

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Page by: Jordan Meserole & Nikki Knight

## Remember when?

### '04 Aggie football is reminiscent of past greats



SHAWN MILLENDER

A&M took the Tigers to hand them a pretty horrific beatdown.

Clemson quarterback Charlie Whitehurst has talent. So much talent that many analysts had him pegged as a dark horse Heisman Trophy candidate.

The 2003 Aggie defense made strong cases for several candidates such as Larry Fitzgerald, Rashaun Woods, Cedric Benson and Jason "Peg-leg" White. This year's team wanted to avoid punching Whitehurst's ticket to the New York Athletic Club.

There was a time, however, when such star players lived in abject fear of the Wrecking Crew. In the 1985 Cotton Bowl against Auburn University, a relatively obscure running back named Bo Jackson ran afoul of the Aggies. Thanks to that defense, Bo knows goal line stands and the anguish of personal failure.

Two years later, to the day, fresh off his appearance on the cover of Sports Illustrated (the universal portent of doom), Notre Dame wide receiver Tim Brown ran headlong into the Aggie defense and came away beaten and ejected from the game.

In the 1990 Holiday Bowl, Brigham Young University quarterback Ty Detmer hit a maroon-clad buzz saw in a 65-14 rout that left him with two separated shoulders and possibly mentally scarred for life.

Saturday, Whitehurst ran into a team that sparked memories of talented linebackers from the

Saturday's win over Clemson was a "shed" victory for the Aggies. It was a watershed victory, to be sure, but also a woodshed victory.

Behind that woodshed is where Texas

1980s and 90s such as Dat Nguyen, Adam Bob, Quentin Coryatt and "Blitz Brothers" John Roper and Aaron Wallace. This team looked much more like the one that nearly took University of Houston '89 Heisman quarterback Andre Ware's head off than the one that nearly handed All-American honors to Missouri's Brad Smith in 2003.

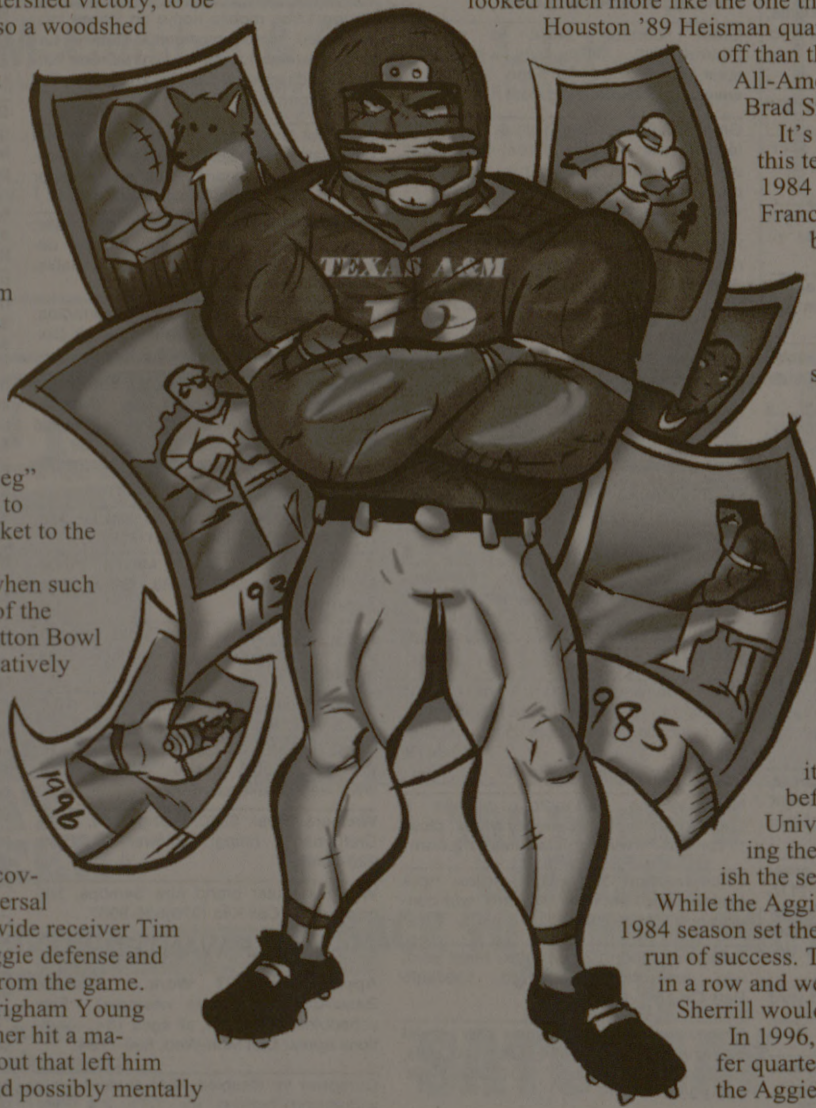
It's almost eerie how much this team is reminiscent of the 1984 team. Head coach Dennis Franchione and junior quarterback Reggie McNeal are a present-day Jackie Sherrill and Kevin Murray.

