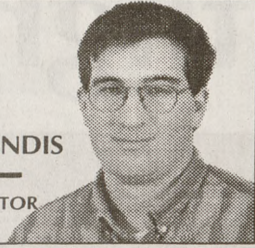


Journey toward A&M's national championship begins today

NICK GEORGANDIS

SPORTS EDITOR



All the posturing that has gone on in college football since Jan. 2 ends today at Texas A&M as freshmen and newcomers to the Aggie football team report for the first day of the rest of their lives.

The athletes won't have to face anything tougher than the Cain Hall chicken fried steak tonight, but on Wednesday they will take part in their first practice at Kyle Field.

Returning varsity players will make their arrival on Thursday, and Saturday will mark the true beginning of Texas A&M Football '95 with the first full squad two-a-day practices.

A&M's first game is a scant 27 days away, against Louisiana State on Sept. 2 at Kyle Field. The Fiesta Bowl, which will host the national championship game, is exactly 120 days later.

Expect A&M to win both. To borrow a line from A&M play-by-play announcer Dave South, the Aggies are the best they've ever been. It will take a few seasons to determine if this year's freshman class is the most talented ever at A&M, but it is definitely the most hyped.

See GEORGANDIS, Page 4

Year-old complex perfect fit for Aggie soccer team

□ In 1994, the Aggies compiled an 8-0 mark at the Aggie Soccer Complex. In two years of competition, they are yet to lose a home game.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

This story is the last in a series on Texas A&M athletic facilities.

No other sport in A&M history has experienced the meteoric rise of the Aggie Soccer Team.

In November 1992, A&M was awarded full varsity status for the soccer team after competing as a varsity non-scholarship program for 16 years.

In its first season, the Aggies compiled a 15-3-1 record, and the athletic department took notice, building the Aggie Soccer Complex across the street from Olsen Field on West Campus.

"The Aggie Soccer Complex is designed to showcase exciting attacking soccer, the style we strive for in every game and training session," A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri said.

"This is the type of facility that will draw the nation's top teams to AggieLand for exciting NCAA play in years to come."

The Aggies debuted on the field last Aug. 27 with a 5-1 rout of St. Edwards in an exhibition game. In the first period, then-sophomore midfielder Jamie Csizmadia scored A&M's first-ever goal at the new field, tying the game at one.

After last season, probably plenty

of teams would rather not visit A&M's facility, no matter how state-of-the-art it is. The Aggies compiled a perfect 8-0 record at the Aggie Soccer Complex in its inaugural season.

The winning streak includes a 2-1 victory over the Lady Longhorns of Texas that spanned two overtime periods.

The Lady Longhorns have never beaten the Aggies in two seasons, sparking an immediate rivalry between the two squads.

The victory was A&M's first against a SWC team in the new facility.

The win against Southern Methodist University on Nov. 2 came when the always-strong Mustangs were ranked fifth in the South Region.

The victory gave A&M the unofficial "SWC Title." The Aggies defeated all the SWC teams they faced last season, including UT, Texas Tech, TCU and SMU.

"We got to play on our home field," senior forward Anna Whitehead said. "I knew we were going to take them."

The 1995 SWC soccer conference, which was created May 29 by former SWC Commissioner Steve Hatchell, will have five schools competing - A&M, Texas Tech, Texas Tech, Texas Tech, Texas Tech.

The Aggies will host the first-ever SWC soccer match Sept. 18 against TCU. In 1996, the Aggies will join the Big 12 soccer league.

From Oct. 21-23, the Aggies hosted their first tournament at their new field. The University of Texas, Texas Christian University and Northern Illinois all competed in the tournament along with the Aggies.

The Aggies won their own tournament by defeating both TCU and Northern Illinois.

Besides being a graveyard for opponents' winning streaks, the Aggie Soccer Complex is one of the finest of its kind in the nation and is still not completely built.



Members of the 1994 Texas A&M Soccer Team play against St. Edwards on Sept. 2, the first-ever game at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

The complex contains press areas, a new scoreboard and bleacher seating for 800.

Future construction plans have the permanent seating being expanded to 2,000. Along with the new seats, future additions include a filming deck, covered bench and press areas and home and visitor locker rooms.

The locker rooms will be part of a three-sport training complex which will also house facilities for the softball and track and field teams.

Texas A&M begins the 1995 season with an exhibition on Aug. 26 with a game against a team of A&M alumni. The regular season begins Sept. 3 against Marquette University.

SMELLS LIKE HOME COOKIN'

Since becoming a varsity sport in 1993, the Texas A&M soccer team has had great success, especially at home. The Aggies' records overall and at home in the sport's first seasons at Texas A&M.

Year	Home Record	Overall Record
1994	7-0	15-1
1995	8-0	14-0

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