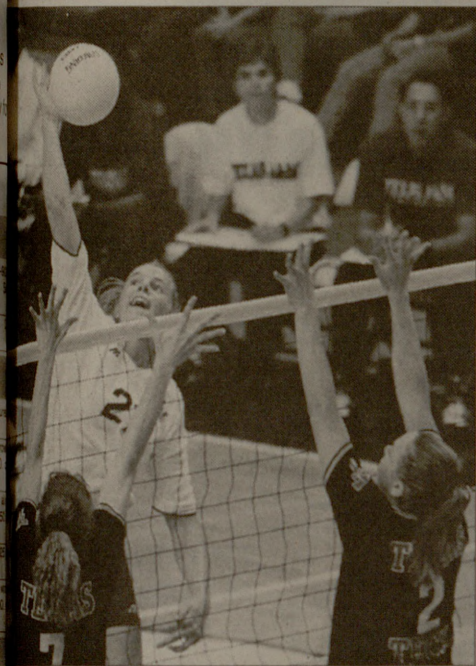


# Lady Aggs to face No. 17 Badgers

By ROSS HECOX  
THE BATTALION

With only one senior on the team and just three games played with three new starters, the Texas A&M Volleyball Team is confident



FILE PHOTO

Senior middle blocker **Cindy Vanderwoude** blocks against Texas Tech last season.

that it can win this weekend's Inntower Invitational Tournament in Madison, Wis.

The Lady Aggies will face Loyola of Chicago, the University of Maryland and the University of Wisconsin.

Last weekend, in their first tournament action of the season in the University Park Holiday Inn Classic at Colorado State University, the Lady Aggies lost to CSU after defeating 20th-ranked Loyola Marymount — the only ranked team in the tournament at the time.

Colorado State, which is now ranked 25th, beat A&M in four games, and despite its tournament-ending victory over Auburn University, the Lady Aggies dropped from 18th to 20th in the poll and own a 2-1 record.

"I think we realized that we were up in [the third] game against Colorado State 13 to 8, and we lost it," Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "But if we would have won that game, we would have won the tournament."

A&M hopes this weekend will be different. Wisconsin should pose the biggest threat to the Lady Aggies' success in the tournament.

Last weekend, the Wisconsin Badgers upset 13th-ranked University of Southern California and 22nd-ranked University of Colorado. After such an impressive showing, Wisconsin entered the polls for the first time this season ranked 17th.

"Obviously we'd like to win [the tournament]," Corbelli said. "Maryland always comes out strong, Wisconsin will probably be the team to beat in the final night. They're going to be really, really strong."

Maryland (3-0) should be a solid opponent with its .314 team hitting percentage and 15.33 kills per game average. Loyola checks in with a 2-1 record.

"Those kinds of teams are exciting to play," senior middle blocker Page White said. "We're wanting to go out and prove ourselves and show what it takes to win the big games."

Junior setter Farrah Mensik said the team needs to keep a consistent level of play throughout the tournament, something it struggled with last weekend.

"We tended to be up and then we would get down," Mensik said. "It was kind of like a rollercoaster ride. We're going to level off the emotional part of our game. We have made it a goal to win the tournament."

White said the team is already working on its consistency of play.

"We're trying to stay consistent on the mental aspect of our game, because we've got the skills," White said. "We're also sharpening ourselves on defense."

Corbelli said the team will need to work on defense in order to improve.

"Our defense is our weakest area," Corbelli said, "so we're doing a lot of individual defensive drills."

The Lady Aggies plan to show that they can play with and defeat nationally ranked teams.

"It lights a fire in [the players] to say that we need to take control of every single match and every single game," Corbelli said. "I think they really want to redeem themselves. [The University Park Tournament] really did prepare us mentally and physically to give it our all."



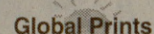
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# Redemption weekend for Aggie soccer

By NICKI SMITH  
THE BATTALION

Picture this. It was Sept. 15, 1995, and the Texas A&M Women's Soccer Team was preparing for a home game against the University of Alabama.

Of course it was not a match-up that can be blown off, but at the same time it was not a conference, tournament or postseason game.

To say the least, it was a game that appeared to be in the Lady Aggies' favor. For everyone involved, it seemed like one of those "no problem" games.

Well, the Crimson Tide made the Aggies think again.

