'Battle of the Brains' duke it out

Student programmers gain chance to compete in Tokyo for world tournament

By Rick Rojas
STAFF WRITER

For the computer programming competition nicknamed the "Battle of the Brains," student programmers work for five hours straight analyzing problems, said Andy Echols, a graduate student in computer engineering and member of the programming team.

At the contest, officially known as the ACM International Collegiate Programming Competition, one of the three teams from Texas A&M placed third in the South Central region at Baylor University on Nov. 4.

Sixty-seven teams took part in the competition. The students had to solve programs, such as a complex maze, using computer programming, said John Keyser, associate professor of computer science and coach for the team.

He said the third place team from A&M included Echols, Tristan Brown and Matt Monson and now have the opportunity to advance to the worldwide competition in Tokyo, Japan, in March.

Echols said the teams go through hours of intense practice in order to prepare themselves for the competition.

"It's hard to do and very competitive," he said. "It takes a lot of practice because

Kyle Lobpries - THE BATTALION

Computer engineering graduate students **Tristan Brown** and **Andrew Echols** and senior computer science major **Matt Monson** (left to right) make up the top programming team sent by Texas A&M to compete in the ACM International Programming Contest. The team placed third at the regional level, which was at Baylor University.