

Revamped Aggie lineup produces positive results



By MICHAEL TAGLIANTI
The Battalion

Texas A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri said he knew his team would face new challenges heading into this season. With the loss of three starters from last year's Big 12 championship squad to graduation, Guerrieri said he realized he would have to replace his entire midfield and incorporate eight freshmen into the team in about two weeks' time.

If the team's play in the preseason is any indication, it is ready for some new obstructions.

The Texas A&M soccer team completed its preseason schedule Saturday night with a 2-0 win over a team of A&M alumni. With the win Saturday and an earlier win over the University of Oregon, the Aggies have defeated their pre-season opponents by a combined score of 7-0.

Guerrieri used some unorthodox methods to get the team ready for the season. He had a team of former Navy Seals put the team through an 8 a.m. workout every morning during two-a-days. The Seals had the team do various team-building exercises at an obstacle course owned by the University.

Nicky Thrasher said the workouts with the

Seals helped improve the team's chemistry and helped the team focus on its goals.

"It was really good for the team to get to know each other better and where we stand as a team," Thrasher said. "It helped teamwork and knowing how hard we need to push ourselves mentally and knowing that the minute we step on the field we need to go 110 percent."

Thrasher is replacing A&M all-time leading scorer Bryn Blalack as the focus of the offense. The coaches have put Thrasher in a position where she will be more involved in scoring goals.

"I love being in an attack position," Thrasher said. "Everyone loves to score goals, and I think they found a position for me up there."

Guerrieri said the play of many players on the team has impressed him.

"I think Nicky Thrasher and Allison Peters are doing terrific," Guerrieri said. "Michelle Remington and Michelle Royal are both really stepping up. Our defense is looking really good. The midfield is really ahead of schedule compared to where a lot of people predicted a brand-new midfield to be at this time."

The team starts the regular season against the University of North Texas at 7 p.m. Tuesday night at the Aggie Soccer Complex.



GREG McREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Elias wins a header from an Oregon player.

Big 12 Championship tickets go on sale

Tickets for the 1998 Big 12 Championship in St. Louis went on sale Monday. The game will be played on Oct. 5 in the Trans World Dome with 66,000 seats.

The last two Big 12 championship games were sellouts. Fans are advised to order their tickets early.

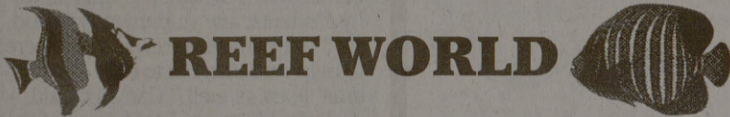
Tickets can be purchased by filling out an official Big 12 Football Championship ticket order.

Applications can be picked up in person at the Trans World Dome

Box office, on the internet at www.st-louis-cvc.com or call 1-800-916-0084 to order one.

Prices for tickets have been reduced this year to accommodate a larger audience. Upper terrace end zone seats will go for \$20 and terrace end zone seats will go for \$30.

All other ticket prices are unchanged from last year with lower end zone seats going for \$40 and concourse seats going for \$60. Club seats will be sold for \$75.



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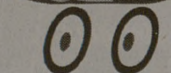
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