

A&M catches heat by the tail; LSU next in line

By Michael Plumer

The Battalion

On September 4, the fourth-ranked Texas A&M football team will face Louisiana State on Kyle Field. Right now, the Aggies' toughest opponent has been the searing Texas heat, unbroken by rain for two months.

Battling temperatures well over the century mark, A&M players have been trying to make the best of a sticky situation as they prepare to defend their Southwest Conference championship.

"I know it is at least 115 degrees out there on Kyle Field, but the heat is something to adjust to," senior outside linebacker Steve Solari said. "But we have been drinking a lot of fluids to combat that and everything has been going fine."

"Last season we started so early because of us playing Stanford, so it feels like it was hotter last year. This season, we have gotten back to a normal practice schedule and because of that we have had great concentration."

"But I will be glad when school starts because then we can fall into a normal schedule and plus it cools off some."

Senior center Chris Dausin said dealing with the heat is part of the routine when preparing for an upcoming season.

"Last year our legs were dead before the Stanford game, but it seems the coaches have eased up a little to allow us to recover a little bit," Dausin said.

"Actually, it seemed like last year the heat was unbearable, whereas it has not been bad this year," he said. "This summer we have been getting quality work as opposed to the past where we were getting quantity work."

"Although it is hot, it is something we have to deal with and besides, other teams are having to practice through it, too."

Rain is not in the forecast, but Solari predicted that relief is on the way.

"Actually, our two-a-day practices are over because we have one Wednesday morning and another practice late Wednesday when it will be cool," Solari said. "After that, the fun starts in

preparing for the season."

Dausin said the key to beating the high temperatures is taking proper care of one's body.

"First of all, getting plenty of rest is a key," he said. "This summer I ran sprints with other guys to get used to it because it is all part of the training deal. If you don't do the necessary things, then you can pass out."

"We have been lucky so far - a few guys have cramped up, but nothing major. Most of it's mental because there is nothing else like Texas heat."

Expanding mercury levels can also cause tempers to flare, which could cause some fighting between teammates.

Solari said that while some player's fuses have been a little short, his teammates are saving their explosions for LSU.

"We have had some tussles," he said. "Psychologically, the heat can be tough, but everybody has held their composure. Because of that we have gotten better as practice has worn on."

"Everybody is concentrating on beating LSU and trying to get focused on accomplishing that. Fighting amongst ourselves would not solve anything."

