

Defensive coordinator John Chavis leads a drill during spring practice.



Tim Lai — THE BATTALION



# Chavis makes himself at home

New DC looks to inherit A&M football's 'wealth of talent'

By Alex Scott

**T**exas A&M's new defensive coordinator, John Chavis, is already making himself comfortable in College Station. Chavis has a resume that speaks for itself. He began his career at Alabama A&M, where he led the highest

ranking Division II defense in 1987 and 1988. After his time in Alabama he returned to his alma mater, Tennessee, where he stayed for 19 years. Most recently Chavis served as the defensive coordinator for LSU. Over the course of his five years in Baton Rouge, 19 of the players he coached were drafted into the NFL, with five in the first round. This season, he has a new home — Texas A&M. "What wouldn't be appealing?

This is a university that has invested in its program," Chavis said after practice Thursday. "You look at that stadium — it's a place where you can recruit. There is a wealth of talent in Texas. Why wouldn't you want to be a part of this at Texas A&M?" It is unique that a defensive coordinator chooses to keep the current coaching staff when entered a new job. Chavis opted to keep the coaches that know Texas A&M and are comfortable with this university

and the players. "They're fine men; they're excellent football coaches," Chavis said. It is not just the staff that the new DC is excited about inheriting, but the young, talented Texas A&M team. He said his experience with the players thus far has been positive. "The players are working their rear ends off, they are a great group of young men, they're hungry and they're putting in the effort right

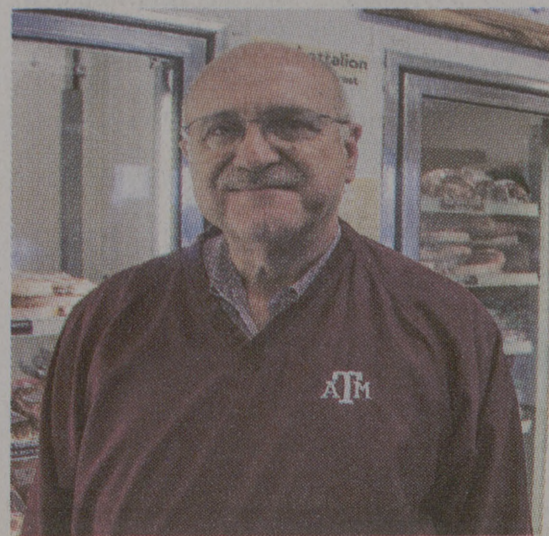
CHAVIS ON PG. 4



**BILLY PICKARD PUT ON LIFE SUPPORT**

Billy Pickard, an Aggie football mainstay since the days of the Junction Boys, was put on life support Sunday. Pickard, Class of 1956, has worked with every A&M coach since Bear Bryant. He formally retired in 2009, but the 81-year-old has maintained a presence with the program.

Q&A



Sheky Knowles — THE BATTALION

Jeffrey Savell, University Distinguished Professor, is the leader of the meat science section in the Department of Animal Science.

## Professor talks 3-plus decades of meat science

The Battalion news reporter Lenae Allen sits down with Jeffrey Savell, University Distinguished Professor and leader of the meat science section in the Department of Animal Sciences to discuss changes in the meat industry during his 38 years at Texas A&M.

**THE BATTALION:** Tell us about yourself and how you came to work in meat science.

SAVELL: Well, I grew up in Ferris, Texas, which is just south of Dallas. So, as a rural area and a farming background, a lot of people worked in Dallas. My dad was an ag, though he was more in the crops. He hauled hay, hauled cotton, worked at the gins and in the cotton community. I got involved in FFA in high school, started showing and raising livestock and also judging. I got involved as a freshman doing meats judging because that's just what you did. I remember my first trip to Texas A&M was in 1968. Pulling up on the corner of Texas Avenue and University Drive, I looked out and my teacher said, "Boys, that's A&M." Now, it was none of the big buildings, none of the tall buildings were there and you still had the old-timey water tower. It was still the biggest thing I had ever seen. I remember going to the old meat lab and just being fascinated. I ended up doing livestock judging later on, but I kept coming back to the meats.

**THE BATTALION:** How many people have talked to you about your program, your classes and Camp Brisket?

SAVELL: I have no idea how many emails I've gotten. I mean, there've been

SAVELL ON PG. 2

SOFTBALL

## A&M takes two of three from No. 9 Kentucky despite rain



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Senior outfielder **Brittany Clopton** lays down a bunt during the loss Sunday against Kentucky.

