

Ags put goals on line in St. Louis

By Nicki Smith
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Soccer Team has already made good on its promise to be recognized as one of the top ten teams in the nation. Now the sixth-ranked Aggies must lay everything on the line in the postseason during the next three weeks, starting this weekend at the Big 12 Conference Championships.

The event begins Thursday in St. Louis, Mo., at the Anheuser-Busch Conference and Sports Centre; however, the Aggies received a first-round bye and will not kick off until Saturday. The Aggies own an 18-2 record overall and an 8-1 mark in the Big 12.

Considering there are only five teams in the nation ranked above them, one would think the Aggies would have no problem taking home the conference trophy.

However, the University of Nebraska is also invited to the party. The fifth-ranked Cornhuskers presented themselves as a formidable rival to the Aggies earlier this season when they handed A&M its only conference loss of the season Sept. 29, a 1-0 decision in Lincoln.

A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri said the Aggies are more prepared to face Nebraska — provided that both teams win their semifinal matches and make it to the Big 12 finals.

"Last time we played Nebraska in Lincoln, they played a very direct game," Guerrieri said. "We know that if we face them again, we will have to find ways to bring more control and bring our midfielders into the game. Last time we played them, there were so many long balls and the game was out of control."

Although it is not certain the Aggies will meet up with the Cornhuskers in the final Big 12 Conference game of the season, the odds are clearly in both teams' favor.

Senior midfielder Tania Castillejos said the Aggies are looking forward to facing the Cornhuskers again.

"We know how they play and know who to watch for this time around," Castillejos said. "Not only do we have more mental quickness and more experience in difficult situations, but we are also more comfortable with each other."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A&M junior forward **Bryn Blalack** leaps over U-Mass players **Julie Magid** (#2) and **Robin Smith** to head the ball last Sunday at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

Going into the tournament, A&M has the No. 2 seed, while Nebraska is seeded No. 1 and also owns a first-round bye.

In first-round action today, third-seeded Baylor University meets sixth-seeded University of Texas, and fourth-seeded Texas Tech University takes on fifth-seeded University of Missouri.

A&M will face the winner of the Baylor-Texas fray in the semifinals Saturday. A&M owns regular-season wins over both the Bears and Longhorns.

If they win that contest, the Aggies will take on the winner of the game between Nebraska and either Tech or Missouri in the championship final, which will take place on Sunday.

Guerrieri said the team is not concentrating on who will be playing in the final game, but instead is taking the championships on

a game-by-game basis.

"We have been trying to fine tune what we do well," Guerrieri said. "We believe that if we go out well and play our best, it doesn't matter who the other team is."

Guerrieri said the Aggies' early-season setback against the Cornhuskers will not play a factor should the two teams meet in the final game, because both teams are playing in neutral territory.

"The neutral territory should even things up," Guerrieri said. "The only thing we have to worry about now is the tall thick grass we will be playing on and the extremely cold weather."

The winner of the championship showdown will automatically receive a bid to the 1996 NCAA Tournament. First-round pairings will be announced on Monday, Nov. 11.

Robinson credits brothers for her talent and love of soccer

By Jeremy Furtick
THE BATTALION

Most young girls growing up with four brothers are subjected to all kinds of neighborhood athletic abuse. They become the all-time right fielder on the sandlot, the center on the street football squad, and usually take the blame for almost every mistake made in the spectrum of inter-neighborhood athletics.

But Tina Robinson, a senior defender on the Texas A&M Soccer Team, with the help of her brothers, broke the mold of the sister-teammate.

Robinson, a four-year starter for A&M, gives her brothers credit for keeping her interested in soccer while growing up in Dickinson.

"I started playing soccer in the second grade and I didn't like it at all," Robinson said. "But I had four brothers, and if I

wanted to play outside with them, I had to play soccer."

After a while though, Robinson learned to enjoy soccer more than the other sports she was participating in.

"It was one of those things where you realize you're adept at something and learn to like it," she said. "And I learned to love soccer."

However, it was not an easy choice at first.

"I played pretty much everything," Robinson said. "Volleyball, tennis, basketball, soccer — I loved to play sports."

"My dad played semi-pro tennis and he wanted me to go pro in tennis because he thought that was where the money was, but soccer was my best, so I stuck with it."

Robinson earned three letters in volleyball and two in tennis at Dickinson High School. She also lettered four times in soccer and was given three first-team all-district awards, a district MVP award and a first-team all-state selection.

Even in the twilight of her

collegiate soccer career, Robinson says she still shares her experience with her brothers.

"Two of my brothers are in high school, and two are playing soccer in college," she said. "We talk as much as possible, but we're all real busy."

"My high school brothers come up for games whenever they're not playing. Those games mean the most to me because they are there watching."

Robinson said her relationship with her brothers is unique because they all continue to lend each other a hand, even with nine years separating the oldest and youngest siblings.

"Even though three of my brothers are younger and we are separated by schools now, we all try to inspire each other," she said. "Everyone has a strength in something different and we're not afraid to talk to each other."

A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri said Robinson's strength is her tenacity and competitiveness.

