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EARS! -1042

in position for national title

**STEWART** DOREEN

Sportswriter



he race for the national championship starts this weekend at the annual Iron Bowl between Alabama and Auburn.

Nebraska or Penn State are the two teams getting the consideration that goes to teams worthy of such praise while a lowly team from the South has gone quietly undefeated. This weekend fourth-ranked Al-

abama is starting the murderous part of its schedule that should give them a national title if they are successful.

The Crimson Tide have played practically no one significant going into last week's game with the Mississippi State Bulldogs. This is not the part that deserves attention. Last week's win over the ranked Bulldogs in Starkville has started something that could be the feat of the season that no team can match.

This week's game versus sixth-ranked Auburn in Birmingham, the conference title game versus thirdranked Florida in December and the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans versus another top-ranked team will mark three games against top ten teams at neutral sites. No one else can match that. Throw in Alabama's win over Mississippi State, and it could be four

wins over four ranked opponents. With the argument that today's teams need to go through a playoff to determine a national champion, this set of victories would meet the criteria. The Tide will have beaten the top teams at neutral sites and

in successive games. Now Nebraska, if they win out (and they probably will), will have victories over the Colorado Buffaloes, Kansas State and Washington. Those victories were spread out over the season and only one was on the road. The Cornhuskers' Orange Bowl match up with the Mi-ami Hurricane does deserve merit,

but it just isn't the same. Penn State is another undefeated team that is feeding off a perfect record against a schedule with quality teams but none that stand out. Michigan, probably the biggest win of the season, looks less glamorous considering the Wolverines are losing left and right. Their bowl game looks like a war with the Ducks of Oregon. No Disney finish in that

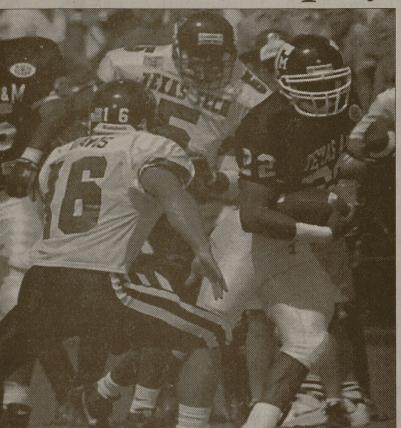
game, I can assure you.

Will the Tide go undefeated? I team out. Remember what they did to that heavily-favored Miami team in the Sugar Bowl two years ago. The team has a strong defense that is as good as any in the nation. They also posess senior quarterback Jay Barker. Barker is not a great quarterback, but his 31-1-1 record as a starter proves he is a winner. Alabama also has running back Sherman Williams. Not another huge name, but the Crimson Tide are 20-0 when he scores a touchdown and 11-0 when Williams rush-

es for over 100 yards. So if Alabama goes undefeated the rest of the way (and that is a big "if") we should have a new number one.

\$1150

## Alabama still '95 seniors to play last home game Golden State



#### Undefeaten season possible

**By David Winder** 

Senior safety Michael Hendricks does not have time to look back over his career at Texas A&M. Right now, he is too

busy preparing for his last game against Texas Christian.

"This game is a very special one," Hendricks said. "I think this game marks a lot of hard work that has put in over the last four years."

The game also marks the end of the most successful era in A&M history. The 1995 seniors have won three Southwest Conference titles and if it had not been for NCAA probation would have already clinched a fourth.

They have never lost at Kyle Field, winning 23 consecutive games. A&M's 41-5-1 record over the last four years trails only Alabama (43-4-1) and Florida State (42-5). A win this Saturday would give the Aggies the winningest class in SWC history.

Senior running back Rodney Thomas said Texas A&M has been successful because they play as a team. "You've got so many people gunning for you," Thomas said. "It's all about chemistry and making it work together. In athletics, there are hills and valleys

sand as a team you've got to overcome it."

Senior linebacker Antonio Armstrong said the feeling before Saturday's game is different than most.

