

Opening Night

Aggies begin exhibition season with 63-58 win

By MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

In a rusty but effective effort, the Texas A&M Basketball Team overcame a furious second-half comeback by the Townsville Suns to claim a 63-58 victory Wednesday night in front of 2,261 spectators at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"For the first game, I was really pleased, with as many young players as we played."

Tony Barone
Men's basketball coach

double before halftime. However, the Suns' foul shooting kept them close, and they were only down by 11 going to the locker room.

"I thought Quesada did an excellent job tonight," Barone said. "He missed some good shots, some open shots, that he's normally going to make. He didn't get some of those down, but I thought overall he was fine."

The good times were definitely over, as the Australians went on a 17-9 run to open the second half and tie the game at 46. It became a back-and-forth affair, with neither side gaining more than a four-point advantage for the next five minutes.

With the Aggies clinging to a tenuous 57-56 lead, Quesada nailed a jumper to put the Aggies up by three. A steal by freshman point guard Brian Barone and his two ensuing free throws made it 61-56.

The Suns turned the ball over on their next possession to set up the play of the game that all but sealed the win for the Aggies. After being unable to get a shot off, the Aggies called timeout with five seconds left on the shot clock to set up a play.

From out of bounds, Shanne Jones lofted a pass to the other side of the backboard where Calvin Davis caught and dunked it for an alley-oop that brought the crowd to its feet and gave the Aggies a 63-56 lead with 1:47 left.

The Suns were only able to muster a pair of free throws down the stretch and the Aggies survived some frantic shooting at the end to prevail.

"They changed their whole game (in the second half)," Barone said. "They played way more up tempo, so when they came in and were as controlled as they were, that was a surprise to us. We thought they were going to be jacking up the three a lot and they did not. I thought our defense overall was pretty good."

Quesada, who finished the night with 20 points and 16 boards, said the Suns did some things the Aggies had never seen in practice or film.

"We just had to be ready for it," Quesada said. "During one of the timeouts, Coach told us they were just going through the motions and it was something we really didn't know. But he drew it on the board and that was it."

Especially pleasing for the Aggies was the standout play of several of the younger players on the squad. Those players include newcomers Jerald Brown at guard, Shanne Jones at forward, and sophomore Calvin Davis at forward, all of whom started. Jones responded with 12 points and 10 rebounds, while Davis chipped in five points and three boards.

"I was really pleased with the freshmen," Barone said. "I thought Brown and (Steve) Houston and Brian all played very well tonight. I was very pleased with their adjustment to major college basketball."

Jerald Brown claimed top honors among the newcomers with



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

A&M junior center **Dario Quesada** pulls up for a shot against the Townsville Suns Wednesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

16 points in only 28 minutes of work on 5-of-11 shooting, including 4-for-8 from 3-point range.

"He's an outstanding shooter," Barone said. "He gets tired and then the shot goes, but he's an excellent shooter and I thought he played very good defense tonight for a freshman who hasn't played on this level."

As one might expect, Barone sees room for improvement in a

few areas, but was pleased with the Aggies' overall performance.

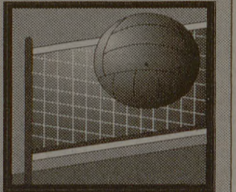
"I was a little bit disappointed in our rebounding," Barone said. "In the second half, we did not do a good job of rebounding the basketball. I didn't think we passed the ball well tonight. I thought we had too many turnovers in terms of open people. But for the first game, I was really pleased, with as many young players as we played."

Horns dismiss Lady Aggies in three games

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Prior to its highly anticipated rematch with the University of Texas Wednesday night, members of the Texas A&M Volleyball Team repeatedly said that the Longhorns were not at their best when the Lady Aggies swept them in three games on Sept. 25.

Evidently they were right. In front of a season-high crowd of 6,123 at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin, the eighth-ranked Longhorns avenged their early-season sweep at A&M with a sweep of their own, 15-10, 15-10, 15-10.



