

Men's Tennis
Texas A&M vs. No. 7 Rice
Tuesday, 6 p.m.
George P. Mitchell Tennis Center

SPORTS

AGGIE BASEBALL TUESDAY
6 p.m.
vs. Sam Houston State
Olsen Field

THE BATTALION

Page 8 • Tuesday, April 6, 2004

A Class Act

A day in the life of A&M receiver Terrence Murphy

By Troy Miller
 THE BATTALION

Balancing class, homework, football practice, hours in the weight room and hours studying film, all while holding a 3.0 grade-point average, is a tough task for any student athlete, but for Texas A&M junior wide receiver Terrence Murphy, it's all in a day's work.

Murphy, who already holds the A&M all-time career receiving yards and receptions records with one more season left to play, has busy days just like any other student athlete, but Murphy said the life of a football player is even more jam-packed.

"People really don't understand what it's like to be an athlete, especially a football player," Murphy said. "The hardest thing about being a student athlete is balancing your time. When I first got here as a freshman, it was a whirlwind for me."

Murphy said he had to get his life in order in a hurry his freshman year in order for him to be successful on and off the field.

"What I had to do was get a notecard out and write down what I had to do every day because I was missing so much stuff and sleeping," he said. "I had to write down my classes, write down when to study, write down my Bible study, just everything. Being a student athlete, you don't really get to rest, but that's just what comes with it."

Murphy's day begins with his alarm ringing at 5:30 a.m., the same time many students are getting to sleep. His first appointment is at 6:45 a.m. when the A&M football team meets for an hour of film study before breakfast at Cain Hall.

Class is from 8 a.m. until lunchtime when Murphy is back in the film room. He then has about an hour to get taped up in the training room and dress for practice.

Practice doesn't start for another hour, but Murphy and the receivers are due back in the film room for another session with the coaches. Not that Murphy minds. He said that he watches football tapes at home as well.

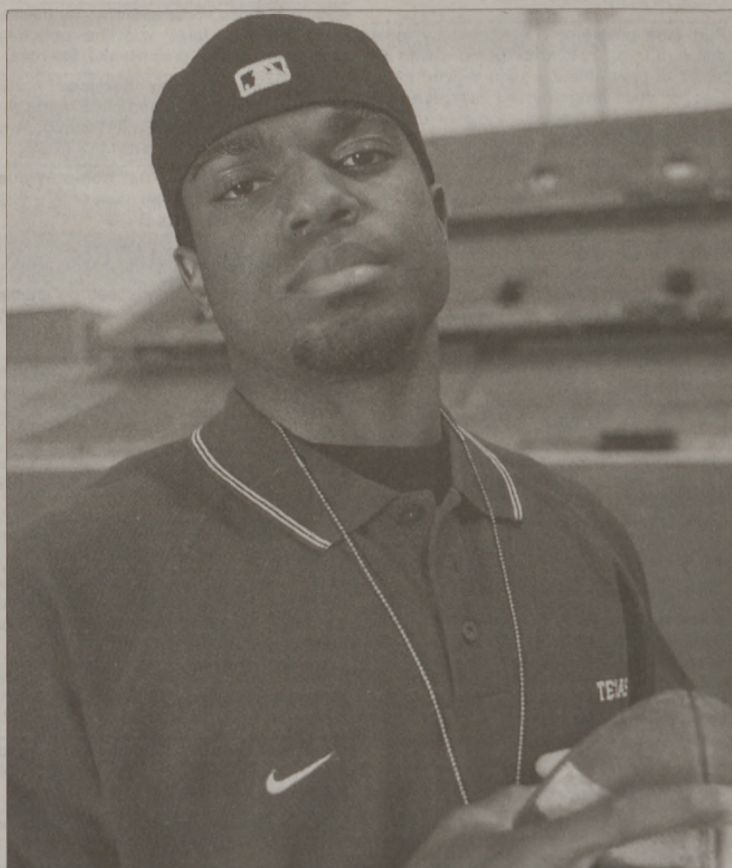
"I watch film maybe four times in one day," Murphy said. "I don't even own cable (at home). I watch DVDs and football tapes to see how I can get better."

After practice, which ends around 7 p.m., it's time to study. Because Murphy has better than a 3.0 G.P.A., he doesn't have to attend the two-hour mandatory study hall after practice but that doesn't mean he isn't studying on his own at the Bright Athletic Complex.

Then, around 10 p.m., Murphy finally goes home, leaving him little time to go out on the town.

"I never go out," Murphy said. "I stay home and play video games. I like to sit at home and watch DVDs."

Murphy said that every day



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M junior receiver Terrence Murphy owns the A&M all-time career receiving yards and receptions record with one more season left to play.

he tries to find time, whether during a few free minutes during the day or when he goes home at night, to study the Bible.

During his freshman year, Murphy met Jim Roselius who works for Athletes in Action, the

See Murphy on page 9

Okafer leads Huskies to title

By Ben Walker
 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN ANTONIO — Emeka Okafer powered inside, slammed home a rebound and got the Connecticut cheering section to go crazy.

At the center of everything, Okafer put on an All-American performance in the biggest game of his life, punctuating it with that rim-shaking dunk late in Monday night's 82-73 win over Georgia Tech for the NCAA championship.

And somehow, up in the stands, Pius Okafer managed to stay relaxed. With fans around him standing and shouting, he politely applauded his son's stuff while 10 other family members looked on.

"I'm very calm," Okafer's father said in the closing minutes. "I'm so proud of him and so excited that he's playing at this level."

Oh, and this from Dad: "He's played better than this." Maybe, but certainly not in a game of this magnitude.

The most dominant player in college basketball was picked as the tournament's Most Outstanding Player after scoring 24 points and getting 15 rebounds.

Okafer raised his arms high after corraling the final carom. He controlled the glass at both ends by setting up

shots on offense and also attempts on defense.

"It was a great season," the 6-foot-10 center said. "We had our ups and down. This moment makes it all worthwhile."

"We came out and played by Duke. Then we came out and grabbed the national title," he said.

Behind Okafer, it was never as close as the end result indicated as UConn won its second crown in six seasons. The Huskies' 15-point lead was the biggest in an NCAA title game in 37 years, but Okafer never let Tech get near until the outcome was decided.

The Yellow Jackets simply had no answer for him, despite trying to give 7-foot 11-inch Schenscher as much double team help as they could.

Tech tried to go at him hoping to get him in foul trouble as Duke did in the semifinals. Okafer picked up his second foul just five seconds before halftime and it looked as if he got No. 3 only 2 1/2 minutes into the second half.

But as Okafer slammed his hands in frustration, the officials said the foul was on Josh Boone.

It was that kind of night for Okafer — everything went his way.

Okafer will get his master's degree next month with a 3.0

See NCAA on page 10

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