"It's like closing another chapter in your life," Armstrong said. "To win our last game would mean a lot to us and that's what we would like to do. It would be a shame to leave on a sour note."

A win against TCU would add yet another notch on the 1995 Aggies' belt. A victory would give A&M its first undefeated season since 1956.

"We've done a lot of good for this program, not just winning," Thomas said. "I'm just proud we can finish up on a good note." Hendricks said that he can not put all of the 1995

seniors' accomplishments into perspective. Senior cornerback Billy Mitchell returns a interception for a score against Texas Tech. The Aggies play TCU Saturday at Kyle Field.

"I haven't taken time out to think about it," Hendricks said. "Later in life we'll look back at this and say 'Wow! We really did something."

### Lady Aggies compete for SWC championship

After nearly winning the Southwest Conference title last year and making the NCAA tournament, one might be surprised to hear that the Texas A&M women's volleyball team is extremely pleased with their third-seed position going into this year's tournament.

"We're riding a big wave of momen-tum right now," head coach Laurie Corbelli said. "We are playing at are our peak, and (the team) is very posi-

tive and confident."

After earning the tournament's second seed last season and receiving a first round bye, the Lady Aggies were defeated by third seeded Houston in the second round.

"We need to play as hard as we can," junior setter Suzy Wente said. "Last year we had lots of seniors, and we were pretty confident. This time we know we have to work harder.

The Lady Aggies, 16-11 overall and 6-4

in the first round of the Southwest Conference Tournament Friday. The Owls are the host team of the entire tournament, with all matches taking place at Autry Court on the Rice campus

Corbelli said the middle attack is becoming a much stronger part of the Lady Aggies' game, thus opening up the outside. Reaping the benefits of improved play in the middle is senior outside hitter Jennifer Bronner.

Over the past couple of weeks, Jennifer has been unstoppable," Corbelli said. "She is our MVP."

After averaging 4.4 kills per game last week, and posting a strong .360 hitting percentage, Bronner was named the SWC Player of the Week for the second time this season. Her match-high 21 kills against the University of Houston November 9 versity of Houston November 9
helped the Lady Aggies upset the
17th-ranked Lady Cougars.

Wente has continued to be a major
contribution to the Lady Aggies' effort,

Wente has continued to be a major
contribution to the Lady Aggies' effort,

\*\*Cara qualitying squad did.\*\*

"Last year we felt like we had to perform," Corbelli said. "This (winning the tournament) is a goal. We'll see how things go,the first contact should determine how we will do."

in the SWC, will take on Rice University Corbelli said. The San Antonio Clark product is on pace to break A&M's alltime career assist record in only her third season. Wente, who set A&M's single season assist record last year with 1,554, needs only 65 assists to become the school's career leader.

"We're playing together as a team right now," Wente said. "That makes us more enthusiastic, and everything seems to have fallen into place. Wente said the team needs to contin-

ue doing the things it has done all season to be successful this weekend. With four consecutive victories al-

ready, a win over Rice would give the team its longest winning streak of the

Corbelli said this year's team does not feel the pressure that last year's NCAA qualifying squad did.

# trades Webber

OAKLAND (AP) - The Golden State Warriors traded Chris Webber to the Washington Bullets for Tom Gugliotta and three first-round draft picks Thursday.

The move came hours after the Bullets had signed first-round draft pick Juwan Howard, who teamed with Webber to lead Michigan to the NCAA championship game in 1992 and 1993.

And it came one day after the Warriors re-signed Webber, who exercised his option to terminate a 15-year, \$74 million contract in the offseason and became a free agent. The Warriors had to sign Webber to trade him.

The Warriors will get the Bullets' first-round draft picks in 1996, 1998 and 2000.

Webber was the NBA rookie of the year last season, but said he was unhappy playing for Golden State coach Don Nelson. Those hard feelings intensified during the contract stalemate when Nelson said he'd quit if that would help bring Webber back to the team.

