ontinued from page 2B

Both quarterbacks took advanof McNeal's absence durthe spring to strengthen their ims to the backup role.

The silver lining of Reggie of the not playing was that Ty Brana lot of playing time, and T.J. ds like (Sanders) as well," Franchione layers said. "Those were bonuses to

rren. get those guys as far along as writers possible. It was a great opporous" and they took s group advantage of it.'

gie de Branyon seized his opporhan munity and won over the crowd nks of a with an impressive performance Sed to mat last year's Maroon and White me, scoring the game-winning or strong touchdown with no time left on s the the clock. Franchione said the 00 man decision on who will head up the 2 duties will be made closer "People to the first game.

## ke that a Murphy

the hear Continued from page 4B

The tight end situation is nother much improved posion for the Aggies. They are two-deep at both tight end potions. Redshirt freshman Joey homas is healthy after battling noulder and arm injuries and is m athletic receiver that coaches n't wait to use. Junior Boone Stutz and sophomore Quinlin ermany will also help solidify tight end position that is n page such an integral part of Franione's offense.

"Joey is doing a good job ght now," Franchione said. Thomas has improved physilly and technically since his es will gredshirt days. I think his conthem a fidence level (increases) every day as he gets more reps. I think is in the if we had to start today it would him or Boone Stutz or Quin-Germany that would start. s a pretty close battle, and all them are going to have roles cause you need tight ends in our offense.

## **DLine**

Continued from page 4B

defensive scheme is already paying dividends for the Aggies.

"Right now we're playing much faster," Eggen said. "Knowing what they're supposed to do gives them the confidence to cut it loose and not have to think as much.'

Sophomore Bryce Reed leads the charge in the weight room with a bench press of 465 pounds, and senior Marcus Jasmin weighed in with a squat of 670 pounds.

Redshirt freshman Chris Harrington is the fastest of the group, clocking in at 4.76 seconds in the 40-yard dash.

Redshirt freshmen Jorrie Adams, high school teammate Joseph "Red" Bryant, Jack and Harrington have all been impressive in spring drills and are already pushing for playing time. Bryant and Jack are listed as starters on the depth chart, supplanting veterans Marcus Jasmin and David Ross.

"All the redshirts have a real good spirit about themselves," Eggen said. "They're trying to make this unit the best they can."

Monday, August 30, 2004

"No positions are secure, and the players have accepted that," Eggen said. "Our philosophy is to be able to be flexible. We're trying to put the best combination out there.'

Eggen said he wants to have as many linemen in his rotation as possible, which is important with the number of teams in the Big 12 who rely heavily on passing the football.

Aggie head coach Dennis Franchione said it's imperative that the defense be able to throw fresh linemen into the mix to harass Big 12 quarterbacks.

"If we can put 10 guys out there, we will. If we can play 12, we'd like to," Franchione said.

The line's pride took a serious hit last season, and it's determined to live up to the precedent set by generations before them.

#### POSITION REPORT

### **DEFENSIVE LINE**



Jolly

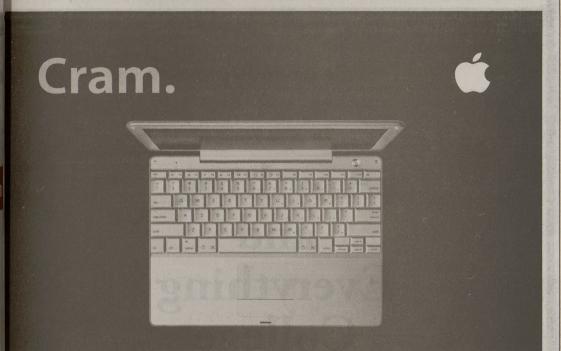
RETURNING Johnny Jolly (JR) Marcus Jasmin (SR) Michael Montgomery (SR) David Ross (JR) Bryce Reed (JR) Margues Thornton (SO) Lawrence Hooper (JR)

LOST Linnis Smith Brian Patrick Ju Parks Thomas Carriger



Bryant

**NEWCOMERS** Joseph Bryant Jason Jack Chris Harrington Jorrie Adams Chris Smith Cyril Obiozor William Morrissey



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