

TEXAS A&M
Southwest Louisiana
USL
Ragin' Cajuns

Aggies ready for USL

A&M looking to avenge last season's loss

By **JEFF WEBB**
Staff writer

Revenge is a dish best served cold, and the Texas A&M Football team will be looking for the frozen buffet line on Saturday when the Aggies take on the University of Southwest Louisiana.

In last year's game against the Ragin' Cajuns, the only things served up by the Aggies were the turnovers that led to the monster 29-22 upset in Lafayette.

This year, things promise to be different. With the mass of upsets in the Big 12 this past weekend and the jump in the polls to #22, Texas A&M can have much to gain by taking care of business against their upset-minded foes.

Most of the attention last year fell on the shoulders of Brannon Stewart who had his worst day as

a college quarterback. Despite the embarrassment, Stewart said he does not feel that payback should be a prime motive.

"It was definitely a disappointing game for me [last year]," Stewart said. "I just want to win this football game. I don't think that it's payback time or anything like that. I think it's just that we want to win our second football game."

The Aggies turned the ball over eight times in the last contest, three of which were returned for touchdowns. Coach R.C. Slocum said that the players beat themselves last year, and that the problems will be corrected this year.

"The challenge to me is us. Can we go play this game this year and do what we're trying to do without turning the ball over? This game was an embarrassing loss for us last year, one we had to put up

with a lot of flack for. It's on the front of their media guide and they have posters with our name on it."

In the first game against Sam Houston, the highly touted Wrecking Crew defense looked a little rusty, allowing 17 plays on the opening drive. One of the weapons the Aggie defense should expect to see a lot of is junior wide receiver Brandon Stokley. While putting up with the stigma of being the coach's son, Stokley has become the school's all-time leading receiver and is one catch away from equaling the career reception mark of 172. He is also the top active receiver in the country and is on pace to become the most prolific in Division I history.

Literally the biggest concern for the Aggies will be the gargantuan USL offensive line which averages 322.2 pounds, second heaviest in



Sophomore tail back **Dante Hall** breaks a tackle against Sam Houston State. The Aggies will look to avenge last season's 29-22 loss to Southwest Louisiana on Saturday.

the nation. Aggie defensive end Brad Crowley knows he has his work cut out for him.

"The two guys I'm going up against, one is 6 (foot)-2, 350 (pounds) and the other one is 6 (foot)-2, 380 (pounds), so I'm a little outweighted," Crowley said.

The linemen Crowley mentioned are senior left tackle Anthony Clement (6-8, 349) and left guard Keith Ware (6-2, 380).

These two will be blocking for running back Eric Lindsey, who is returning to the team after missing last week with a strained foot. He will most likely provide relief for junior quarterback Brian Soignier, who was forced into the starting lineup after Barton Folsie went down with a fractured finger. Folsie is expected to miss at least two weeks.

Other injuries on the USL roster include defensive end Dennis

Hewitt (strained neck) and tight end Mark Buford (hamstring).

The only injury for the Aggies is defensive lineman Roylin Bradley, who suffered a high ankle sprain. Bradley posted four tackles and two sacks last week against Sam Houston State. There has also been a change in the starting lineup with senior nose tackle Marcus Heard getting the nod over freshman Steven Young.

Third-ranked Aggies face Utah, Oregon

By **NICOLE HOOVEN**
Staff writer

The third ranked Texas A&M soccer team (6-0) will head back to the Aggie Soccer Complex this weekend for their first two home games until the end of October, when they host the GTE Aggie Soccer Classic.

On Friday, the Aggies will play Utah and Oregon on Sunday.

Baylor will also be at the complex this weekend to play Utah and Oregon, but they will not face the Aggies.

The Aggie soccer team is unsure of how well they will fare against the two teams, since this will be their first time to face both of them.

Even with the Aggies' impressive record, they are not convinced that these two games are in the bag yet.

"Reputation doesn't matter," coach Guerrieri said. "To be able to compete, we have to play at our potential (our high) every single practice and every single game. From here on out, we are playing teams that are as good or better than Nebraska and the teams

that we have played in the past."