That remark angered Webber, who felt it was an attempt to turn

public opinion against him.

The 6-foot-10 forward averaged
17.5 points and 9.1 rebounds and
shot 55 percent from the field last season. The contract he signed Wednesday night reportedly was

for \$73.14 million over 12 years. Gugliotta has averaged 15.8 points and 9.5 rebounds since joining the Bullets as their top draft pick in 1992.

"It's devastating,,' Washington swingman Calbert Cheaney said from New Jersey before the Bullets faced the Nets. "Tom's a great friend, a great guy, a great ballplayer. Losing him is a blow to us, but we're getting excellent guys in return.

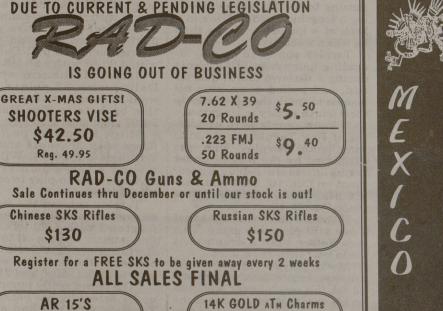


#### This day in Aggie football ...

November 18, 1933

A&M shocks Rice with a 27-0 shutout in Houston that eliminates the Owls from SWC title contention just one week after Rice had knocked off leagueleading Arkansas.

WEEKLY MATCH UPS	Dave Winder	Nick Georgandis	Drew Diener	Stewart Doreen	Tom Day	Mark Smith	Rob Clark	Kim McGuire	Heather Winch	Stew Milne	Commentary	Horned Frog	Gila Monster	Komodo Dragon	
#9 Texas A&M vs. TCU	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	1995 seniors unbeaten at Kyle	TCU	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	
Rice vs. Navy	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Rice	Owls sews up bowl bid	Navy	Navy	Rice	
Texas Tech vs. Houston	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Raiders continue Cotton march	Houston	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	
#4 Alabama vs. #6Auburn	Alabama	Auburn	Auburn	Alabama	Alabama	Auburn	Auburn	Alabama	Alabama	Alabama	Tide's Barker: 34-1-1	Auburn	Auburn	Alabama	
#15Michigan vs. #22OSU	Michigan	Michigan	Ohio St.	Ohio St.	Michigan	Michigan	Ohio St.	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Cooper gone after season	Ohio St.	Michigan	Michigan	
#13USC vs. UCLA	UCLA	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	Bears vs. Trojans in Trials of Life	UCLA	UCLA	USC	
#12Oregon vs. Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Oregon	Ducks smell like a Rose	Oregon St.	Oregon	Oregon	
#16Virginia vs.	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Virginia	Virginia	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Virginia	Va. Tech	Va. Tech	Virginia	Hokies win battle of Virginia	Virginia	Virginia	Va. Tech	
#14Va.Tech	Yale	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Yale	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard	Harvard takes "The Game"	Yale	·Harvard	Harvard	
Yale vs. Harvard	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	BYU	Utah	Utah	Utah	BYU	Utah	Battle for WACky Title	Utah	Utah	BYU	
#20 BYU vs. #21 Utah	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys	Cowboys prepare for Super run	Redskins	Cowboys	Cowboys	
Redskins vs. Cowboys	Oilers	Oilers	Giants	Giants	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Oilers	Giants	Fisher puts in real offense	Giants	Giants	Oilers	
Last Week	5-7	7-5	6-6	9-3	7-5	7-5	7-5	7-5	6-6	7-5	69-41 (.627)	Last Week's Guests: Bill Bellamy: 8-4			
Overall	85-46(649)	78-53 (595)	80-51 (611)	91-40 (695)	85-46 (649)	85-46 (641)	89-42 (679)	88-43 (.672)	88-43(672)	90-41 (687)	846-443 (.657)	Elephants: 6-6, Donkeys: 7-5 Total:132			



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