With Gwen Araujo or Brandon Teena.

Trans Murder Statistics from 1970 to 2003:
294 Total Deaths 220 Domestic, 74 International
Deadliest year: 2002, with 30 reported deaths, followed by 2000 & 2001 with 19

Causes of Death:
Shot: 108, Stabbed: 65, Beaten: 48, "Murdered" (no cause specified): 43, Strangled: 21. There are 19 additional causes. 22 individuals died from multiple causes.

Deaths by state, and number of cities reporting in that state:
California, 38, from 18 cities; New York, 33, 8 cities; Texas, 15, 6 cities; Georgia, 14, 4 cities; Pennsylvania, 13, 4 cities; Florida, 13, 9 cities; Washington, D.C., 10, 1 city. There are 27 other states on the full list.

Photos and statistics courtesy of www.rememberingourdead.org

The Third Annual National Transgender Day of Remembrance is November 20, 2003. Please join others on this day by either wearing a black ribbon or black clothing and taking a moment of silence honor those who have fallen this year.

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