Although the Aggies are making sure that they do not let their winning streak go to their heads, fans can be sure that the percentages are in their team's favor. A&M is 37-2-0 at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

Despite the Aggies' success at home, the team is not looking ahead.

"Utah didn't do very good in the beginning, but they are supposed to be doing a lot better," sophomore goalkeeper Melanie Wilson said.

Wilson's recent play gives the Aggies greater confidence. With a career record of 24-4-0, with 12 shutouts, and 0.84 goals against average, she is a reliable protector.

A&M jumped to No. 3 in the latest soccer polls, but Wilson said the team still has a great amount to achieve.

"We're number three now, and we have to keep it up. We just have to keep concentrating," said Wilson after an extra hour of practice on Wednesday. "The hardest part about getting to the top is staying there."

This weekend the Aggies will do all that they can to stay at the top.



Senior **Bryn Blalack** and the A&M Soccer Team will host the GTE Aggie Soccer Classic this weekend.

Former Olympians meet in South Bend

By **TRAVIS V. DABNEY**
Staff writer

A reunion of four former United States Olympic Volleyball players will take place this weekend in South Bend, Indiana, as Texas A&M University, The University of California, Notre Dame University and The University of New Mexico meet on the volleyball court. Former members of the 1980 U.S. Olympic team that boycotted the Moscow games coach each of the four teams.

Former right side hitter Debbie Brown is now the coach at Notre Dame, left side hitter Sue Woodstra is now the coach at University of California as well as reserves Laurel Brassey, coach at New Mexico University and Texas A&M coach, Laurie Corbelli.

The connections between these former teammates have not been limited to the volleyball court. Their lives have crossed on many different levels. Woodstra was the maid of honor in Corbelli's wedding and Brown is the Godmother of Corbelli's son, Russell.

"The competition between all of us in these types of situation can be tough," Corbelli said "I'm really starting to wonder if we really want to put ourselves through this."

"The thing that makes it nice is to see and talk with everyone and all the teams will show a tremendous amount of respect for one another."

Not only does Corbelli have a tremendous amount of pressure coming down on her and her team with the upcoming tournament, the travel schedule will also cause problems.

The team had to rise at 4:00 a.m. on Thursday morning to make a 6:00 a.m. flight. They arrived at noon in South Bend. That was followed by a practice and an afternoon game today.

"We are used to that type of schedule," Corbelli said, "but it is very early to leave for a flight."

Corbelli also goes into this weekend's tournament with a career milestone within her grasp. She has amassed 199 total career coaching victories and 99 career victories at Texas A&M.

"I don't pay any attention to those type of things, but I do appreciate the recognition."

Overall this will be a big weekend of volleyball for Corbelli and the Aggies with everything that has come together for this team over the past two weeks.

The team will attempt to extend its winning streak to six games and Corbelli's multitude of events will make this a very special weekend for her.

Golfers start season off in New Mexico

By **JASON WHITCOMB**
Staff writer

The No. 24-ranked Texas A&M men's golf team will open its fall season today and tomorrow at the William H. Tucker Intercollegiate at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, site of the 1998 National Championships.

"These guys are really excited," said Coach Bob Ellis, who is entering his 24th season at A&M. "I don't think I have ever had a team with as much enthusiasm to play for Texas A&M."

"It's kind of a thrill for me as a coach to be here and watch this kind of enthusiasm. After 23 years, there have been several players that have been excited to play for

us, but as a whole team, I don't know if I have ever seen a group so fired up to play. That's a great ingredient to have on a team who wants to win it all."

The Aggies will be represented by senior Miguel del Angel, juniors Ty Cox and Ryan Palmer and freshmen Ryan Toll and Clay Fullick.

Last spring, del Angel was named an honorable-mention All-American after winning the NCAA Central Region. Del Angel posted five straight top 10 finishes leading up to the National Championships, where he tied for 58th.

Palmer is coming off a season where he earned All-Big 12 honors and lead the team in scoring average.

Cox is also coming off a strong year that

propelled him to the 1997 U.S. Amateur where he lost in a playoff which would have advanced him to match play.

