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A&M Harriers ready to make impact

By JEREMY FURTICK
THE BATTALION

The stage is set for the Texas A&M Cross Country Team to make a statement at the North Texas Invitational today in Denton.

A&M Head Coach Greg Hinze said that although both the Aggie men and women had good showings at the Rice Invitational two weeks ago, there were some things that needed to be addressed to continue their success in Denton.

One of Hinze's main concerns about the men's squad was the lack of upper class leadership up to this point in the season.

"Our juniors and seniors have to carry the load if we are going to be a good team consistently throughout the year," Hinze said.

Sophomore Scott Lengefeld said the upperclassmen have responded to their coach's concern and have taken leadership roles.

"Our upperclassmen have stepped up their performances in the practices since Rice," Lengefeld said. "After having two weeks of good work, I'm looking forward to a good team showing at North Texas."

Hinze said the women's team is in a different situation than the men's. Its problem isn't leadership, Hinze said, but lack of experience.

Sophomore Amy Stanberry said the team's freshmen have been slow in maturing but have picked up their intensity since the

"After two weeks of good work, I'm looking forward to a good team showing at North Texas."

Greg Hinze
Head cross country coach



Members of the A&M Cross Country Team practice for the meet against North Texas Thursday afternoon.

Aggies' chance to show they can successfully compete against some of the nation's top individuals and teams.

"This meet gives us an opportunity to race against some people that we'll be competing at nationals with," Hinze said.

He said both the Aggie men

and women need this meet to gauge their progress since competing at Rice.

"This meet will be our largest in terms of teams and quality run in this year," Hinze said. "It will give us a benchmark where we are individually and as a team."

Wilkins joins Spurs

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dominique Wilkins, whose quest for a championship was finally fulfilled last season in Greece after 13 years with the Atlanta Hawks, Los Angeles Clippers and Boston Celtics, is coming back to the NBA.

The San Antonio Spurs announced Thursday they'd reached a verbal agreement with Wilkins that would allow the high-scoring, high-flying forward to return to the United States after one year with Panathinaikos Athens of the Greek League.

"It's awesome. I don't know how we managed to pull this off," Spurs forward Sean Elliott told television station KSAT.

"But that's good news for us. When I was a rookie, (he) used to

give me fits. But the second or third year, he'd score 40 points on me. And I'm just happy to have him on my side now."

Details of the agreement were not released.

"He'll look forward to plying on a team like this," said Coach Bob Hill. "He'll benefit and hopefully we'll benefit."

The 6-foot-8, 215-pound Wilkins becomes the NBA's active scoring leader with 25,389 points, which ranks eighth all-time. He's averaged 25.8 points, 6.8 rebounds and 1.36 steals over 984 games.

"We are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to sign a player like Dominique at this point in time," said Spurs general manager Gregg Popovich.



SOCCER

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Colorado enters the match with a two-game winning streak, and is well-rested following a week-long break.

The Aggies Sunday opponent, OSU, has a record of 6-2-1 and a 0-2-1 record in the Big 12, while the Lady Sooners have yet to win a game.

Despite their meager records, junior midfielder Sonia Ibanez said the Aggies are not expecting these games to be any different than the others.

"We don't know anything about these teams, so we just have to take one game at a time," Ibanez said. "I think if we improve our communication and open up for each other, we will be unstoppable. Hopefully

we will beat them all."

The Aggies do have one advantage heading into the four-day road stand—all three of their weekend opponents are in the midst of their regular seasons.

Guerrieri said this does not change the game plan for the Aggies.

"Our goal is the same in every game despite the record," Guerrieri said. "We focus on working harder than the opponent so that it all falls in line. I expect them all to get behind their home crowds and get numbers behind the ball so that we can't use our speed."



Guerrieri

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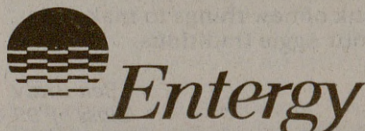
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