

Sports

Fall season successful for A&M teams

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB

Sports Editor
Optimism best describes the feelings of Texas A&M athletic leaders during the past three months.

Texas A&M sports teams have finished a successful fall semester, highlighted by the football team's 16 Independence Bowl win Sunday over Oklahoma State. Coach Tom Wilson, casting aside memories of a disheartening 1980 season, may have set the confidence standard by the way he ended the 1981 season.

"I've never been around a football team in all my years that has the attitude this one has," Wilson said. "I think everyone believes in themselves ... everyone knows he's got to do his job."

Here's a recap of Texas A&M sports highlights during the 1981 semester:
Sept. 4-5: Coach Terry Condon leads the women's volleyball team to the season with a second-place finish at the University of Texas at Arlington Tournament.

Wilson said: "We're a fairly young team. Last year (when the Aggies shed 24-37) we learned a lot, and now most of the players know what it takes to win. We expect to win this season."

Sept. 5: The Aggie football team beats the California Golden Bears 29-28 in Berkeley, Calif., as line backs Earnest Jackson and Johnny Hector each rush for 100 yards. Wilson: "Looking back, I related because it is so very important to start off on a positive note. I'm very happy that our team was able to come back from a 28-16 halftime deficit. That's a lot about our team. At the same time though, I'm disappointed we put ourselves in the position to have to come back like this."

Sept. 7-7: Coach Jan Cannon leads the women's tennis team to a Beaumont Labor Day tournament, where the team of Liliana Hernandez and Teresa Landry won the doubles title. Head tennis coach David Kent opens season optimistic about chances of his team. "For the first time I've been here at A&M, we have both the quantity and quality to compete with the top teams in the nation," Kent says.

Sept. 8: First-year coach Bob Beck and the women's softball team sweep the Baylor Bears 11-2 in their season-opener. Beck, who coached at Baylor two years before replacing Bill Gallopy this year at Texas A&M, says: "I don't know where the (limit) of this team is. It has the quality to be one of the top caliber teams in the nation. We're still young in that we are crucial positions, but I'm real optimistic."

Sept. 11-12: Softball team wins Texas A&M Invitational, defeating Sam Houston State University in 14 innings for the championship. Freshman pitcher Lisa Martinez, pitching a one-hitter, leads Aggies to their seventh win in 14 games.

Sept. 14-15: Men's golf team finishes fourth at fall Southwest Conference meet in West Columbia. Juniors Gary Krueger and Tom Cobb post tournament-low 219 in a 54-hole event.

Sept. 14-16: Women's golf team wins season at Suzie Maxwell Invitational All-College Classic, finishing third in the 21-team field.

Sept. 19: The Aggie football team loses 13-12 to Boston College to even its record at 1-1. Wilson: "We had every opportunity in the world to win the game — possibly even put it away in the first half. I don't think there's any question in the world we had to find ways to lose the game, and we did."

Sept. 23: Volleyball team defeats Lamar University to begin a climb which vaults it into the national rankings. The Aggies win 2-15, 15-5, 15-12 and 15-5 over the Cardinals in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Sept. 24: Athletic Director Marvin Tate, 48, announces his resignation, which became effective Oct. 31. Tate had been with the Texas A&M Athletic Department since 1967. Tate: "It is with mixed emotions that I submit my resignation. I have thoroughly enjoyed my relations with Texas A&M faculty, staff, students and former and all the athletes here at the University." University officials express shock and regret about the resignation, as speculation concerning the reason for Tate's sudden announcement dominates Texas A&M news.

Sept. 25-26: Softball team wins Stephen F. Austin Invitational, picking up six victories to increase its record to 20-2. Lori Stoll pitches a perfect game, striking out 12 in a 7-0 victory over Louisiana Tech and former Aggie coach Calloway. Aggie volleyball team wins Texas Women's University tournament, defeating Texas Lutheran College 13-15, 15-11, 15-7 in the championship match.

Sept. 26: Football team wins 43-7 over Louisiana Tech Bulldogs to move to 2-1 for the season. Wilson: "We wanted to find out just how good this team can be. We were tired of talking about how good we could be — it was time to find out."

Oct. 2-3: Texas A&M softball squad wins Sam Houston State Invitational to raise record to 26-2.

Oct. 3: Aggies win 24-23 over Texas Tech, but Wilson displeased with performance. Wilson: "We played a very poor ball game. We did not take advantage of a lot of opportunities that we had, but at the same time, it was a win. This game says a lot for our players, and I'm proud of them."

Jerry Moore, Texas Tech coach: "Texas A&M is the best football team we've faced this year. They are a good, legitimate football team. When you can line up and pound on people and keep the ball away from the offense as they did us, you're going to be good."

