

In the midst of all the action



Photo Illustration by Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Senior **Tania Castillejos** (front) and junior **Sonia Ibanez** have scored a combined five goals and contributed 11 assists this season.

Former walk-on Castillejos keys Aggie attack, defensive front

By JAMIE BURCH
THE BATTALION

When people have nothing to lose, they usually perform to the best of their ability.

Texas A&M midfielder Tania Castillejos did just that when she tried out for the Aggie soccer team in the spring of 1994.

Castillejos, who came to A&M because of the well-respected engineering program, said she tried out for the squad because she would not have been any worse off if she did not make it.

"I had Kristen (Koop) in one of my classes," Castillejos said. "We talked about the possibility of trying out and she told me that she had walked on the year before. She informed me of when the try-

outs were going to be held. It was one of those situations where I had nothing to lose. If I tried out and made it, I was on the team, if not, then I wasn't on the team — which I wasn't anyway."

Castillejos, whose father played soccer for Ohio State University, did not begin playing soccer until the fifth grade. Since Permian High School in Odessa did not field a team, Castillejos was unable to play for a school team — until she came to A&M.

"I played off and on for club teams throughout high school," Castillejos said. "Since I played other sports, I didn't have a whole lot of time to play; so I dedicated my time to volleyball and track. I didn't start playing real competitive soccer until I came here."

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Light-hearted Ibanez entertains teammates, strikes fear in opponents

By SARA DUESING
THE BATTALION

She has a fiery spirit and a warm smile. She is dedicated and determined. Whether it is playing soccer with the nation's best or just hanging out with friends, Texas A&M midfielder Sonia Ibanez commits herself to playing hard and having fun.

"Sonia brings a light-hearted manner to the team," Soccer Head Coach G. Guerrieri said. "But on the field, it is absolute business. She knows when to laugh and when to really buckle down."

Growing up in a household that encouraged playing sports, Ibanez said all three of her brothers introduced her to soccer and urged her to play.

"I joined my first team around the age of four," Ibanez said. "But my brothers and I

were always playing soccer in our backyard."

Keeping up with the competitive and unique game, Ibanez said she is convinced soccer is the best way to stay in shape.

"I play for my health," Ibanez said. "It's hard for a lot of people to go out on their own to work out, and soccer does that for me. But it's also the only sport that I ever really liked."

Having scored three goals this year with four assists, the junior from Grand Prairie is known for her rough style of play and her one-on-one skills.

"Her intensity level is so high," junior forward Bryn Blalack said. "She has the ability to beat anyone she faces — which plays a big part on the team."

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"She's tactically very smart, as far as her awareness of what's going on out on the field."

G. Guerrieri
A&M head coach

"She knows when to laugh and when to really buckle down."

G. Guerrieri
A&M head coach

Seven cross country members reinstated

By JAMIE BURCH
THE BATTALION

Seven members of the Texas A&M Cross Country Team were reinstated Monday after being suspended from the team Sunday for violating unspecified team rules.

The suspended members — Kari Wyatt, Amy Stanberry, Caroline Kohler, Scott Lengefeld, Todd Fox, Jim Darcey and Christian Henricksen each met with A&M Head Coach Greg Hinze and other athletic administrators Monday.

Although Hinze declined comment on the infractions, he

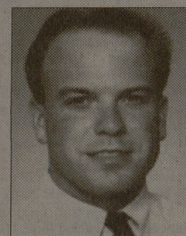
said the seven have learned from their mistakes and the situation has been corrected.

"They're all good kids who just made a mistake," Hinze said. "We had a meeting about it this morning, with myself and some other members of the administration. I'm satisfied with the actions that we took and with the answers that we got from them."

Prior to the suspension, over the weekend, the team limped to a 10th place finish in the men's division and 12th in the women's division in the inaugural Big 12 Conference Championships at Iowa State University.

"It's a matter that has been put behind us," Hinze said. "Now we can get ready and go to district."

The Aggie harriers' next competition is the NCAA District VI Cross Country Championships on Saturday, Nov. 16, in Denton.



Hinze

Soccer sets team, individual records at Post Oak Classic

The Texas A&M Soccer Team might as well get used to life in the fast lane, because for the next few weeks, that is where it will be.

The Aggies had the opportunity to see three top 20 teams at work at the Post Oak Mall Classic last weekend at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

Not only did the Aggies shut out two, the University of Massachusetts and the University of North Carolina-Greensboro, but the Aggies also gained the momentum needed to carry them into the Big 12 Conference Championships in St. Louis, Mo., Thursday through Sunday.

As if shutting out their opponents was not enough, A&M nearly shattered every team and complex record as well.

WINNING TRADITION

To start off the record-breaking weekend, the sixth-ranked Aggies won their fourth consecutive Post Oak Mall Classic championship crown, putting their overall record at 18-2.

The 18 wins for the Aggies ties the program record, and the two shutouts they earned marked number 10 and 11 of the year, the highest single-season number in

A&M history.

In addition, the 3-0 win over Massachusetts in the championship game of the tournament was the Aggies' 17th straight win at the Aggie Soccer Complex, giving them an overall home-field record of 33-1 and an unblemished 9-0 home record for the 1996 season.

STANDING OUT

To add to their long list of accolades, five Aggies were named to the All-Tournament team. The A&M nominees included senior forwards Kristen Koop and Yvette Okler, junior forward Bryn Blalack, sophomore defender Emily Elias and freshman goalkeeper Melanie Wilson.

Blalack was named Most Valuable Offensive Player after scoring three out of the five Aggie goals for the weekend. This is the third consecutive year she has received the award. Two of the goals she scored were game winners.

Wilson also joined the MVP list by receiving the Most Valuable Defensive Player award after earning herself a .55 goals-against average and her sixth solo shutout of the season, which puts her among the 10 best goalkeepers in the nation.

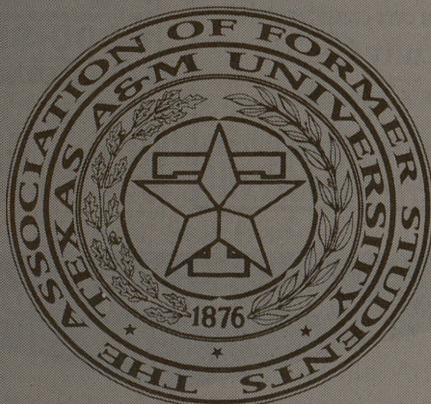
Along with tournament honors, Blalack surpassed her own school record of 23 goals in a season as she scored her 24th goal in the UMass

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Nicki Smith
Soccer Notebook

The Association of Former Students Induction Banquet



Wednesday & Thursday, November 13 & 14, 1996

COLLEGE STATION HILTON BALLROOM
GRAND BALLROOM - 6:20 P.M.

All December '96 graduating seniors and graduate students* are invited
Complimentary tickets may be picked up in the
MSC Hallway, November 5, 6, & 7 (9 a.m. - 3 p.m.)

TICKETS GIVEN ON A FIRST-COME, FIRST-SERVED BASIS
Student I.D. Required to Pick Up Tickets

Compliments of The Association of Former Students
*Graduate students who are not already a member may attend either night.

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- Someone with a record of community involvement and leadership.
- Someone with 16 years experience in the Sheriff's Department
- Someone with a goal oriented, proactive management style.

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