

SPORTS
BRIEFS

Freshman has opponents all Shook up

Nebraska's Phillips may return to practice this week

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Suspended running back Lawrence Phillips could return to practice with Nebraska as early as this week, coach Tom Osborne said today.

Phillips won't play for the next two weeks for the second-ranked Huskers, Osborne said. That means he would miss games Saturday against No. 8 Kansas State and Oct. 28 at No. 9 Colorado.

Osborne said when Phillips returns to practice depends on what school officials decide about whether Phillips will face university disciplinary action for an assault on his former girlfriend.

Valentine fired from Japanese team

TOKYO (AP) — Leading the Chiba Lotte Marines to their best finish in 10 years couldn't save Bobby Valentine's job as manager.

Valentine, who managed the Texas Rangers from 1985-92 and was the winningest manager in the team's history with 581, led the Marines to a 69-58 record this season, second in the Pacific League.

Dingwall, Pate still alive in tournament

Nancy Dingwall and Wilson Pate defeated Michigan's Sarah Cynayak and Sora Moon to stay alive in the All-American tournament in California.

The pair defeated the Wolverines 6-3, 0-6, 6-3, and will play two matches today. If they are victorious in both matches, they will move on to the main draw.

In individual play, Dingwall was defeated by Syracuse's Nicole Strnadova 2-1.

Also competing in the doubles competition were Vanessa Rook and Lonna Logan, who lost to Allison Cohen and Jennifer Fires of Virginia 3-1.



Stew Milne THE BATTALION

Freshman forward Nicole Shook tries to work by a New Mexico defender from last weekend's action at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

The freshman forward from Wichita Falls has recorded four goals and six assists in 1995.

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

When Texas A&M Head Soccer Coach G. Guerrieri goes out recruiting, he looks for players with superior skills both on and off the field.

He hit the bull's eye with freshman forward Nicole Shook.

This dynamo out of Rider High School in Wichita Falls has proven herself more than capable of handling the demands of Division I soccer.

She has used her explosive speed to help make a name for herself as a key weapon in the A&M offensive arsenal.

But according to Guerrieri, speed is not the only quality that makes Shook a top performer.

"The things that stick out when you see Nicole play are her incredible speed and her heart," Guerrieri said. "She goes 100 percent all the time and never gives up for anything. "Those are two qualities that there's no substituting for."

Excellence in the game she loves is nothing new for Shook. She was standout ever since she began her soccer career at the age of four.

The Shook family would sometimes drive over three hours to give Nicole the opportunity to compete in the highly-competitive North Dallas soccer club leagues.

Shook also gained valuable seasoning by participating on regional Olympic Development squads during three of her high school summers.

Shook was simply a dominating force at the high school level — racking up 94 goals and 39 assists, and two district offensive most valuable player awards in three years of play.

If that was not enough, Shook showed

her versatility by lettering in cross country for three years and advancing to the Class 5A state meet in 1991.

With good grades to go along with her athletic prowess, Shook received a number of calls from quality schools but chose A&M for a number of reasons.

"I just had a real good time on my recruiting visit, and I thought the campus was beautiful," Shook said. "That combined with the kind of leadership I felt 'Coach G' would provide really pushed me in the direction of A&M. It just offered everything I was looking for."

Shook was excited about the chance to play major college soccer and arrived in College Station with a load of confidence and little fear of being overwhelmed by the competition.

She has done nothing thus far in '95 to shake that self-esteem.

In her first 15 matches as an Aggie, Shook has registered four goals and 6 assists as a spot starter and primary substitute at forward.

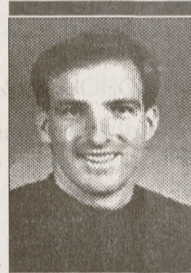
Guerrieri feels that Shook's performance this season has been nothing short of impressive.

"Teams are forced to adjust to her speed and how dangerous she is out there," said Guerrieri. "And all of her goals have been quality goals for us. She's really come along way."

Though pleased with the amount of playing time she has received, Shook feels that she needs to step up her play and get more of a tactical grasp on the A&M offensive strategy.

"I know I need to work on my first touch on the ball and be able to better recognize offensive opportunities when they arise," Shook said. "I also need to get myself to the point where I'm totally comfortable with what we're trying to do all over the field."

"Maybe that will come with experience; I'm sure that has something to do with it."



"Teams are forced to adjust to her speed and how dangerous she is out there."

— G. Guerrieri
A&M Soccer Coach

Aggie offense takes tough test in Baylor 'D'

The Bears' defensive unit is giving up only 97 yards per game rushing.

By Nick Georgandis
THE BATTALION

Even after Saturday's come-from-behind victory over Southern Methodist University, the talk around the Texas A&M Football team is — what's wrong with the offense?

Head Coach R.C. Slocum knows what the problem is — unfortunately so does the Baylor Bear defense, which is ranked third in the nation.

"We have not been effective in taking pressure off the running game with the passing game," Slocum said. "Between the receivers and the quarterback, we have not been as consistent as we need to be. If we had, I really believe we'd be undefeated right now."

Against the Mustangs, the Aggies gained 147 yards through the air, but 55 of those yards came on the final drive of the game.

Senior wide receiver Chris Sanders said the team seems extremely anxious to get back on the field and prove itself.

"Yesterday (at practice), I was like 'What the hell is going on?'" Sanders said. "People were jumping around and running over and hitting the practice squad really hard."

The offense should get a shot in the arm with adrenaline-booster Leeland McElroy's return from an ankle injury he suffered against Texas Tech two weeks ago.

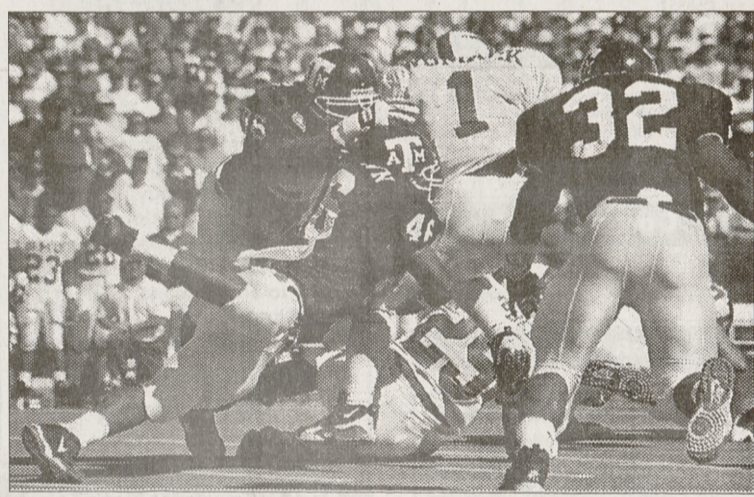
Although he did not practice Monday, McElroy said he expects to be on the field Saturday.

"It was very tough to be out in a game situation (against SMU)," McElroy said. "I'm not totally 100 percent, but if I have to play with a little pain, that's what I'll have to do."

McElroy said he realizes the enormity of Saturday's game because the Bears are one of the teams ahead of A&M in the Southwest Conference race.

"We're in a do-or-die situation every

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Sterling Hayman, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior linebackers Larry Walker (#32) and Reggie Brown (#46) gang tackle SMU running back Andre Womack.



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