

# Aggies look to stay perfect against Kansas Jayhawks

By JASON WHITCOMB  
Staff writer

It has been said in the past that offense wins games and defense wins championships. For the sixth-ranked A&M Soccer Team, this concept may become a reality as the season progresses.

Tonight, the A&M defense looks to continue its dominance as they travel to Lawrence to battle the Kansas Jayhawks.

In A&M's first game against the Oklahoma Sooners, sophomore defender Ashley Fendley secured a 2-1 victory when she headed a potential game-tying shot away from the goal with only minutes left in the game. Tuesday night, sophomore goalkeeper Melanie Wilson continued A&M's dominant defense as she held Stanford to only one goal, the only goal she has given up in 135 minutes of play this season.

The defense will once again look to Fendley and Wilson, who are best of friends off the field, to intimidate the Jayhawk offense.

"My personality totally changes when I step between those white lines," Fendley said. "Once I am on the field the intensity level rises."

On the field, Fendley's personality is characterized by rough play and aggressiveness. She admits the intensity of the game can sometimes get out of hand. Toward the end of the Stanford game, Fendley collided with a Cardinal forward who preceded to pull her to the ground. Fendley then pushed her off and spiked the ball by her face, much to the delight of the A&M home crowd.

Like Fendley, Wilson, the 1996 Big 12 Rookie of the Year, likes to play with a high level of intensity and intimidation. She admits that she talks more trash than most players.

"Sometimes players will bump me and push me when I am catching the ball and I like to look back at them and them know that they can't do that in my goal," Wilson said.

The Aggies will roll into Lawrence with an abundance of confidence. A&M holds an impressive 10-2 record against Big 12 foes and are coming off a 7-1 pummeling of the Jayhawks last year at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

"The team is starting to come together," Wilson said. "Our freshmen have really stepped up. I remember



DAVE HOUSE/THE BATTALION

Senior Midfielder **Diana Rowe** and the sixth-ranked Texas A&M Soccer Team will look to stay perfect against the Kansas University Jayhawks

coming in as a freshman and being really nervous, but this year, they have come in and just been excellent."

The Jayhawks are coming off consecutive 1-0 victories against Illinois State and Eastern Illinois. New Head Coach Don Maguer is looking to improve off of last year's disappointing 7-11-1 record and seventh place finish in the Big 12. KU is led by Junior co-captain defender Jackie Dowell, who has started in every single game in KU's history.

Another bright spot for the Jayhawks has been sophomore goalkeeper Jen Frecke, who has not allowed a goal this season and has recorded seven shutouts in two years at the goalie position.

Fendley said the Jayhawks will be overmatched when they face the Aggies at 5 p.m. "We will kick their butt," Fendley said with a confident smile.

# Cross Country off and running

## Team heads to Houston for season's first triangular meet

By NICOLE HOOVEN  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams will lace up their athletic shoes and make the trip to Houston this Saturday to begin their season in the Cross Country Triangular Meet, they will face the Rice Owls and the University of Houston Cougars, 8:30 a.m. along Buffalo Bayou.

Cross Country Head Coach Greg Hinze, who is highly looked upon as one of the best cross country coaches in the nation, is looking forward to the season ahead. He was named the Southwest Conference Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1995, when the Aggie Men's team finished in second place at the final SWC Championships. Hinze, a Texas A&M graduate of 1990, is very confident his

new teams are capable of leading him to the winner's circle once again in one of the nations toughest conferences.

This year's women will be led by the team's two seniors Milli Ondreas from San Antonio and Kari Wyatt from Allen, Texas. Ondreas was the top Aggie finisher in two meets last year, including the NCAA District VI Championships.

The men's team is led by the 1996 NCAA All-District selection, senior Scott Lengefeld, who was the highest Texas A&M finisher in all seven meets last year. Unlike the women's team, which is composed of mostly underclassmen, the men's team has several returning fifth-year seniors and juniors.

With a large number of freshmen, as there are this year. They will have to make a smooth transition from high school to college. In high

school, cross country teams run three mile courses. This distance increases to five miles at the college level.

Heading up the Rice Owl women's team will be junior Shaquandra Roberson from Baytown, who led her team in five out of their seven meets last season. The men's team will be led by senior Jamie DeMahy, who was the Rice leader in two meets last year. DeMahy finished 49th in the Western Athletic Conference championship, making him the highest Rice finisher. The rest of this team is also very young, composed of mainly freshmen.

The Cougar men's team will be led by seniors Frank Porreco, Vance Reyes, and Santiago Santos. The women's team is a young team that contains no seniors and will rely on many of their younger runners.

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