

Lady Aggies
lose in battle
of unbeatens

Just one victory shy of tying the school record for consecutive wins, the sixth-ranked Aggies lost their first match of the season Sunday in Lincoln 1-0 to the University of Nebraska. The loss left the Aggies 9-1 overall and 3-1 in Big 12 play.

A&M entered the match against the No. 10 Cornhuskers fresh on the heels of a 3-0 victory over Iowa State in Ames two days earlier.



Nicki Smith
Soccer Notebook

Entering the contest with an undefeated Nebraska, the Aggies were hoping for a performance similar to their match up with then-undefeated University of Florida on Sept. 22. The Aggies won that battle 2-1, but found themselves in another match up of unbeaten teams one week later. However, this time the maroon and white were on the losing end of the deal.

Nebraska Blanking
Entering the Nebraska match, the Lady Aggies averaged 4.67 goals per game, but were held scoreless for the third time in the history of the A&M program, and for the first time this season.

The Aggies also matched their season low of six shots on goal and one corner kick, while Nebraska tallied 11 shots and four corner kicks.

On a more positive note, freshman goalkeeper Melanie Wilson started her ninth consecutive game for the Aggies, and had five saves against the Cornhuskers.

Two Aggies, senior midfielder Tania Castillejos and sophomore defender/midfielder Sharon Pickering, both

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Mistake-prone Aggies ponder season

By MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION



Colorado defensive end Greg Jones pressures an unsuspecting Brannnon Stewart Saturday.

What a difference a few mistakes can make. If the Texas A&M Football Team had played error-free and won its previous three games with just a loss to Colorado, most Aggie fans would probably sigh to themselves and simply say, "Well, I guess they were the better team, let's move on."

But following last week's defeat to Colorado that dropped the Aggies to 1-3 on the season, some fans are ready to don leaden boots and jump into Rudder Fountain.

A&M Head Coach R.C. Slocum said the Aggies have fallen victim to ill-timed mistakes and are a better team than their record indicates.

"You can take all the problems and all the different questions, but if you just minimize the turnovers we've had, we're probably 4-0 right now," Slocum said.

A&M quarterback Brannnon Stewart echoed Slocum, emphasizing the high level of play on both sides of the ball.

"The defense has played well, the offense has moved the ball, and we just stopped ourselves," Stewart said. "So we know that it's just a matter of eliminating some mistakes."

There is statistical evidence to support

this school of thought. Stewart had a record-setting day against Colorado, completing 34 passes on 64 attempts for 385 yards, all of which are school records. The Aggies are churning out nearly 490 yards of total offense per game, ranking No. 1 among Big 12 schools and seventh nationally.

Wide receiver Albert Connell caught 18 balls for 208 yards, eclipsing the previous school mark of 13 receptions set in 1965. Most of the yardage accumulated on pass plays was made after the catch, with the deep pass not being much of a weapon.

"The throws we made were in front of the defense and they did a good job of preventing the deep ball," Stewart said. "(Throwing deep) is definitely something you want to do if the defense is going to allow you to do it because it gets such a big chunk of yardage. But if the defense doesn't let you do it, then you just have to make adjustments."

The A&M defense has been impressive as well, boasting the type of eye-catching numbers fans have grown accustomed to from the Wrecking Crew. Many have bemoaned A&M's lack of backfield pressure this season.

Senior inside linebacker Larry Walker II said competition has caused the team

to blitz less often this year. Because the Aggies have played primarily passing teams, Walker said blitzing usually brings a safety close to the line of scrimmage, leaving the inexperienced secondary dangerously exposed.

"I believe we have the personnel up front to make big plays," Walker said. "I don't think we've had the opportunity to all-out blitz like people are used to."

Even with the well-publicized turnovers proving to be disastrous to the offense, Stewart balks at the idea there is disharmony between the offense and defense.

"The guys on this team are really close-knit," Stewart said. "[The defense] understands that turnovers are going to happen and we understand that busted plays happen on defense. One's offense and one's defense, but we're a team."

Slocum says he has been pleased with his team's effort and attitude.

"We've had good practices," Slocum said. "I think the biggest thing is just to stay positive with the team. You just have to tell yourself that you're not a quitter and you're not someone who's going to give in."

