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A&M volleyball continues Big 12 quest

Lady Aggies host Missouri, Iowa State at G. Rollie White Coliseum

By JAMIE BURCH
THE BATTALION

The 12th-ranked Texas A&M Volleyball Team continues its quest for an inaugural Big 12 Conference crown this weekend at G. Rollie White Coliseum, hosting the University of Missouri and Iowa State University.

The University of Missouri storms into College Station tonight at 7 p.m. looking for an upset victory. The Big 12 battle will continue Saturday at 7 p.m. against Iowa State University, which arrives at the Holler House after its battle with eighth-ranked University of Texas.

The Missouri Tigers return five starters and eight letterwinners from last year's squad. Missouri, searching for its first conference victory, is winless this season at 0-12. Eight of Missouri's losses have been three-game sweeps.

A&M Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said Missouri's 6-foot sophomore outside hitter Sarah Freiborg looms as the biggest threat for the Lady Aggies.

"Missouri has one hitter in particular, (Sarah) Freiborg," Corbelli said. "We saw her this spring. She's their go-to hitter that we have to stop."

In addition to Freiborg, the Lady Tigers' attack consists of sophomore outside hitter Jodi Maunc. Maunc leads the team with a .234 hitting percentage and a 4.02 kill average.

The Lady Cyclones of Iowa State finished last season tied for second place in the Big 8 Conference and ranked 28th in the USA Today poll. Iowa State returns eight letterwinners but just three

starters from last season. ISU is winless in the conference and is 4-12 on the season.

Leading the offense for Iowa State is senior middle blocker Rachele Van Scoyoc. Scoyoc's .260 hitting percentage leads the team. The Lady Aggies will also have to defend against the Lady Cyclones' senior outside hitter Sonya Van Helden, who averages a team-high 4.31 kills per game.

The Lady Aggies are 7-0 at home and are favored to win the match, but Corbelli said she fears playing unranked teams.

"I think it's too easy to overlook these teams," Corbelli said. "It's scarier for a coach to play teams like that than the top teams, because you're not sure if your team is prepared. You have to really sharpen your preparation."

Senior middle blocker Page White said she realizes the importance of any conference match.

"The games this weekend are very important," White said. "Right now we're tied for first with Nebraska in the conference. The two teams coming in this weekend are not ranked, so we're ex-

pected to win. But those kind of teams get fired up for teams are ranked. We're going to have to play hard. It's very important to us we do just that."

Junior outside hitter Jenna Wells said the Lady Aggies know this weekend is vital to keep pace with Nebraska in the conference.

"Especially now that we're in the conference, it's very important for us to focus on our game to get through these matches," Wells said.

Corbelli said that while the weekend's opponents are underdogs and could easily be overlooked, the Lady Aggies must be ready.

"We have to set some goals for what we want to achieve over the weekend a team this weekend within the game," Corbelli said. "It would be a disaster for us to be unprepared for these games. I am very confident that the team will be prepared, and ready to go to work."

This weekend will be the Lady Aggies' final tune-up before the defending national champion Nebraska and Big 12 Conference leader Nebraska next weekend.



White

Aggie soccer hosts Texas Tech, Baylor

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

With regular-season road trips behind them, the members of the Texas A&M Soccer Team are settling in at home for the weekend to take care of two of their last three Big 12 Conference games.

The Aggies will face Texas Tech University today at the Aggie Soccer Complex at 4 p.m. and Baylor University on Sunday at 1 p.m.

A&M is currently ranked seventh in the NSCAA/Umbro National poll with an overall record of 12-1 and a Big 12 record of 5-1.

Head Coach G. Guerrieri said the games this weekend will prove to be two good tests leading into the team's toughest stretch of the schedule.

"This is a good way for us to get into things," Guerrieri said. "Along with the University of Nebraska and the University of Texas, Tech is among the elite teams in the conference. They were pretty high in the pre-season picks."

Not only did the Red Raiders return all of

their key players, but they also added two new forwards, Kristy Frantz and Amy Rutstein, and a talented goalkeeper to their roster.

Entering the battle with the Aggies, the Red Raiders have a record of 9-3, 3-1 in the Big 12, and are currently ranked fourth in the Big 12 Conference. However, the Red Raiders remained winless against the Aggies.

Senior defender Tina Robinson said despite the series record, the Aggies will have to play tough and not take Tech lightly.

"We haven't played our better games against Tech," Robinson said. "We are starting a new lineup and can't let the changes get to us. Hopefully, we will be able to create more offense and put more of our shots into the net."

Junior forward Diana Rowe said the new lineup will help change things up.

"We have had success so far with the way we have been playing," Rowe said. "It is easy to get comfortable and laid back with things."

The Lady Bears bring an undefeated record of 9-0 to College Station and are currently second in the Big 12 Conference rankings.

Guerrieri said the Baylor team has surprised a lot of people with its success, considering it is its first year of existence.

"They have been a pleasant surprise for us," Guerrieri said. "I am excited that they are doing so well. They have some good players and have made a terrific step toward becoming a team to be reckoned with in the Big 12."

Some Lady Bears the Aggies are looking for include freshman forward Molly Carter, who leads the national scoring charts with goals, and forward Courtney Saunders, who ranks second on the Baylor squad with goals and nine assists.

The main goal for the Aggies this weekend is to complete the season undefeated at home and add to their 28-1 home-field record.

"We want to position ourselves to have many games in the NCAA championship possible," Guerrieri said. "We need good results this weekend against Tech and Baylor well as when we finish up Big 12 regular season play against Texas at home."

Cross country hosts Aggie Invitational

By JEREMY FURTICK
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Cross Country Team will not only be looking for victory at tomorrow's Texas A&M Invitational meet, but also for future Aggie runners.

The Aggies host 129 high schools and 35 universities tomorrow at the A&M Golf Course. The first of nine high school races begins at 8 a.m. with the open girls' division and concludes at 11:45 a.m. with the varsity boys' race. The university divisions are sandwiched in between, with the women's race at 10:30 a.m. followed by the men's at 10:55 a.m.

A&M Head Coach Greg Hinze said this meet is important for the Aggies because runners who will compete with A&M for berths to the NCAA Championship Meet will participate.

"This weekend will give our runners a chance to compete with a lot of the same people we will be in national competition with," Hinze

said. "Scott Lengfeld and Stanberry should get a good look where they are and what they need to do to get to nationals."

Another reason this weekend's meet is big for A&M cross country is recruiting.

"By bringing these high school runners here for a meet, we have opportunity to create some interest in A&M that may not have been there before," Hinze said.

A&M junior Todd Fox said there is some pressure on the Aggies to put up a good performance for the possible recruits.

"It's a huge plus if we run as a team," Fox said. "It can be a big part in turning recruitment to Texas A&M."

Fox said even though recruiting is one focal point of the meet, the Aggies cannot lose sight of the opportunity to continue improvement.

"Stephen (Wright), Jerry (Christian (Henricksen) and I set the threshold last weekend at Texas," Fox said. "We need to improve on, those performance

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