13-game winning streak ended Sunday

By Milkyas Gashaw

► After a close loss on a rainy Sunday, the A&M softball team had to settle with winning two of three over the weekend against No. 9 Kentucky. The No. 20 Aggies fell to the Wildcats 3-2 in the final game of the three-game series at the Aggie Softball Complex, ending their win streak at 13 games.

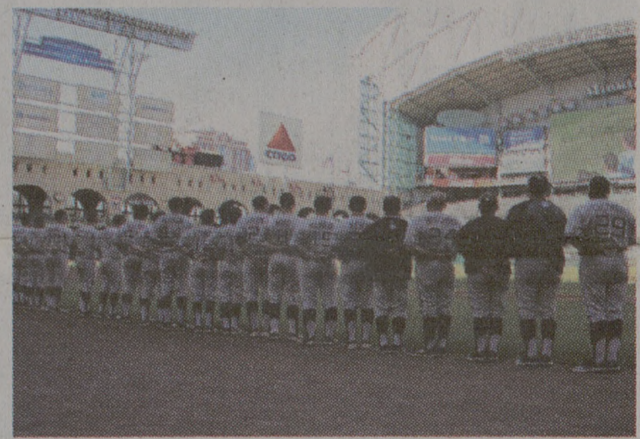
Players on both sides had to make adjustments as rainfall came and went throughout the game. Both pitchers were constantly going to their towels attached to their uniforms to try and retain a good grip on the softball in order to keep control of their pitches, which junior pitcher Katie Marks said is the primary concern when pitching through the rain. "The only thing that the weather had an effect on was having a dry ball," Marks said. "The grounds

crew did a great job preparing the field for us." Marks got the start Sunday against the Wildcats and went seven innings, giving up four hits and three runs. Head coach Jo Evans said the team showed resiliency throughout the weekend. "I thought we showed great toughness in the elements that we had," Evans said. "I didn't think the weather was any factor in the game for us." Marks' opponent on the mound was junior

SOFTBALL ON PG. 4

BASEBALL

## Aggies stay perfect with Houston sweep



PROVIDED

A&M stands for the national anthem Sunday.

By Tyler Stafford

► Sixteen games in, the Aggies are the lone undefeated team in Division I college baseball. The No. 11 Texas A&M baseball team needed only three hits to remain perfect on the season, defeating Baylor 3-2 in the final game of the Houston College Classic held at Minute Maid Park. A&M donned its black uniforms — reserved for when the team is attempting to earn a sweep — for the fourth time already this season. Born and raised in Waco, junior starting pitcher Matt Kent gave no breaks to his hometown team. Kent went 7 1/3 innings against the Bears, allowing two runs, six hits, one walk and nine strikeouts — including a string of six straight punch-outs. The lefty set career highs in innings pitched and strikeouts. "Early on I had really good command and I was able to get them off-balance and get some quick innings with some off-speed pitches and easy groundouts," Kent said. "I really let my defense kind of handle the work for me. Later in the game I lost a little bit of my command but I was still able to push balls into the zone and make them hit pitches and not just give up free walks."

BASEBALL ON PG. 2

M. GOLF

## 'I just wanted to hit it far'

Spanish native hitting his stride in third year at A&M

By Cole Stenholm

► Few Texas A&M students travel as far to College Station each year as does student athlete Adrià Arnaus. The junior from the men's golf team hails from Barcelona, Spain, well more than 5,000 miles away from the heart of Aggieland. It was in Barcelona that Arnaus picked up the game of golf and where he ignited a passion for the sport that would eventually land him in Texas. "My dad is the director of a little golf course next to Barcelona," Arnaus said. "And so, he would never have thought everything would have ended up like this ... He got in a friendship

with somebody that started the golf course. And I started playing and I guess I liked it more and picked it up around eight years old and then started competing." The ability to drive the ball with great power, a skill that he sees in his professional idol, Sergio Garcia, was of particular interest to Arnaus when he was younger. "What I really liked is to hit it long," he said. "I'm guessing now I'm trying to do the opposite, just hit it as straight as possible. But the thing that got me going is the distance when I was younger. I just wanted to hit it far." Not only did he "hit it far," but Arnaus proceeded to thrive as an elite golfer on the junior circuit in Spain, earning a Spanish Boys Under-18 ranking as high as third and helping the Spanish male under-18 team claim the

ARNAUS ON PG. 4



Cody Franklin — THE BATTALION

Junior **Adria Arnaus** said the thrill of hitting with power drew him to golf.