

# No Honeymoon in Vegas

## Hockey Team goes for National Championship

By JEFF SCHMIDT  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Inline Hockey Club Team can win a national championship, and no one would know.

That is the problem encountered by the Hockey Club as they prepare to travel to Las Vegas in search of an Inline Hockey Club National Championship today.

The USA Hockey Inline National Championship Tournament begins Wednesday and ends Saturday night.

This is the second time in as many years that the A&M Hockey Club Team has gone to Las Vegas. Last year, the Aggies finished seventh in the inaugural tournament.

The Aggies will play University of California-Davis in the first game. Then they will play UC-Santa Barbara. The third game will be against second-ranked Purdue.

This year the Aggies hope to give better than they get.

Ryan Phillips, a senior defenseman on the team, believes the Aggies have a shot at winning the title.

"If we play up to par, we should give them a good game," Phillips said.

Three other Texas teams are making the trip. Club Hockey teams from Texas Tech University, Sam Houston State University and South-

west Texas State University will play in the same pool as the Aggies.

Despite accolades, local recognition has come slowly. The team did not even get a table at the MSC Open House. This bothers Jamie Stenson, a senior forward on the team.

"Financially, the university doesn't cut us a break," Stenson said.

The Hockey Club has to drive all the way to

**"I really enjoy seeing some guy receive a massive head wound and bleed from the scalp. That's Hockey. It's not as much fun without that element."**

TYSON ARNOLD  
HOCKEY TEAM MEMBER

the Mustang Athletic Club in the Woodlands, north of Houston, to practice.

Kris Cravens, a senior forward and team secretary, hopes contending for the national championship will enlighten more people to club hockey.

"Hopefully it'll help. It's a growing sport. It's an opportunity for more people to participate," Cravens said.

The future of the team is in good hands. Several talented freshmen will join the team next year.

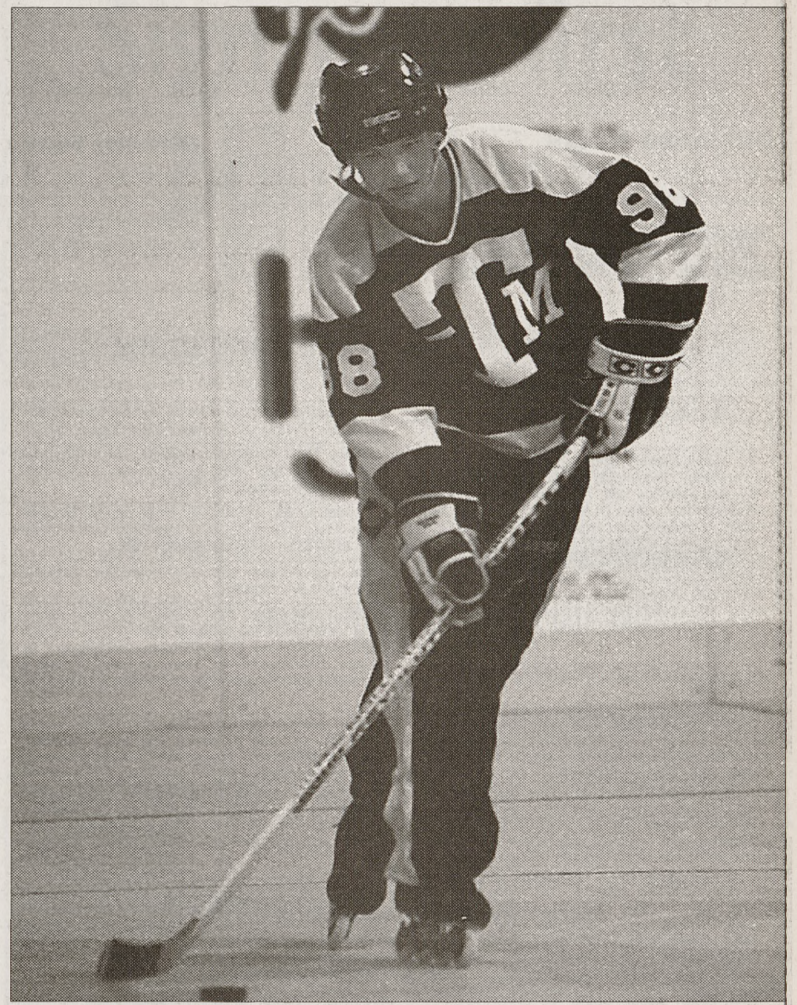
There are several differences between ice hockey and inline hockey.

The most noticeable difference being inline hockey has only five players (including goalie) as opposed to six in ice hockey. Of course, inline hockey uses only rollerblades and not ice skates. The team plays on a court the same size as the indoor soccer courts at the Rec Center. Also, there are no icing or offsides called, which makes the inline game move faster. Finally, much to the chagrin of hockey fans everywhere, there is not as much contact and no fighting.

This is a drawback to many fans. Tyson Arnold, a junior International Studies major, thinks that body-checking and fighting make ice hockey popular and unique.

"I really enjoy seeing some guy receive a massive head wound and bleed from the scalp. That's hockey. It's not as much fun to watch without that element," Arnold said.

And indeed more people will know of the team, especially if the Aggies can manage to come home from Las Vegas with their first national championship.



Senior Kris Cravens brings the puck up the floor for the Inline Hockey Team. DEREK DEMERE/THE BATTALION

# Aggie Soccer beginning to gain some recognition

### Storming out of the gates

The victory pushes the Aggies to 6-0, 5-0, their second-best start ever. Last season, A&M started out with nine straight victories before falling victim to eventual Big 12 champion Nebraska 1-0 in Lincoln.