"Tina's a straight-forward person," Guerrieri said.

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Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

A&M senior defender **Tina Robinson** studies and relaxes at Research Park during her free time.

Baylor's daunting task begins with sub-.500 A&M

By Ross Hecox
THE BATTALION

When a team stands 1-4 in conference play, it might seem like the season is over. But the Baylor University Football Team, which owns a 4-4 overall record, is not ready to call it quits.

The Bears have to produce two more wins this season to qualify for a bowl bid, and this weekend's matchup against the Texas A&M Football Team in Waco is where they begin their three-game run at the postseason.

Last year's 7-4 record was not enough to earn Baylor a bowl invitation, but because six Big 12 Conference teams are slated to participate in post-season competition this season, the Bears could play in December with only six wins.

Head Coach Chuck Reedy said despite its .500 record, the team is in a position to garner some concrete accomplishments, including a bowl berth.

"We still have things to work for," Reedy said. "We're getting better little by little, and hopefully we go into the last three games, we will be a better team."

Baylor received its fourth loss last weekend, dropping a close contest to the University of Texas 28-23 in Austin. But after falling behind 21-0 in the second quarter, the Bears outscored the Longhorns 23-7.

Reedy said by keeping Texas from scoring more than seven points in the second half, his players showed they were not ready to give up.

"We've gotten better against [Texas] every year," Reedy said. "I'm proud of my players to fight back and put us in a position to

win the game. We played hard for 60 minutes and came away with a feeling that we can play with those kinds of teams."

Baylor's performance in Austin seemed to have more bite than its season statistics would indicate. The Bears are next to last in the Big 12 in total offense (343 yards per game) and defense (461 yards).

In comparison to A&M's ground attack, which ranks 16th in the nation, Baylor ranks 107th in the nation in rushing yardage allowed (252.3).

Reedy said the A&M game will be another tough contest.

"From the standpoint of offensive and defensive personnel, [the Aggies] are going to match up with anyone," Reedy said. "This is a very big game for us."

Sophomore quarterback Jermaine Alfred runs Baylor's I-formation offense. He has completed 52.2 percent of his passes, throwing for eight touchdowns and two interceptions this season.

Junior running back Jerod Douglas, who leads the team in rushing, is questionable with a pulled hamstring. Sophomore Dexter Ford and freshman Elijah Burkins, both averaging over five yards per carry, will fill in for the hobbled Douglas.

After playing A&M, the Bears will face the University of Missouri and Oklahoma State University. Even though those teams are located at the bottom of their division and may look like easy victories, Reedy said sure wins are nonexistent in the Big 12.

"This conference is very competitive," Reedy said. "It's obvious when you look at the schedule of the Big 12 that any week you can get beat by any team."

Individual A&M Football Statistics

Rushing	G	Att	Net	Avg	TD	Long
Sirr Parker	9	138	641	4.6	2	42
Eric Bernard	9	66	439	6.7	4	40
DAndre Hardeman	9	71	434	6.1	12	74
Dante Hall	9	59	412	7.0	3	74
Albert Connell	9	2	66	33.0	1	63
Team Total	9	411	2073	5.0	24	74

Receiving	G	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Albert Connell	9	52	784	15.1	5	70
Donte Hawkins	9	29	351	12.1	0	27
Derrick Spiller	8	13	188	14.5	0	27
DAndre Hardeman	9	8	66	8.3	1	15
Aaron Oliver	6	7	120	17.1	1	57
Eric Bernard	9	6	53	8.8	0	43
Sirr Parker	9	6	47	7.8	1	16
Team Total	9	135	1783	13.2	8	70

Passing	G	Effic.	Att-Cmp-Int	Pct	Yds	TD
Brannon Stewart	9	111.21	245-125-7	51.0	1608	8
Randy McCown	4	108.10	21-10-1	47.6	175	0
Team Total	9	110.55	267-135-8	50.6	1783	8

Interceptions	No.	Yds	Avg	TD	Long
Rich Coady	3	93	31.0	0	64
Dat Nguyen	3	38	12.7	1	36
Keith Mitchell	1	42	42.0	1	42
Donovan Greer	1	27	27.0	0	27
Shun Horn	1	26	26.0	0	26
Jason Webster	1	9	9.0	0	9
Andre Williams	1	0	0.0	0	0
Team Total	11	235	21.4	2	64

Defensive Leaders	UT	AT	Tackles	For Loss	Sacks	No-Yards
Dat Nguyen	74	37	111	7-20	1.5-12	
Warrick Holdman	38	24	62	7-16	2.5-6	
Keith Mitchell	41	20	61	19-107	11.0-86	
Edward Jasper	29	16	45	10-38	2.0-20	
Philip Meyers	25	18	43	5-17	2.0-12	
Rich Coady	27	15	42	2-3	0.5-1	
Donovan Greer	30	11	41	3-12	1.0-8	
Bran. Mitchell	22	17	39	10-45	6.0-33	
Shun Horn	28	11	39	1-2	0	
Pat Williams	22	15	37	6-15	1.0-3	

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