

## Soccer hosts "Quack-attack"

By MICHAEL TAGLIANTI  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Women's Soccer team will take on the Oregon Ducks in a scrimmage at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Aggie Soccer Complex. The Aggies, ranked No. 11 in the preseason Soccer America poll, will see their first action of the season in the scrimmage.

Coach G. Guerrieri said the scrimmage will give the team a chance to improve their timing and get ready for the regular season in order to defend their Big 12 Conference Title.

"The game against Oregon is a chance to play against a quality collegiate opponent from a quality conference and work out some of our timing," Guerrieri said. "It will give us a chance to work on our rhythm and doing some problem solving for whatever they might throw at us. Basically, it gives a game-speed challenge to get us ready for the regular season and the defense of our title."

Guerrieri said the game will answer some questions the coaches and players have about the team.



GUERRIERI

"Right now on a lot of fronts we are doing really well while on other fronts, we still have a ways to go," Guerrieri said. "That is what a game against a quality opponent like Oregon is going to do. It is going to give us a chance to answer some questions that we have about ourselves, and also, pose some new challenges for us to overcome prior to our next game."

A&M will field a very young team this year with nine freshman and eight sophomores on the roster.

Despite the team's youth, Guerrieri said the team has already developed a good chemistry and is improving their speed of play.

"Right now this team is closer than we thought we would be at this point in time," Guerrieri said. "Our speed of play has really come a long way since the first couple days of two-a-days."

Guerrieri recruited one of the top classes in the nation, and a few of the freshman have already made a positive impression on the head coach.

"Amber Childers, who is kind of an interesting story because she passed up her senior year in high school and is only 17, has really impressed and done a great job to step into our midfield," Guerrieri said.

"Michelle Royal has picked up our system

and has done a good job as far as being a great possession player and playmaker for us," Guerrieri said. "Michelle Remington, who is a red shirt freshman, has done really well as far as becoming a scoring threat for us. All the rest of the freshman are pretty much on pace or ahead of pace for only being here for two weeks."

The scrimmage will feature a different time format from a normal soccer match in order to allow more problem solving and coaching.

"The game Thursday night is going to have a different type of setup in that instead of having two 45-minute halves, Coach Bill Steffen and I have worked out an agreement that we are going to play four 25-minute periods, which will allow us to do more problem solving and a little more coaching by breaking the game up a little more," Guerrieri said. "I think it will be a little more conducive to a real positive learning environment for our young teams."

Guerrieri said he was happy with the teams preseason ranking.

"We're flattered that we can lose four starters and the people who are running these polls still classify us as one of the top 11 teams in the country," Guerrieri said. "It gives us a standard that we have to live up to in our training right now."

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### A&M receives NCAA certification

Texas A&M University has been notified that its athletic program has been formally certified by the National Collegiate Athletic Association as part of the newly mandated process affecting all NCAA Division I member institutions.

The certification was issued by a governing NCAA committee following an assessment by a peer review team that visited Texas A&M in February. As part of the overall process, a broad-based Texas A&M task force spent more than a year working on a self-study similar to the one that the University conducts every 10 years as part of the academic re-accreditation process.

Texas A&M President Ray M. Bowen, who appointed the task force members, said he was "pleased but not surprised to learn of the NCAA notification."

#### A&M volleyball team ranked 19th

The Texas A&M Volleyball Team is ranked 19th in the USA Today/AVCA Coaches' Top 25 Pre-season Poll.

"The ranking is a good starting point for us," sixth-year Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "I'm excited about it because it shows respect for our program and gives us instant confidence. At the same time, the ranking motivates us to do better, especially since the usual top Big 12 teams are ranked ahead of us."

Nebraska is ranked fifth and Texas is ranked ninth, with each receiving one first-place vote, and Colorado is ranked 12th.

Penn State, Long Beach State, USC and Stanford round out the top five.

#### Two A&M players named to list

The Downtown Athletic Club announced its preliminary list of 68 candidates for the annual Jim Butkus Award given to the best linebacker in college football.

The list will be cut to 10 semi-finalists Oct. 15 and three finalists Nov. 12.

The winner will be announced on Dec. 11 at the Butkus Award Gala at Universal Studios, Florida.

Candidates from the Big 12 include:

Travis Ochs, Jeff Kelly and Mark Simoneau, Kansas State; Warrick Holdman and Dat Nguyen, Texas A&M; Hannibal Navies, Colorado; Jay Foreman, Nebraska.

#### Basketball team loses Houston

Junior guard Steve Houston was dismissed from the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team for violating team and University regulations.

"It is unfortunate that Steve will no longer be part of our basketball program," Coach Melvin Watkins said. "We wish him the best in the future."

The 6'1" guard started in 25 games last year and averaged 9.5 points and 4.4 assists per game.

Houston led the Big 12 Conference in steals at 2.5 per game and was named to the Big 12 All-Defense Team.

## Football team looks to add another player

By JEFF SCHMIDT  
The Battalion

Former John Tyler High School and Trinity Valley Community College football player Mickey Jones may be joining the Texas A&M Football Team. Jones' father James said his son is in College Station awaiting enrollment into A&M. Jones was recently cleared by the NCAA Clearinghouse to begin playing football.

Trinity Valley Coach Scotty Conley said Jones picked up his Trinity Valley transcript and left Monday morning for College Station. Conley said Jones and his family had been in conversation with Coach Tam Hollingshead regarding Jones joining the team.

The 5'10", 175 lb. Jones was a member of the 1994 State Champion John

Tyler Lions.

He started at quarterback for the Lions in 1995 and 96, leading the team to the playoffs. Jones used his 4.4 speed as a junior to throw for 968 yards and three touchdowns while rushing for 576 yards. His play made him one of the top recruits in the state.

Jones originally signed with Baylor but was forced to attend Trinity Valley after failing to complete all his academic requirements.


Jones played wide receiver for the national champion Trinity Valley Cardinals.

A source told Tyler radio talk-show host David Smoak that Jones will wear No. 29, assuming he does join the team.

A&M Sports Information Director Alan Cannon said he knew nothing about Jones joining the team but said it has been a recent rumor.

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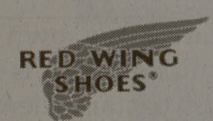
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