

Blalack named Big 12's top player Guerrieri, seven Aggie soccer players earn conference award.

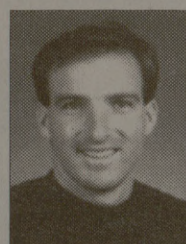
STAFF AND WIRE

After clinching its first Big 12 Conference championship two weeks ago, the Texas A&M Soccer Team received word about its success in the conference's post-season awards.

For the second consecutive year, senior midfielder Bryn Blalack earned Big 12 Player of the Year honors. She led the Aggies in points (32), goals (15) and shots (101), categories she also holds the A&M career marks in with 187, 77 and 376, respectively.

Also for the second time since

the forming of the Big 12, A&M brought home the Rookie of the Year award. Freshman Defender Claire Elliott was distinguished as the conference's best newcomer, replacing Aggie sophomore goalkeeper Melanie Wilson.



Guerrieri

Big 12 Coach of the Year accolades were shared between A&M's G. Guerrieri and Iowa State's

Cathy Klein. Guerrieri has led the Aggie to an incomparable 87-17 record in the five years since A&M became an NCAA Division I scholarship program, including a 17th mark in Big 12 competition.

A&M also contributed Blalack and Wilson to the All-Big 12 First Team, while senior defender Emily Elias, senior midfielder Diane Rowe and sophomore defender Ashley Fendley earned second team honors. Sophomore Manchester Davidson was named to the Soccer Academic All-Big 12 First Team while junior Sharon Pickering made the Honorable Mention list.

Cowboys' Jones denies any charges he will fire Head Coach Barry Switzer this season

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones denied that he could fire coach Barry Switzer as early as next week.

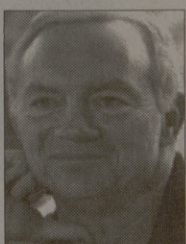
The Washington Post today quoted NFL sources as saying that Switzer could be fired next week and replaced by scouting director Larry Lacey, who would serve as interim coach.

"That is not true. I have repeatedly said Barry Switzer is the coach of the Cowboys and will continue to be coach of the Dallas Cowboys," Jones told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on Tuesday.

Lacey told the newspaper that the report is "ridiculous."

At a news conference on Tuesday, Switzer insisted he ignores people who speculate that he will be fired and fans who are calling for his dismissal.

"I don't even think about it," Switzer said. "It really doesn't enter my mind. It seems to be on your mind more than it is on mine. It's irrelevant to me."



Jones

When asked if he expects to be back next year, Switzer's only response was, "Sure."

Although Jones dismissed suggestions that Switzer's firing could be imminent, he didn't make any promises that the coach would be back next year.

"The reason that Barry Switzer is coaching the Dallas Cowboys in 1997 is because, in my view, it gave me the best chance to win a Super Bowl this year," Jones said. "We're not going to get into what happens after this year."

Switzer said he had talked with Jones on Tuesday morning and the subject of his job security did not come up.

"I had a discussion with Jerry this morning — not about my contract or my job tenure; it was about the things that are more vital and more important to us," Switzer said.

"If Jerry wants to make a change, he'll make that decision. If I don't want to coach here, I'll make that decision. Only two of us are involved in it and that's the other two that matters. And we never discuss it."

The Cowboys are a disappointing 4-5 and face an uphill battle to make the playoffs.

TENNIS

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We are working real hard and have made improvements. Our depth won't really show up in this tournament, but this will be a great opportunity for our girls to go up against good competition."

Sophomore Leslie Dees said she feels that the tournament provides a nice tune up for the tournament in Hawaii later this semester. These are the only two tournaments of the fall semester.

"I think we're playing good and we're ready to get out and play," Dees said. "This will get us match-tough. We've been playing a couple

of matches working on certain things, but we're ready to go here and to Hawaii."

If the Aggies perform well in this qualifier, it could provide the confidence they need to enter the spring semester as the begin the pursuit for the Big 12 title. The tournament will last from Thursday to Saturday.

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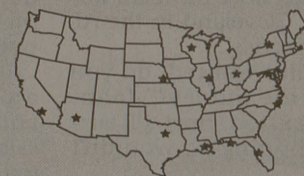
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