To make a long story short, not only did the Lady Aggies lose 3-1 that day, but they also ended a three-year home-field winning streak, a perfect 9-0 record at the Aggie

Soccer Complex and an impressive 16-0 overall home record.

Needless to say, the Lady Aggie Soccer Team put that day of infamy in a safe place, and at the very top of their list of things to take care of.

In doing so, they labeled Sept. 8, 1996, as their day of revenge.

Almost a year later, the Lady Aggies will travel to Tuscaloosa, Ala., and face the Crimson Tide once again — except this time it will be on enemy turf.

"Last year's game definitely left a bad taste in our mouths," Assistant Head Coach Kat Conner said. "It made us check ourselves on how to focus and not take any games for granted. We will definitely be going into this game with a different perspective."

With that in mind, the Lady Aggies have



FILE PHOTO

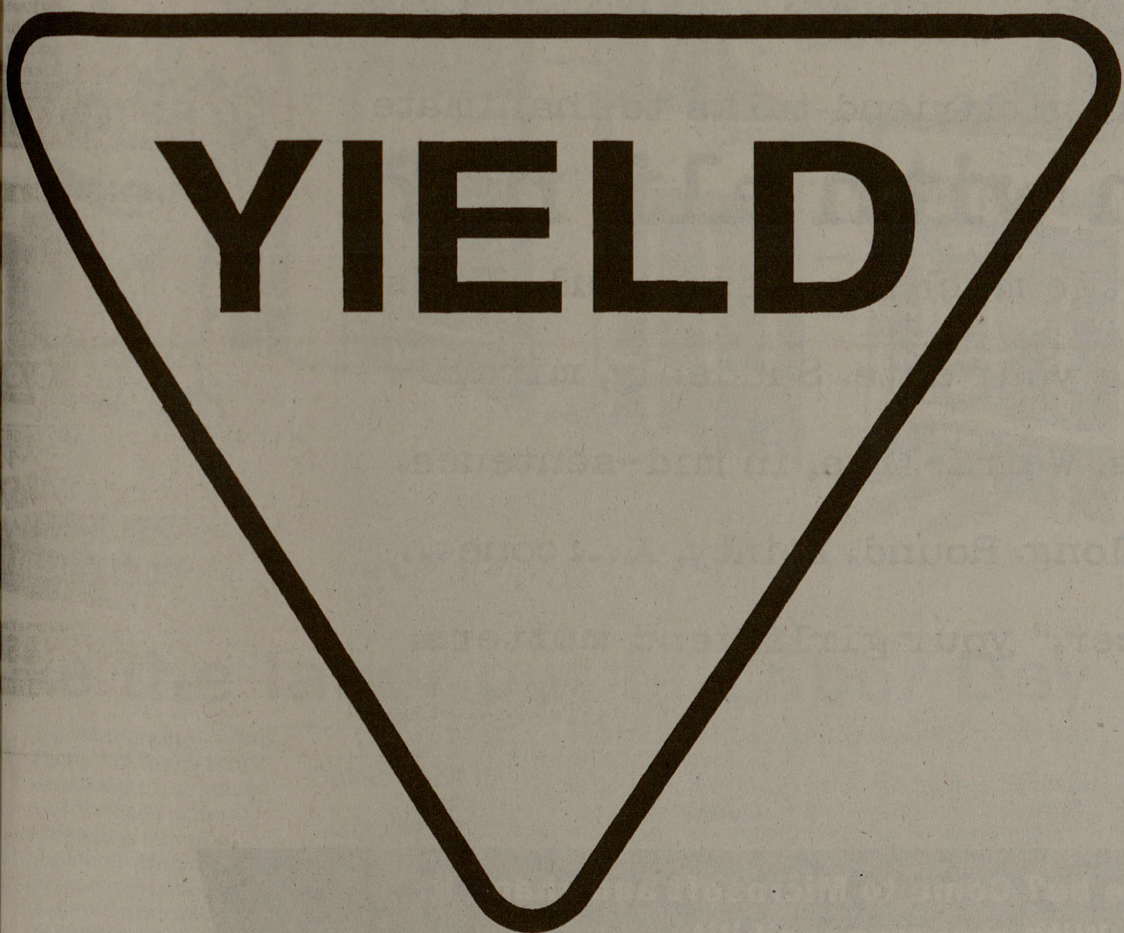
Senior **Yvette Okler** crosses the ball during last year's NCAA second round game against SMU.

See **SOCCER**, Page 16



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