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NEW MOUTHGUARDS COULD GIVE EDGE IN TRACKING CONCUSSIONS



Tim Lai — THE BATTALION

Pitcher Turner Larkins collects himself during the Tuesday win over Sam Houston State.

No. 1 A&M shells Sam Houston with 13-run inning in 19-4 rout

By Andre Perrard

► The Aggies lived up to their billing in their first game as No. 1 team in college baseball Tuesday, dominating Sam Houston State 19-4. A&M was helped by a massive 13 run third inning to run away with the game early.

"I've never seen anything like that in 25 years of coaching," said A&M head coach Rob Childress about the third inning. "Thirteen hits, 11 consecutive hits — they were all hard hit too. It was fun to sit back and watch."

The teams traded blows early. After

Sam Houston State (14-17) drove in two runs during its first at-bat, A&M responded with a two-run home run from Ryne Birk to make it a 2-2 tie at the end of one frame.

The Aggies' (28-2, 7-2 SEC) hit four home runs in the third inning alone, scoring 13 runs in the frame. Ronnie Gideon hit two homers in the inning, and Logan Nottebrok and Allemand hit the other two. The Aggies went through the lineup nearly two times, with every player tallying a hit. They had 13 hits and tied an NCAA record for most hits in a row to start an inning without an out,

hitting 11 straight balls before the first out was tallied. A&M added four runs in the eighth to make it a 19-4 game.

"It was fantastic," said a smiling Ronnie Gideon about the big inning. "It's something that none of us have ever been a part of, I don't think anyone has ever been part of that. To set a record like that just shows how great our offense is, and that we have the best offense."

The Aggies will hit the road to continue SEC play Thursday, as the team travels to Lexington to take on the Kentucky Wildcats.

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Student aims to take wind chime initiative beyond campus

By Samantha King

For students like Kaitlyn Kellermeyer, who lost her vision last year, wind chimes will soon make it easier to navigate the large Texas A&M campus.

Since Summer 2014, the international studies junior has advocated for the placement of wind chimes at 10 key locations on campus for visually impaired students. All of the wind chimes have been funded, eight by the Aggie Honor Council and the remaining through sponsorships. As of March 16, the Student Senate bill concerning the chimes was signed by interim A&M President Mark Hussey.

Kellermeyer now plans on bringing the idea to major universities across Texas, like the University of North Texas and the University of Texas.

"I think it's important because the problem goes beyond A&M," Kellermeyer said. "I feel like there are other people at other campuses who are struggling with these issues — not understanding the campus, not having the orientation cues that they need to get around — and I feel like if we can provide this really simple solution to make such a difference in their lives, then I feel like it's worth the effort that we put into it."

In finalizing the project at A&M, Joseph Hood, political science junior and co-sponsor of the Student Senate bill advocating for wind chimes on campus, is working with administration on the logistics of the project.

"The concerns that [administration have] brought forward to us are sustainability," Hood said. "Not only just the fact that they're worried about wind chimes not be-



Jena Floyd — THE BATTALION

Kaitlyn Kellermeyer, who lost her vision last year, advocates for wind chimes on campus. She will soon attend a summit to hone her ideas.

ing the most effective thing, but also the fact that eventually Kaitlyn and I are going to be gone, eventually [bill co-sponsor Collin Kruger] is going to be gone and so we have to make sure we have a sustainability plan in place."

In order to help workshop her ideas to make them the best possible, Kellermeyer

applied to be a delegate at the Global Engagement Summit held at Northwestern University in Illinois. From April 15-19, Kellermeyer will work with leaders of social change to cultivate her idea.

"The goal of the summit is to take

CHIMES ON PG. 2

TRADITION

The Association alters pickup process for Aggie Ring Day

By Jennifer Reiley

► In preparation for Aggie Ring Day on April 17, when more than 4,800 Aggies will receive their rings, the Association of Former Students has announced some changes to the pickup process.

The Ring Plaza, where guests and students have typically gathered, will only be open to the numbered group on deck to enter the building and receive their rings, according to an announcement on the Aggie Network Facebook page. Because of this, the Haynes Ring Replica in the center of the Plaza will not be open as a photo station.

Kathryn Greenwade, vice president of the Association of Former Students, said other students and guests are welcome to gather on the lawn and around the building. The area around the ring itself will be the only area marked off. The decision was made to better manage traffic control for the largest Ring Day to date.

"We want to limit the amount of traffic that's around the ring at any one time, so that we can make sure that we have easy access for everyone getting their ring, for all of the guests that they have with them," Greenwade said.

The drop-off point for the Aggie Ring Shuttle has also shifted. People can board at Houston St. on the west side of the Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center instead of on Throckmorton St., although the other stop is still at West Campus Garage.

Greenwade said there will also not be professional photographers at the event.

"We will still have multiple photography stations, but we're encouraging everyone to do their own personal photography because really now with your smart phones, you can take the same quality of photos and you can have it sooner," Greenwade said.

In preparation for April 17, Greenwade said she encourages students to check the weather forecast beforehand, referencing a storm that hit during September Ring Day, for which a number of students were unprepared.

"If it's raining, maybe time your arrival a little closer to your actual ring pickup time so you're not having to be out in the weather," Greenwade said. "And maybe you'll want to adjust your wardrobe."

RESEARCH

Prof hopes to create blueprint for success among black males in the US

By Kylee Reid

► One Texas A&M professor's research challenges popular stereotypes of the black community with a different approach on what it takes to become successful.

Marlon James, assistant professor in teaching, learning and culture, describes America's perception of the black community, particularly of young black males, as a "black box."

"It's the socially constructed perceptions of who black men are," James said. "It deals with what their moral character is, what their intellect is and what their appropriate place is in American society."

James said the real danger of the "black box" is the internalization of the beliefs that it appeals to in the youth, primarily

concerning young black males.

"I think it's undoubted, given the media coverage of what's happening in America — particularly to black males — that there is a set of challenges that we need to attend to," James said.

James is prepared to address these challenges alongside many other academic leaders with a new acronym, "S.P.A.R.R.K."

"The 'S.P.A.R.R.K.' of black male genius was a concept that emerged from a two-year project that a group of black male faculty set out to understand why or how black men can resist this 'black box' and become successful," James said.

During the two-year project, researchers studied successful black males and asked for their personal stories on what they went through and how they

dealt with the "black box" and the role education played in their own life.

After reading close to 50 essays, the researchers narrowed it down to nine to appear in a special edition journal of "African American Males in Education."

James said from the essays emerged the theory of the five markers of black male genius — a theory based not on the "black box" perception of who black men are, but on the lives of successful black males.

"S.P.A.R.R.K. says that if men have a specific set-up net of support structures that they can achieve a type of genius, one that may not be measurable in traditional standardized testing, but this form of black male genius is one that is present in all successful black men," James said.

FIVE MARKERS ON PG. 2



Vanessa Pena — THE BATTALION

Marlon James, assistant professor in teaching, learning and culture, studies characteristics of successful black men.