Toll and Fullick will be making their collegiate debut, but both are coming off strong summers.

"Both Toll and Fullick are good young players who will provide us with a great deal of depth," said Ellis.

In Albuquerque, the 23-team field will feature 12 teams that are ranked in the pre-season Mastercard Collegiate Golf Rankings, including No. 1-ranked Oklahoma State and the defending tournament champion University of Texas, who is also ranked No. 12. The course is a traditional one with fast greens and long fairways.

"The course is very fair," said Ellis. "If you

hit a good shot, you will be rewarded, and if you hit a bad shot, you will be penalized."

Last year, the Aggies stumbled in the Big 12 tournament but managed to end the year strong with a third place finish in the NCAA Central Regional and then finishing 13th in the National Championships.

This tournament will mark the beginning of a very promising season for the Aggies. They are currently ranked third in the Big 12, but consist of enough depth, talent and experience to challenge for the top spot in the conference, as well as in the nation.

"We feel real good about this season," said Ellis. "We have four players returning who played in the regional and national tournaments, and we have some young guys who will provide additional depth."

The Battalion's 1997 Staff Picks

The Match-Ups	Chris Ferrell	Paul Mitchell	Jeremy Furtick	Kristina Buffin	Jamie Burch	Matt Mitchell	Stephen Boudreau	Travis Dabney	Margaux Harris	Nicole Hooven	Jeff Webb	Jason Whitcomb	Consensus
USL at Texas A&M (-38)	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	USL	Texas A&M	Texas A&M	USL	USL	Texas A&M	USL	Texas A&M	Texas A&M: REVENGE!
#7 Nebraska at #2 Washington (-3)	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington	Nebraska	Washington	Washington	Washington	Washington: Huskies take husk out of Huskers
Baylor at #8 Michigan (-25.5)	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Michigan	Baylor	Michigan	Michigan	Baylor	Michigan: At least Baylor plays D-1 teams
#13 Iowa (-26) at Iowa St.	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa St.	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa	Iowa: It's the Hawkeye State for a reason
North Texas at Texas Tech (-31)	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	Texas Tech	North Texas	North Texas	Texas Tech	North Texas	North Texas	Texas Tech: Another easy one for Tech
Oklahoma at California (-4)	Oklahoma	California	California	Oklahoma	California	California	Oklahoma	California	California	Oklahoma	Oklahoma	California	California: Nightlife too much for OU
Missouri (-5.5) at Tulsa	Missouri	Missouri	Tulsa	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Tulsa	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri	Missouri: They have a chance this week
#4 Tennessee at #3 Florida (-4)	Tennessee	Florida	Tennessee	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Florida	Tennessee	Tennessee	Florida: Spurrier is 43-2 in "The Swamp"
#5 Florida St. (-18.5) at #16 Clemson	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Florida St.	Clemson	Florida St.: Big difference between #5 and #16
#12 Auburn at #10 LSU (-5.5)	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	LSU	Auburn	Auburn	LSU	LSU	LSU	Auburn	LSU: Faulk returns in battle of bengals
Dolphins at Buccaneers (-3.5)	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Dolphins	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Buccaneers	Dolphins	Buccaneers	Buccaneers: There's a new team in Florida
Steelers at Jaguars (-3.5)	Jaguars	Jaguars	Steelers	Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Jaguars	Steelers	Steelers	Jaguars	Jaguars	Steelers	Jaguars: New reign in AFC
Last Week	6-6-0	5-7-0	3-9-0	5-7-0	3-9-0	4-8-0	4-8-0	5-7-0	5-7-0	5-7-0	2-10-0	3-9-0	62-82-0: Bad week for the favorites
Cumulative	11-13-0	9-15-0	9-15-0	11-13-0	7-17-0	8-16-0	10-14-0	10-14-0	10-14-0	9-15-0	5-19-0	9-15-0	120-168-0: Hey, it's an improvement

NOTE: The Battalion Staff will be picking against the spread this semester. We in no way encourage any illegal wagering with the use of these betting lines, they are presented solely for entertainment purposes.