



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION  
Senior Kari Wyatt nears the finish line.

# Wyatt lends experience to young team

By JASON WHITCOMB  
Staff writer

On a scorching day in May 1996, Texas A&M cross country runner Kari Wyatt was running about as well as she ever had in her life in the Southwest Conference Track and Field Championships. As she approached the 16th lap of the race, she found herself in fourth place, but in dire need of some water. Instead of having a fantastic finish, Wyatt was pulled out of the race after passing out due to dehydration.

"I was doing really well," Wyatt said. "I just couldn't stop wheezing. I couldn't even keep my eyes open to see the track."

After she was pulled off the track, Wyatt expressed her disappointment to the A&M trainers.

"I told the trainer that I let Coach Hinze down," Wyatt said. "I said that my coach

would take away my meal money because I didn't finish the race. I even called him the devil."

Since that race, Wyatt, now a senior, has managed to bounce back in a very positive way. She even remains to have a great relationship with her "devil" of a coach.

"He thought the whole thing was pretty funny," Wyatt said. "We have a real good relationship and he wasn't upset with me at all at the time. He knew I gave one-hundred percent because I ran so hard I fell off the track."

This season, Wyatt is at the top of her running career. As the most experienced member on the women's team, Wyatt is enjoying her last season from a different perspective. Last year, she decided to redshirt because she wanted to run with this particular group of girls before she graduates in December.

"I wanted to run this year because I wanted my last semester to be filled with cross

country," Wyatt said. "At the time, with the current group of freshmen gaining experience, I felt like we were going to be awesome this year and I wanted to be part of that."

Wyatt did not start running until she was a sophomore in high school. She had never even heard of cross country until her P.E. coach told her that she should try out for the team.

"The first day I ever ran I had to wear my mom's oversized shoes," Wyatt said. "I remember going home and telling my mom I just ran two miles. I couldn't believe it. I guess that is where it all started."

Wyatt seems to always find motivation to kick her pace up. During the final lap of meets, she finds it very motivating when people in the stands talk trash to her.

"When I am close to somebody, there are people in the stands that like to talk trash to me," Wyatt said. "They like to say that I am

weak and that I can be caught. That is when I just turn it on, as if to say 'I don't think so, you can't catch me.'"

During her 72-mile a week practices, Wyatt and her teammates find other sources of motivation to keep them going strong on their course. Sometimes, they run into the corps while they are running in formation.

"I know that they work very hard, but in all fun, we love to pass them when they are running," Wyatt said. "We've heard that they even have to do push-ups when girls pass them. I don't know if that is true or not, but it is still fun to pass them up."

As the fall season continues, Wyatt is looking forward to passing more than just cadets in practice. She sees this season, her final season, as a very special one and hopes that all of her hard work will pay off and result in some gratifying finishes.

## Aggie soccer set to get back on winning track



NOTEBOOK

STEPHEN BOUDREAU  
Staff writer

0 outsourcing them 9-1 in those three encounters.

### Big 12 goal

Despite the loss, the Aggies still accomplished their goal of maintaining their hopes of winning the Big 12 championship. Led by an Alison Peters two-goal performance, A&M shut out Oklahoma State 3-0 this weekend and improved their conference best record to a perfect 6-0.

A&M remains the only team with an unblemished league record in the Big 12.

### On the road again.

The Aggies will hit the road for three weeks, playing consecutive games at Texas, Southern Methodist, Texas Tech and Baylor. The team will play in the St. Mary's Tourney in Maraga, California on the weekend of October 19.

A&M has outsourced opponents 14-4 in their four road games this year.

### Shut outs becoming common.

Including five this season, the Texas A&M Soccer Team has recorded 39 shut out victories in the five-year history of the program.

PLEASE SEE BOUDREAU ON PAGE 8.

If all good things must come to an end, then so must the Texas A&M Soccer Team's nine game winning streak. The 2-1 loss came at the hands of the nation's top ranked team and defending champion, North Carolina, in the annual Adidas Classic in Houston.

### Deja-vu.

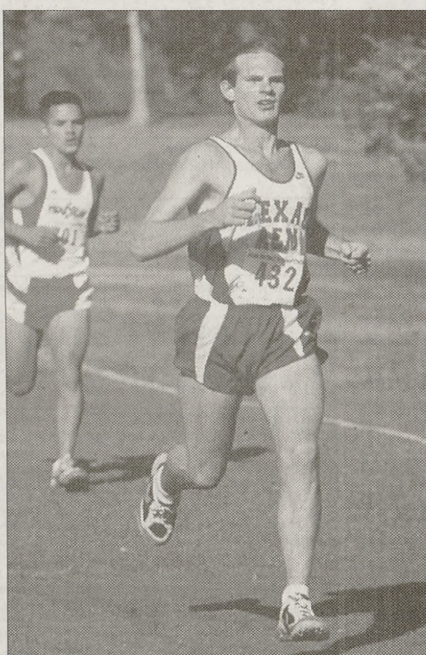
Prior to the loss, the 9-0 start this season tied their best start ever. Last season, the Aggies pushed the envelope to a 9-0 intro before losing to an tenth-ranked Nebraska 1-0 in overtime.

The Tar Heels improved their career record against the Aggies to 3-

# MARCHING TO A DIFFERENT BEAT

Rebel Menze making valuable contributions to A&M cross country team

By JEFF WEBB  
Staff writer



COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION

Senior James Menze has been a valuable part of the Texas A&M Cross Country Team placing in the top three in two meets this season.

The Texas A&M Men's Cross Country Team has won their last two tournaments, and they can look to Senior James Menze as a reason. Menze placed fifth in the Iowa State meet and third in the Rice meet, and is on a hot streak that could continue well past the North Texas Invitational that will be held in Denton on October 3. But who do the Aggies have to thank for Menze attending Texas A&M and helping out the cause?