Oct. 5: The Aggie men's and women's soccer clubs are elevated to varsity status on a one-year trial basis, as Texas A&M Athletic Council, headed by Dr. Charles H. Samson, approves the move.

Oct. 8: The softball team, now 32-2, wins the Oklahoma State Invitational, as the pitching staff lowers its ERA to 0.18. The staff strikeout total at this point is 279 batters in 225 innings.

Oct. 9-10: The volleyball team, ranked 20th in the nation, places second in the University of Texas tournament. The Longhorns defeat the Aggies in the final match of the tourney.

Oct. 10: Wilson and the Aggies take their biggest win of the year, defeating the University of Houston and 20-year coach Bill Yeoman 7-6 in Kyle Field in front of 66,569 fans.

Oct. 16-17: Brock's top-seeded softball squad wins the Texas Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women state championship. Martinez defeats SHSU on a one-hitter in the final game of the season to give the Aggies a 36-3 record for the season. The Aggie pitching staff posts a 0.21 ERA, as Martinez finishes 13-0, while McDonald and Stoll end the season 13-1 and 10-2.

Oct. 17: Spirits fall as Aggies lose to Baylor 19-17 on a last-minute field goal by freshman Marty Jimerson.

Oct. 23-24: The volleyball team, ranked No. 19, wins Texas A&M tournament to raise its record to 29-13.

Oct. 24: Texas A&M defeats Rice 51-26 as Gary Kubiak throws six touchdown passes. Kubiak: "I think I'm really getting my confidence now." Wilson: "It was a good offensive game by both teams, but I don't think I saw much defense out there. But a victory is a victory and we'll take any kind." Women's soccer team raises record to 6-0 with victories over UT and Colorado College.

Oct. 31: Aggies and Southern Methodist University play for sole possession of first place, with the Mustangs winning 27-7. Wilson: "We just got our tails beat. That's all I can say about it." Coach Telmo Franco and the men's soccer team, with a chance to move into first place in the Southwest Conference Soccer League, tie SMU 1-1, leaving the Aggies in second place with a 2-0-3 record.

Nov. 14: Football team loses 10-7 to the Arkansas Razorbacks, ending all hopes of a Cotton Bowl berth. Wilson is unable to speak to the press because of his disappointment about the loss.



Photo by Becky Swanson

Texas A&M defensive tackle Keith Guthrie moves in to meet University of Houston quarterback Lionel Wilson in the Aggies' 7-6 win Oct. 10 in Kyle Field. The sophomore quarterback, shown seconds after releasing a pass to one of his receivers, led the Cougars to their only score of the day late in the game.

Wilson is unable to speak to the press because of his disappointment about the loss. Coach Shelby Metcalf and the Aggie basketball team open with 109-70 exhibition win over Windsor, as center Rudy Woods, back after academic ineligibility in the spring, scores 23 points and pulls down 22 rebounds. Volleyball team, ranked 14th, wins Louisiana State University tournament to bring record to 39-14.

Men's soccer team clinches second place in the SWCSL, finishing 4-0-3 in the conference and 7-4-3 overall. The women's

soccer team, coached by Jim Butts, wins 1-0 over SHSU to finish regular season with 12-0 record. The squad, ranked number 10 in the nation, prepares to compete in the AIAW national tourney in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Nov. 19-22: Women's soccer team places eighth in AIAW national tourney, finishing season with 13-3 record.

Nov. 21: Aggie football team defeats Texas Christian University 37-7 to clinch Independence Bowl berth.

Women's basketball team opens season with 66-63 win over New Mexico State University. Women's cross country team finishes 18th in AIAW national meet, while the men's and women's swim teams defeat TCU.

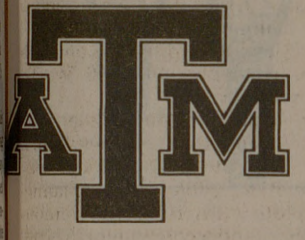
Nov. 22-24: Rumors abound concerning Wilson's future as Aggie coach. Wilson says he doesn't want to leave the team, but later says: "It might be best for all concerned if they did fire me." Speculation that Wilson's status will be discussed by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents is quelled when the group's three-day session ends with no mention of Wilson.

Nov. 24: Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver, with the Board of Regents backing him, says Wilson will return for the 1982 season. Vandiver says he never felt that Wilson's job was in danger, since his contract expires next year.

Volleyball team ends regular season with loss to UT, giving the Aggies a 39-15 record entering the NCAA playoffs. Women's basketball team defeats North Texas State 61-55 for 2-0 record.

Nov. 26: UT rolls over Aggies 21-13 to give Aggies 6-5 record entering Independence Bowl.

Nov. 30: Basketball team defeats St. Edward's University 104-57 in season opener, as Claude Riley leads the way with 25 points. Women's squad raises record to 3-0 with 61-51 win over Lamar University.



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