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Classifieds continued from Pg. 2b

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Recruits sign letters of intent Aggie football fills immediate needs

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

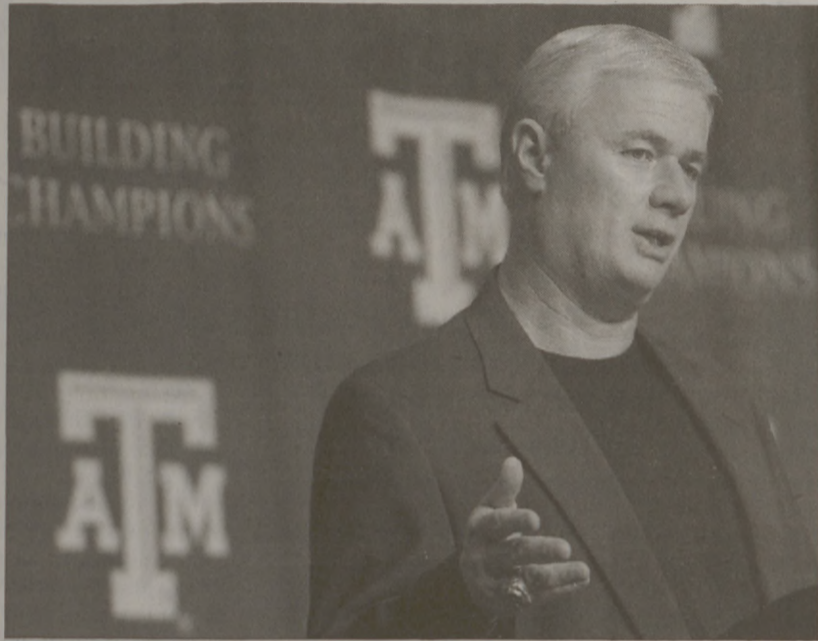
After a 4-8 season, Texas A&M football struck back at the Big 12 conference in a strong way on Wednesday when it inked the No. 8 recruiting class in the nation, according to ESPN recruiting expert Tom Lemming.

Former Burnet high school quarterback Stephen McGee headlines this class, the fourth best quarterback in the country according to recruiting service rivals.com.

Even though McGee may be getting all the buzz, this entire class is something for Aggie fans to smile about.

"Given the circumstances with a 4-8 season, I think (A&M head coach Dennis) Franchione might have done the best recruiting job in the country this year," said rivals.com recruiting expert Bobby Burton. "He's always been a very hardworking recruiter."

The main focus was on the defensive side of the ball where the Aggies signed 13 players, including seven linebackers. Among the seven linebackers are four junior college transfers who should make an immediate



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M head coach Dennis Franchione addresses the media Wednesday at the Bright Complex.



impact in bringing the Wrecking Crew mantra back to Kyle Field.

"Going in defensively we felt like we needed to focus on linebackers and defensive ends in particular," Franchione said.

"Aaron Brown, Lee Foliaki, Terrence Smith and Renuel Green are all (junior college transfers) who we feel like can come in and make an impact on our defense with their speed."

With the transfers of quarterback Dustin

Long and running back Derek Farmer, the Aggies needed immediate depth help at both positions. Along with McGee, the Aggies signed quarterback Jordan Chambless from Corpus Christi Calallen High School to shore up the quarterback position behind sophomore Reggie McNeal.

At running back, the Aggies signed Keondra Smith from Tyler Lee High School and Samson Taylor from The Woodlands.

"Samson has tremendous speed," said A&M running back coach Lee Fobbs.

"He possesses the type of speed that can get him on the corner in a hurry and allow him to go the distance. That is something our offense can really use."

Franchione and his staff also signed five wide receivers, two tight ends, three defensive backs, three defensive linemen and kicker/punter Richie Bean.

"This class touches every position," Franchione said. "We feel really good about the speed and athleticism of this class. It certainly meets our needs to make us a better football team."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

A&M soccer signs stellar class

Given the success of Texas A&M soccer in its 11 seasons of existence, the Aggies expect to get great players to come to College Station to play in the maroon and white.

But only now has Aggie soccer signed a class of prominent all-stars from across the nation.

"They are as talented as any group we've ever brought in," said A&M head coach G. Guerrieri. "We've had some pretty special classes over the years, but we haven't had six NSCAA All-Americans and this many national team members before."

Men's tennis heads to national tourney

The No. 9 Texas A&M men's tennis team has been knocked down the last two weeks, losing consecutive matches to No. 1 Illinois and No. 8 Duke University.

The Aggies will have a chance to pick themselves up Thursday, as they will compete in the 2004 USTA/ITA National Indoor Tournament in Seattle, Wash.

A&M will be given a chance for quick revenge, as they will face Duke in the opening round Thursday.



Lady Aggies travel to Madison

The Texas A&M women's tennis team played well in spurts last weekend in Kentucky, but it will have to grow up quickly if it wants to be successful at one of the most prestigious tennis tournaments of the season this weekend.

The Aggies (1-2), invited for being the top team in their region, will compete in the USTA/ITA National Team Indoors this weekend in Madison, Wis. The field is loaded as 12 of the top-15 teams in the nation will be participating in the event.

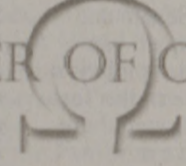
A&M will face No. 5 Southern California on Thursday at 9 a.m.

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
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Friday, February 6, 2004
9:00 pm - 1:00 am
* **Multicultural Variety Show**
at 10:00 pm in the MSC Flagroom
In Collaboration w/ Multicultural Greek Council
* **Elf** at 7:30 & 9:45 pm in Rudder Auditorium
\$1 w/ TAMU ID in Collaboration w/ MSC Film Society
* Free activities in the MSC Basement: pool, arts & crafts, bowling, and DDR in Collaboration with Cepheid Variable
* **FREE FOOD and Drinks!!!**
* Win great **PRIZES** such as a Digital Camera or Gift Cards!!!
Drawing held at 12:30 am in the MSC Flagroom!
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979.845.1515 aggienights.tamu.edu
 For special needs, please contact us three days prior to the event at 845-1515.


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