

Sports

Baylor provides challenge for women's soccer squad

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M University women's soccer team hasn't had

much trouble in its first four matches of the 1981 season, defeating Southwest Texas State University, Stephen F. Austin

University and Louisiana State University during the last three weeks.

But the Aggies face their toughest competition of the short season when the team travels Sunday to play the Baylor Bears at 1:30 p.m.

After defeating LSU 14-0 last Saturday, the Aggies will try to protect their ranking as the number 12 team in the nation. The only other ranked team in Texas is the University of Texas, a varsity team which holds down the number 18 spot. Texas A&M coach Jim Butts said that since Baylor two weeks ago tied UT, this weekend's match with the Bears should be a test for his team.

In the LSU match Texas A&M totaled an amazing 45 shots on goal, while LSU could manage only one shot during the match. Leading scorers for the Aggies were Carol Gittinger, with three goals, and Carol Smith and Sandra

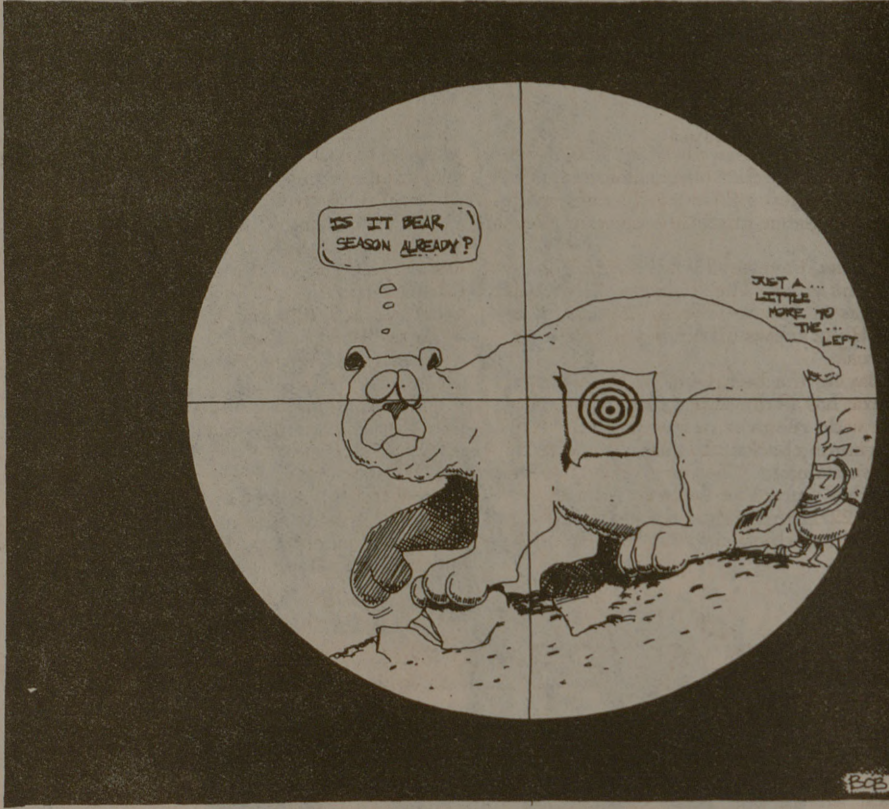
McMasters with two apiece.

Also scoring in the one-sided match were Lynn Vester, Sue Niles, Melanie Felger, Laura Estes, Stephanie Barrett, Daphne Love and Lauren Forry.

The team played well, Butts said, even though the competition wasn't as strong as what he and the players had hoped for.

Butts added that the team's recent elevation to varsity status has given the athletes more incentive, and that the move has "really made a difference" for the team.

The next two weeks feature important matches for the Aggies, with the team scheduled to play in an Austin tournament Oct. 24. The Aggies will face both UT and the University of Colorado, ranked eighth in the nation. After that match, the Aggies will play Trinity University Oct. 30 in San Antonio, and in another Austin tourney Nov. 7.



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Softball team top seed in state championship

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

Bob Brock knows that all good things must come to an end, but he has mixed emotions about the close of his softball team's fall season.

In his first year as coach of the Texas A&M University women's softball team, Brock has molded freshman talent and upperclassman leadership into a 32-2 record. And today, the Aggies travel to Conroe to seek their fifth tournament win of the 1981 fall schedule when they compete with five other AIAW Division I teams in the Texas State Championship.

However, Brock doesn't want the short fall season to end only six weeks after it began. Although the team will begin its spring season during March, there has been too much hustle, timely hitting and baserunning, perfect pitching and above-average defense for the fall to end now.

But the former Baylor University women's softball coach also knows his squad can only improve

between now and the March 6 start of the spring season. Not only will the same 15-player roster return for the two-month spring schedule, but another valuable athlete returns after being ineligible for the fall.

Mel Pritchard, a senior who has played leftfield the past four seasons for the Aggies, will regain eligibility for the spring, giving the team a left-handed power hitter. Brock said Pritchard has been a great help to the Aggies this season, keeping the scorebook at all the team's games, as well as providing encouragement for her teammates.

The team will begin off-season workouts during the first week of November, and Brock said he plans to take his players through a strong weight training and running program to get them in shape for the spring season.

The past weekend, Texas A&M shut out five opponents on its way to the Oklahoma State Invitational championship. The Aggies defeated Southwest Missouri State

University and OSU, both ranked among the top teams in the nation. The Texas A&M pitching staff, Lori Stoll, Shan McDonald and Lisa Martinez hasn't been seen on in the past two weeks' tournaments, which brings the Aggies ERA to 0.18 for the season.

The Aggies, seeded number one in this weekend's tournament, have defeated all five of the Division I teams which will participate in Conroe. Host Sam Houston State University, the number two seed at 19-5, will be playing in bracket with number three seed University of Texas at Arlington, along with Texas Tech University.

Competing in the Aggie bracket will be West Texas State University and Stephen F. Austin University, with Texas A&M receiving a bye in the first round of the tourney.

Although the Aggies have the talent to win many games, Brock said that their play hasn't been the most impressive aspect of the season. The Aggie coach has found that the team's attitude makes a well-rounded squad that has confidence in its ability.

"This team has never known an overconfidence streak... we play each game as if it's for the world championship," Brock said. "It doesn't matter if we're playing a great team or a team that's struggling."

Offensive leaders for the Aggies are freshmen Iva Jackson, with a .376 average, and Josie Carter, with 38 RBI. Other leading hitters are third baseman Eya Resendes at .306 and shortstop Carrie Astgen at .301.

The Aggies are hitting .287 as a team, and have struck out only 29 times in 994 at-bats. Texas A&M has also stolen 50 of 54 bases, with Jackson stealing nine of nine, and teammates Austgen and Karen Guerrero totaling seven of seven.

Brock said: "We're not going to take any game lightly (in the tournament). We're going to play each game like it's the championship. I thought this last tournament (the OSU Invitational) would really send us off into the state championships."

"We're not about to go through the season 32-2 and lose in the state championships."

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