"This game is supposed to be fun to play. You don't always win. Lord knows, we've won a big share of our games around

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Lengefeld vaulted into early leadership role

By JAMIE BURCH
THE BATTALION

Forrest Gump started running to avoid beatings from grade-school bullies. One day, without forethought, Gump began running and kept going simply because he enjoyed it. Scott Lengefeld, a sophomore runner on the Texas A&M Cross Country Team, discovered his talent and passion for running in a similar fashion.

As a seventh grader, Lengefeld was urged by his basketball coach to quit the sport and run track. Upset by the notion, Lengefeld asked another teacher to settle the dispute. That teacher, his mother Sandra Lengefeld, told him to take some responsibility and tell the coach that he did not want to run. Lengefeld never told his coach no, and he went on to win all the events that he ran.

"The coach said, 'You need to be running, Lengefeld,'" Lengefeld said. "I didn't want to run, but I never could say no. I ran and won every race that I ran in intermediate school."

Lengefeld continued to run in high

school, and the two-time district cross country champion led his team to a state title in 1994. Lengefeld finished 12th individually at that same state championship after placing 15th the prior year. Lengefeld also finished third at the regional track meet in the two-mile run those same two years.

He credits his learned desire to run to his mother and cousin.

"My mom always said that she finished third in her class in third grade," Lengefeld said. "My cousin, who runs marathons, coached me in high school. I guess the desire came from her coaching and from the fact that I enjoyed running."

Lengefeld's freshman season last year continued with equal success. The Aggie's No. 2 finisher in four of five meets, Lengefeld posted three top 10 finishes, including third at the Vanderbilt Invitational. Lengefeld placed 11th at the Southwest Conference Championships, missing All-SWC honors by one place. He also finished 27th at the NCAA District meet.

A&M Head Coach Greg Hinze said Lengefeld was able to learn a lot his fresh-

man year from former SWC champion and A&M runner Matt Priest.

"When he came in last year, Scott was like a sponge," Hinze said. "Sometimes he almost listened to Matt too much. Scott was always wanting to do more because Matt was always doing more."

Lengefeld has continued running to form this season. He finished No. 1 at the Rice Invitational Sept. 21, and finished in the top 10 at the Audubon Invitational in New Orleans two weeks earlier.

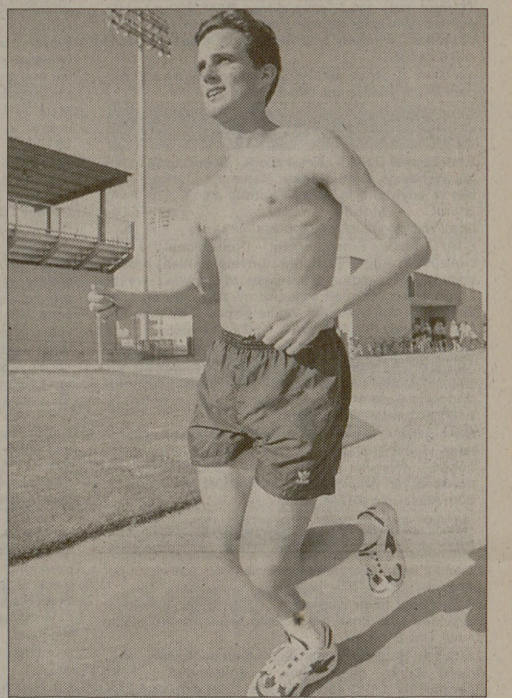
Hinze said he is happy with Lengefeld's results thus far.

"I've been very pleased so far," Hinze said. "He won the Rice meet on a very sloppy course. He ran well at New Orleans, but we more or less trained through that meet."

Despite the fact that Lengefeld has been forced into a veteran role as a sophomore this season, Hinze said he expects him to provide some leadership.

"I think he leads more by example than by being vocal," Hinze said. "He's the No. 1 runner on the team. That's a heavy burden to put

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Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Sophomore Scott Lengefeld works out on West Campus Tuesday afternoon.

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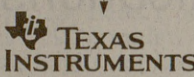
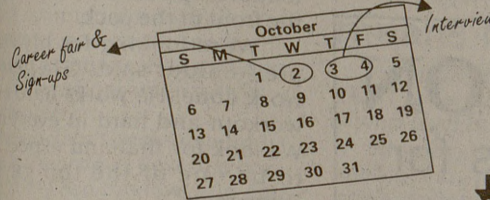
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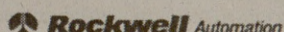
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