### Crowded house

The secret is out on the A&M soccer team. A record crowd of 1,364 fans jammed themselves into the Aggie Soccer Complex Sunday. This is the second time the Aggies have drawn over 1,300 this season and the second time the attendance record has been broken. The Aggies are averaging 1,182 per game.

### Men in white

Well, I can't take all the credit for getting the yell leaders to go out to the game, so I won't take any. Still, it was good to see them out there supporting the team.

Soccer is a sport that doesn't receive much fanfare at Texas A&M. This season, armed with nearly 1,200 per game, the Aggies have their best chance to win their first Big 12 championship.

What the Aggie Soccer Complex could really use, though, is a more raucous crowd, not to mention a press box.

### Team leaders

Also of note and special attention is the bench. Before every kickoff at the top of each half the players on the bench lead themselves in a "Gig'em Aggies" yell. The show of support is unique to the soccer team and is praiseworthy. Maybe the football team could follow their lead and join the crowd this week before the opening kickoff.

I would also like to note that this will be the first and last time I use the word "Gig'em" in a story.

### Player of the week

Coach G. Guerrieri described her as "the best keeper in the nation". Senior All-America Bryn Blalock says she is "incredible". And now Battalion Sports Writer Stephen Boudreau is calling her: "The Player of the Week".

Melanie Wilson recorded two shut outs this weekend and made a series of incredible saves in each game. By far she is one of the most incredible athletes on the team and deserves much more credit than she receives.

Thumbs up also go to the defense for keeping her job to a minimal Friday night against Iowa St.

### Wilson a wall

Wilson leads the Big 12 in Goals Against Average (GAA) with an amazing 0.40 per game.

In six games, only 2 shots have slipped by her, one of which was a penalty kick.

She has compiled 3.5 shutouts in six games.

### Read all about it

Blalock was named to the Soccer America team of the week for her two-goal, game-winning heroics against sixteenth-ranked Stanford. The goals were her first two of the season and were all the Aggies needed to shut out the Cardinals 2-0.

Blalock, a senior forward, who is A&M's all-time leading scorer with 65, added her third goal of the season last Friday against Iowa State.

### Games of the week

This coming weekend the Aggies will take part in the GTE Aggie Soccer Classic at the soccer complex. The team will face unranked opponents in Utah and Oregon. Both games should spell victory for the Aggies, but as the old adage goes — championships are built one game at a time.



### NOTEBOOK



STEPHEN BOUDREAU  
Staff writer

Sunday's victory over Nebraska marked more than just the fifth conference victory for the Texas A&M Soccer team, it marked one of the most significant victories in Texas A&M soccer history.

After losing two straight to the Huskers last season, including the Big 12 championship game, the Aggies finally found redemption Sunday afternoon. Although the team appeared intimidated at the start, it eventually captured the rhythm, set the tone and left the field victorious.

### Sports Briefs

STAFF AND WIRE

### Women's Golf Team takes eighth at Rolex

The fifteenth-ranked A&M Women's Golf team finished eighth Sunday at the Rolex Fall Preview in Verona, Wisc. Of the 18 teams competing for the championship, 15 were ranked in the top 25 in the preseason MasterCard Collegiate Golf Rankings.

Despite several team members battling sickness, the Aggies were able to place well in individual standings.

Senior Isabelle Rosberg shot a 219 over three rounds, just two strokes off the school record she set last year, to finish tied for sixth

place. Sophomore Anna Becker and senior Jamie Hullett both carded tournament totals of 230 to tie for 31st place.

Freshman Amanda Rayford carded a 247 to place herself 76th, while freshman Mimi Epps finished the tournament with a 256 shot total to finish 83.

Coach Jeanne Sutherland was pleased with the overall effort of the team and sited the tournament as a good first step to a winning season.

"Overall I was pleased with our play for the first tournament of the year," Sutherland said in a press release. "This is a good starting point and we're only going to get better."

The Aggie's next contest will be at the University of New Mexico-Dick McGuire Invitational Sept. 25-27 in Albuquerque, NM.

### Men's Cross Country gets second victory

The Texas A&M Men's Cross Country Team picked up their second meet championship in the last week by winning the prestigious Iowa State Open in Ames, Iowa, this weekend.

The men placed five runners in the fields top nine spots. They were led by junior Scott Lengefeld who finished third in the individual standings.

Senior James Menze, junior Stephen Erath and senior John Montgomery finished fifth, sixth and seventh respectively. Junior Todd Fox was ninth.

"It's early in the year," coach Greg Henze said in a press release. "They have in-

ternational runners; we have Americans. I don't want to make more of this than it is, but it was a great confidence builder for the guys and me personally.

"I think if we really build on this race then later in the year when the races really matter, people will have to consider us a serious threat."

The women's team was fifth in the meet. Senior Milli Andres was A&M's top finisher at 17th.

"The women have a way to go," Henze said. "After an encouraging start last week I think we took a step backward today."

### Conference honors week's top players

DALLAS (AP) — Two of this week's three Big 12 football players of the week suit up for Kansas, which dumped Missouri 15-7

on Saturday.

Offensive player honors go to Kansas running back Eric Vann. The defensive winner is Jayhawks outside linebacker Ron Warner.

Vann had a career best 137 yards on 23 rushing attempts. Warner contributed four tackles, four quarterback hurries and one quarterback sack.



Same state, different school for the special-teams honor as Kansas State free safety Lamar Chapman took the citation.

Chapman had 17 tackles for the Wildcats, plus he tied the Big 12 punt-return distance record with a 94-yarder.

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