Texas (19-4, 13-2 Big 12) remained tied for first place with Nebraska in the Big 12 Conference, while A&M (21-5, 12-3) dropped to third place with its second consecutive loss.

Powered by three early kills from sophomore outside hitter Stacy Sykora, the 13th-ranked Lady Aggies grabbed a 7-0 lead in the first game before wilting under a two-player Longhorn attack. Texas sophomore Demetria Sance recorded seven kills and freshman Sarah Butler notched five to lead the Longhorns on a 15-3 barrage to close out the game.

The Longhorns jumped out to 4-1 and 11-4 leads in the second game and an 8-2 lead in the final frame to hold the Aggies at bay the rest of the way.

The Lady Aggies were led by Sykora's 24 kills and 16 digs, while junior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud added 14 kills and 10 digs. Junior setter Farah Mensik recorded 50 assists.

Sance paced Texas with 19 kills, Butler finished with 16 and Jane Winkel chipped in 13 kills on a .571 hitting percentage.

The Lady Aggies return to action Sunday against the University of Oklahoma at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 2:30 p.m.

Guerrrieri molds infant A&M soccer program into winner

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

You have heard them screaming and yelling during game time — sometimes at the athletes on the field and sometimes at the referees for questionable calls. They console players after mistakes, motivate their players when things get tough, and, more often than not, take the blame for anything a team does wrong.

By now, you have probably figured out that the only person that fits all of the above categories is the person who never gets to step foot on the playing field — the coach.

Some coaches are fortunate to have pretty good teams, while others like G. Guerrrieri, head coach of the Texas A&M Soccer Team, are fortunate to have a team that is not only ranked seventh in the nation, but is also comprised of some of the best collegiate athletes in the sport.

Guerrrieri, who took over the Aggie soccer program four years ago in its initial varsity season, said his main goal was to ensure the team's improvement on a yearly basis.

"The one thing we set up for each year is to look at our performance in each game," Guerrrieri said. "We base this on where we start in the national rankings and where we are in the rankings at the end of the season. This year alone, we started at No. 10 and ended at No. 7, which obviously shows how our playing ability has improved."

Aside from his success as head coach for the Aggies, Guerrrieri has a history of bringing young programs into the spotlight.

Before becoming the head coach of the A&M team, he served as head coach for the men's and women's soccer teams at Richland College, and

even led the women's team to a seventh place national ranking in its first season of scholarship play. In addition, he was named the Region V Men's and Women's Coach of the Year in 1992.

Aside from his experience, Guerrrieri said he just tries to make sure that his players understand him.

"I want them to know that I trust them to do the right thing," Guerrrieri said. "My job is to understand what is right and to give them a series of steps to do what is right."

To round out his coaching and playing background, Guerrrieri was the women's team coach at Hardin-Simmons University from 1988-90 where the

team advanced to the 1988 NAIA national championship. He has coached at the University of North Texas and the University of Tulsa, and was goalkeeper coach for the North Texas Soccer Association State Olympic Development Program.

As a player, he was the team captain and goalkeeper at the University of Tulsa earning numerous accolades along the way including the team MVP in 1982, he was named to the all-Midwest team, and he played professional soccer for the Tulsa Tornados.

Senior defender Tina Robinson said it is Guerrrieri's coaching experience that has helped

the A&M team accomplish so much.

"He is very demanding but he knows what he is doing," Robinson said. "Seeing how far our team has come in just a short amount of time definitely says something about his coaching ability."

As the Aggie head coach, Guerrrieri has an overall record of 67-14-3 and serves as the USYSA Regional Staff coach for the southern 12 states.

At A&M, Guerrrieri has guided the Aggies into the national spotlight last year with a No. 13 ranking, has led the Aggies to a 19-3 season, and has helped the team earn a seventh seed in the NCAA National Championship Tournament, which begins Friday.

Guerrrieri said the team's accomplishments alone have exceeded his expectations.