Sophomore running back Courtney Lewis and senior receiver Terrence Murphy are showing flashes of Roger Vick and Jimmy Teal. Red Bryant, Erik Mayes and Justin Warren may draw comparisons to Ray "Clobber Line" Childress, Domingo Bryant and Johnny Holland.

That '84 team started the season with an impressive showing in non-conference play, going 3-0. However, it lost five of its first six conference games before beating Texas Christian University and absolutely thrashing the University of Texas to finish the season with a respectable 6-5.

While the Aggies didn't go to a bowl, the 1984 season set the stage for an unprecedented run of success. They won three SWC titles in a row and went 6-0 against Texas. Jackie Sherrill would never lose to Texas again.

In 1996, under the direction of transfer quarterback Brannon Stewart, the Aggies went a disappointing 6-6.



Will Lloyd - THE BATTALION

## Volleyball heads to K-state

By Nikki Knight  
THE BATTALION

The No. 19 Kansas State University volleyball team (6-4, 0-1 Big 12) hopes to earn its 20th straight win at home as it hosts No. 11 Texas A&M in Manhattan, Kan. Tuesday night.

The Aggies (6-2, 2-0) head to Kansas after defeating Iowa State last week in Ames, and then-No. 24 Kansas at home Friday night.

A&M head coach Laurie Corbelli said she presents her team with a big challenge: To be the first Aggie team to ever win at K-State. She said the atmosphere at K-State has always kept A&M off its rhythm and the key to winning will be getting into the team's own rhythm early and playing its own type of game.

"(The players have) worked really hard on playing Aggie volleyball and recognizing sooner when they fall into their opponent's pace," Corbelli said. "The team has done a good job of being resilient with that. I think we're ready to test that in ourselves."

Senior middle blocker/outside hitter Melissa Munsch leads the country in blocks per game and Corbelli said she will be a key asset defensively. Munsch also earned her third career triple-double Friday night and posted 14 kills, 10 digs and a season-high 10 blocks.

Offensively, Corbelli said she is confident in the diversity

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### SIDELINES

#### COMING THURSDAY

After recruiting a few freshman and gaining a coveted transfer, the A&M women's golf team is set to make a run for the Big 12 trophy. Look for a complete glance of the team.

#### BRIEFLY



Olympic gold medalist Tyler Hamilton is under investigation for possibly using another person's blood sample for a drug test during the Olympics. If Hamilton is found guilty, his gold medal will be stripped.

Houston Rockets guard Bob Sura underwent surgery to repair a herniated disk in his lower back. Sura is expected to only miss the first two weeks of the Rockets' regular season.

#### ON THIS DATE

1911 - Cy Young beats the Pirates 1-0 for his 511th and final MLB victory.

1974 - The Pittsburgh Steelers and the Denver Broncos are the first teams to play a tie, 35-35 with the newly instituted NFL overtime rule in effect.

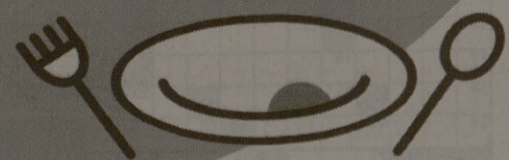


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