"My parents forced me to come here," Menze said. "They're really conservative religious people and I'm not, and they wanted me to come to a school that reinforced those values that I don't have."

Menze does not always go along with the way others think things should be done, and that philosophy applies to his cross country career as well. While placing in the top five in the last

two meets, Menze credits a few missed practices with his recent success.

"I'm a lot more rested than everyone else," Menze said. "After my race, he [Coach Hinze] sees I do really well because I'm so fresh, so he doesn't care anymore."

Menze should be fresh because he is coming off a 1996 season in which he was red-shirted. That enabled him to be eligible as a fifth year Senior. He worked hard last year, running 85-90 miles a week, with his sights set on a berth in the NCAA Cross Country meet. The last time Texas A&M sent a team to the NCAA's was 1982 and Menze wants to get the A&M program back on track.

Coach Greg Hinze feels that Menze provides much needed leadership for the team as they work to make the NCAA Tournament this season.

"He's been running for a long, long time. He's one of the guys the team looks up to be-

cause of his perseverance," Hinze said. "James will probably shoot me for saying this, but he's not blessed with a great deal of natural ability and everything he gets out of his body, he works hard to get [it]."

It was difficult for Menze to sit out last year and watch A&M flounder to a low finish in the Big 12. A&M finished 10th in the Big 12 meet, but this year promises a top 3 finish in District VI.

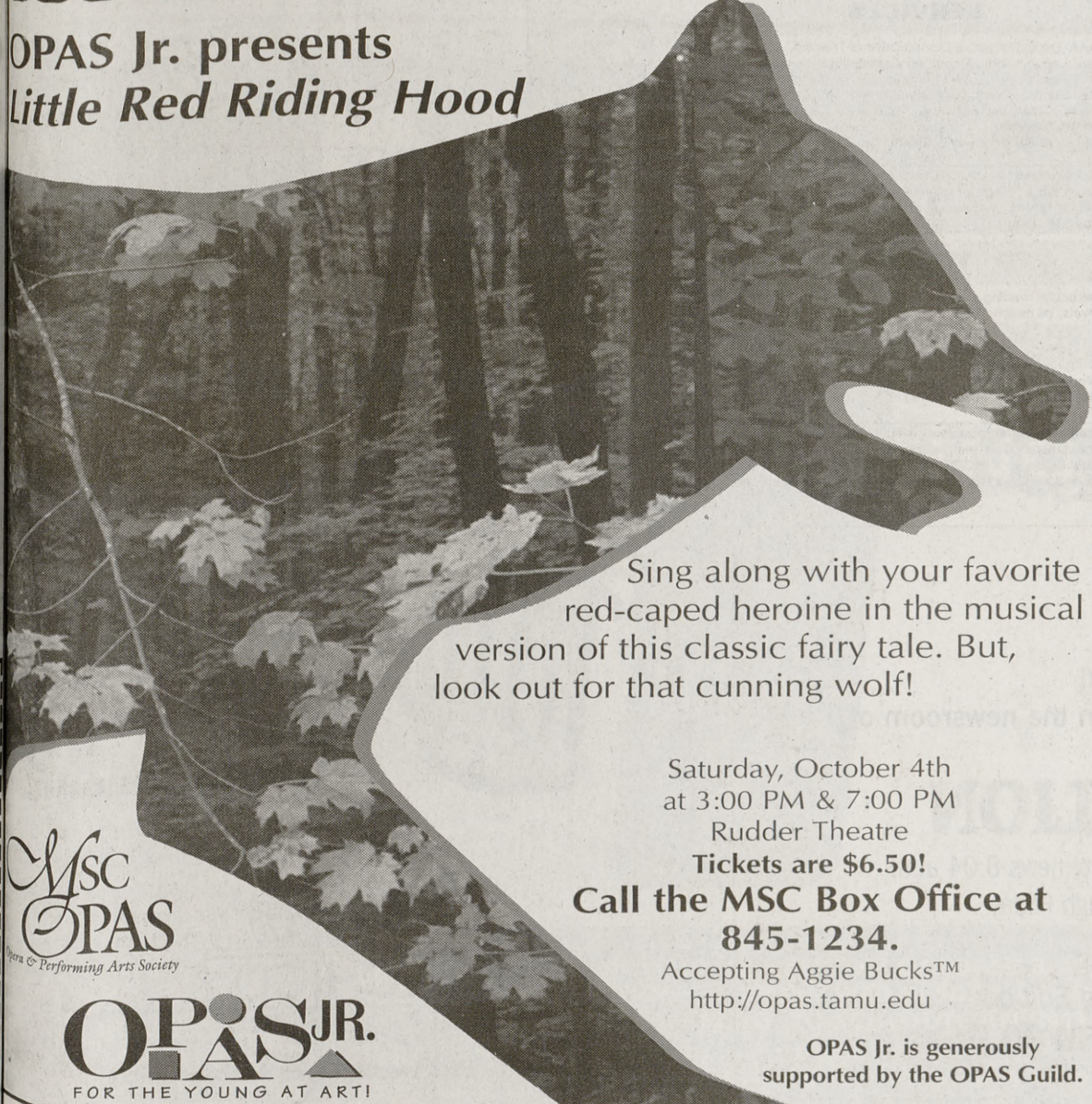
"Last year was a rebuilding year. It hurt sitting on the sideline watching them, knowing that me and the other Seniors that were redshirted could have gone in there and really helped them do so much better than we did. I think it's all going to pay off this year, especially if we get to the NCAA meet."

With hard work and more stand-out performances, Menze should be able to reach his personal goal of being All-District. If he does, you can be sure of one thing. He did it his own way.

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