"We came here four years ago with the idea that the Texas A&M Soccer Team would bring something that people here could be proud of," Guerrrieri said. "In trying to do so, we put ourselves in a position to win the Big 12 and are now competing in the first round of the national championships against the University of San Diego on our home field. This is definitely what we all hoped for."

Overall senior forward Kristen Koop said the team respects Guerrrieri for all that he has done for the program.

"We know that he has a lot of confidence in us," Koop said. "He is demanding because he knows we can do it and have the potential to do well. We have fun together and owe him a lot for all of our success."

Guerrrieri said that in his four years here he has been able to get closer to the team.

"I have worked on trying to be more subdued," Guerrrieri said. "I am not the type to sit back and take things lying down, but I have learned to be more reserved so the girls can focus more of their energy on their performance."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Head Coach **G. Guerrrieri** guided the Aggies to their second consecutive NCAA Championships appearance this season.

Oklahoma hopes to distinguish itself from the Aggies with a win

By ROSS HECOX
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Football Team is not alone with its 3-3 conference mark, sub-par season and slight chance at winning the Big 12 South Division. The University of Oklahoma floats in the same boat with the Aggies and looks to dismiss some of the resemblances with a win when it sails into Kyle Field Saturday.

Similarities abound for the two teams. Both have a traditional rivalry with the University of Texas, possess a strong running game, and claim to have a "one game at a time" approach rather than focusing on winning the division.

"We want to focus on the game that is at hand," Head Coach John Blake said.

Despite Blake's short-term view, Oklahoma has a shot at playing in the Big 12 Champi-

onship Game. If the team can focus enough to beat the Aggies, defeat Texas Tech University, and if Texas loses one game, the Sooners will be making the trip to St. Louis, Mo.

Oklahoma also likens to A&M in yanking its starting quarterback if he is being unproductive. But the Sooners have made the substitution more frequently.

Last week against Oklahoma State University, sophomore Eric Moore was inserted behind center for freshman Justin Fuente and passed for 71 yards and a touchdown.

Fuente has started the last eight games, completing 46.4 per-

cent of his passes for 1,271 yards, eight touchdowns and 10 interceptions. Moore has passed for 42.2 percent with 437 yards, five touchdowns and three interceptions in five games. Moore is considered a better scrambler than Fuente.

Both quarterbacks have shown the ability to march their team downfield, but the question of who is best suited to run the offense is inevitable. Senior tailback James Allen said he is not worried about it.

"I have confidence in both guys," Allen said. "They both can come in and do a great job for us. They are capable of leading this

offense and making big plays." Blake praised the abilities of both players and would not name a starter for this week's game.

"I look at it as we have two starters," Blake said. "You've got to go with the quarterback that can win, and I'm just glad to have both of them."

The Sooners' offensive strength, like A&M, seems to lie in its running game. Freshman tailback De'Mond Parker leads the team with 1,080 yards and nine touchdowns, and Allen has added 727 yards to Oklahoma's rushing attack.

On defense, Oklahoma allows an average of only 141.6 ground yards a game and limited Oklahoma State's star running back David Thompson to 51 yards.

Blake said A&M's offensive line is what must be controlled to stop its solid ground game.

"[The Aggies] have three out-

standing backs," Blake said. "But we're more worried about stopping their guys up front."

Although the Sooners are 3-6 this season, at times they have competed well against powerful opponents. Their most notable performance occurred Oct. 12 when they defeated Texas 30-27 in overtime. The win makes the prospect of beating both A&M and Tech — their last two opponents — possible.

"It was an important win for us," Allen said. "It being the first win of the season. It gave us hope, confidence, and we started to believe in ourselves. It brought us closer together as a team."

The game seems to be the crossroads for both A&M and Oklahoma. Saturday one team will extend its Division hopes, and the other will probably be more sensitive to the apparent differences.

"[The Aggies] have three outstanding backs. But we're more worried about stopping their guys up front."

John Blake
Oklahoma head coach



Photo Courtesy of Oklahoma Sports Info. Sophomore defensive back **Gana Joseph** has 81 tackles.