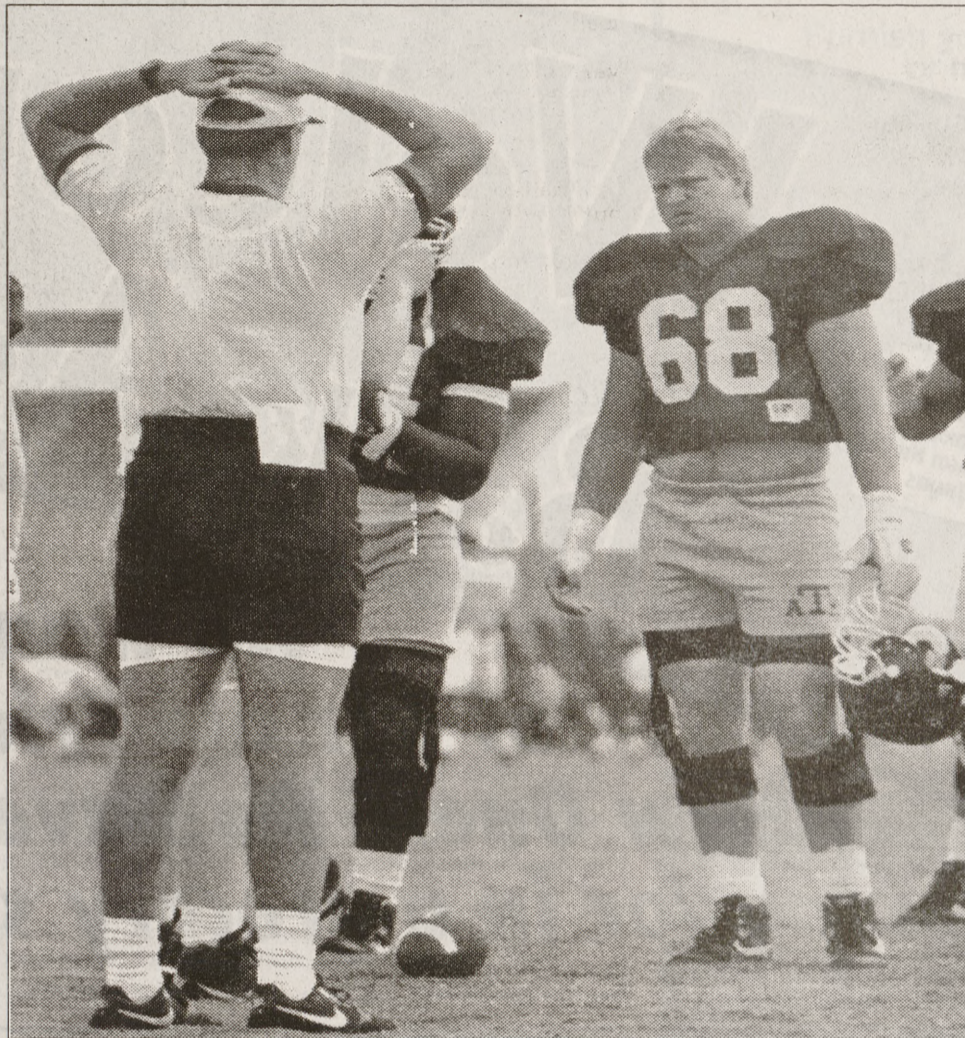
A&M has an intra-squad scrimmage on Friday but after that the players, Dausin said, will begin thinking about hitting somebody with an opposite colored uniform.

"Scrimmages are great because they are like game situations, but we are starting to hone in on LSU," he said. "This might be hard to believe but we enjoy hitting on opponents more than we do each other."

Solari concurred.

"I am tired of hitting the same guys and I am eager to hit other people," Solari said. "(The scrimmage) is great practice because it will be hot when we play LSU, but still, I am ready to get the real thing going."

High expectations surround A&M upcoming season as evidenced by the glut of preseason magazines touting the Aggies as runaway winners of the SWC. But Dausin suggested that all the talk will be forgotten in the heat of the battle.



Kyle Burnett/The Battalion

A&M center Chris Dausin takes a break on the practice field adjacent to Kyle Field as he listens to offensive line coach

Mike Sherman. The Aggies open their season September 4 against Louisiana State at 2:30 p.m.

"All of that stuff is great, but right now is where the difference is made," he said. "We have been working hard this

summer to be able to pick up where we left off last season. Right now, we as a team can't wait to play LSU."

Lady Aggies kick open fall soccer season

By Julie Chelkowski

The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's soccer team was hit with big news last spring that has taken the players to a higher level in the 1993 season - an NCAA level.

After narrowly avoiding the loss of the soccer program last fall, the Texas A&M athletic department resolved to recognize the women's team as a NCAA Division I program. Now, the team has a new coach, a new field, new uniforms, a new budget, and a new attitude.

Head coach Gerald Guerrieri, who was brought in last March, said he was amazed at the attention the program is getting, especially compared to past years.

"I've seen reports and heard how things were done in the past and it's shocking to see what the stories were," he said. "But right now it's fantastic."

Guerrieri said with the new recognition, his team will now be able to make a full-time commitment to excellence, both academically and athletically.

"Before, the girls in the program had to hold themselves up because it wasn't being done by the athletic department," he said. "They're excited now because they know they'll get help for their hard work."

Along with the monetary benefits that have resulted from official recognition, the players are enjoying the support of their peers and fellow athletes.

"Before, if you asked anyone in athletics if there was a soccer team, they would say no," Rennie Rebe, a returning senior, said. "Now, they're

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