

Sports

ator bait

9 Aggies host No. 4 Florida in tough early-season test

BY ABBY LITTLE
The Battalion

Senior Danielle Fotopoulos needs 18 goals to break the record for goals in a season. Senior Emily Elias was a member on the Texas A&M Soccer team when the Aggies last season, and it is her job to ensure Fotopoulos does not break that total.

Fotopoulos played against her (when I was on the Aggies and on the Florida teams," Elias said. "It makes me play my best.")

The Aggies have 10 starters returning from their 1997 SEC Championship team. Of those, eight were also on the team when they won in 1996.

Fotopoulos, an All-American and USA National Team member, sat out last season due to a knee injury.

Soccer coach G. Guerrieri said Florida lineup provides a tough test for the Aggies to prepare for the season.

Florida comes in with the twin Danielle Fotopoulos, who is 5-foot, 11-inches, and Abby Gilhart, who was High School Player of the Year this past year, also 5-foot, 11-inches," he said. "They have incredible speed and an experienced back and an experienced goalkeeper. They are maybe the top three athletic teams in the country."

The Aggies also added defender Matt Hart, who transferred from the University of Michigan.



GREG McREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Heather Weibe (No. 5, front) and Anne Tamporello (No. 13, behind) double up on North Texas. The Texas A&M Soccer Team jumps right into a tough matchup with Florida.

She started 22 of 23 matches for the Wolverines, and was a member of the All-Big 10 team title. Gilhart joins eight freshman.

After defeating UNT 5-1 on Tuesday, Guerrieri said the Aggies look ready to take on one of their toughest opponents this season.

"It'll be a real challenge for us," he said. "They are the No. 4 team in the country and we're No. 9 in the country, so the pressure is on them. We'll come out hoping to

protect our turf at home."

After scoring two goals against North Texas, Michelle Remington expects to have a challenging game versus the Gators.

"It's going to be a lot different [from UNT]," she said. "Florida is big, they're fast, they're a little more skillful than North Texas is. It's going to be a good game."

A special halftime student competition will feature five students trying to win free textbooks for the

spring semester.

The contest is sponsored by the Sterling C. Evans Library Textbook Scholarship which is funded by the R.C. Slocum Aggie Kickoff Camp.

The Aggies are 2-0 against Florida in their last two meetings.

The two champions go head to head tonight at the Aggie Soccer Complex when No. 9 Aggies, Big 12 champions, face SEC Champions, No. 4 Florida Gators at the Aggie Soccer Complex at 7 p.m.

Top college teams fill opening football slate

(AP) — As far as opening days go in college football, Saturday should be terrific.

"I don't think there's any bigger game around the country than Michigan-Notre Dame," Wolverines coach Lloyd Carr said. "I understand the national scrutiny and understand what it means to both teams."

The other four games matching Top 25 teams are not high on Carr's priority list.

Neither is the fact that the results of those games will give fans a starting point on the Road to Tempe, where the Fiesta Bowl Jan. 4 could be for the national title.

At South Bend, a pair of new quarterbacks — Tom Brady of No. 5 Michigan and Jarious Jackson of No. 22 Notre Dame — have visions of directing their team to victory in what could turn out to be a season-defining game.

Ohio State takes its first preseason No. 1 ranking in 18 years to Morgantown, W.Va., where the Buckeyes — and hopefully linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer — face No. 11 West Virginia, led by Heisman hopeful Amos Zereoue.

At the Carrier Dome, the orange-clad fans singing "Rocky Top" will be pulling for visiting No. 10 Tennessee and new quarterback Tee Martin to beat No. 17 Syracuse, which will have even more orange-clad fans rooting for Donovan McNabb and teammates.

Arizona State, ranked No. 8, might not even have to leave home for the postseason if it can beat No. 18 Washington at Sun Devil Stadium, home of the Fiesta Bowl, and Joe Paterno goes for win No. 299 when No. 13 Penn State entertains No. 21 Southern Mississippi.

In other Top 25 games Saturday, it's The Citadel at No. 3 Florida, Al-

abama-Birmingham at No. 4 Nebraska, Indiana State at No. 6 Kansas State, Miami, Ohio at No. 12 North Carolina, No. 15 Colorado State vs. Colorado at Denver, Kent at No. 19 Georgia, No. 20 Wisconsin at San Diego State, and No. 23 Michigan State at Oregon.

Irish coach Bob Davie is just happy his team finally is opening the season after a summer of lawsuits and NCAA investigations.

"We feel good about some things," Davie said. "We feel we are a little better than last year. But you only find out when you go take that test, and the first test we have is a big test because it's Michigan."

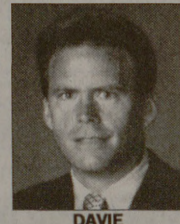
Only seven times in 108 seasons has Ohio State opened on the road — the last in 1975.

Which explains why coach John Cooper longs for the patsy teams like No. 3 Florida, No. 4 Nebraska and No. 6 Kansas State meet Saturday.

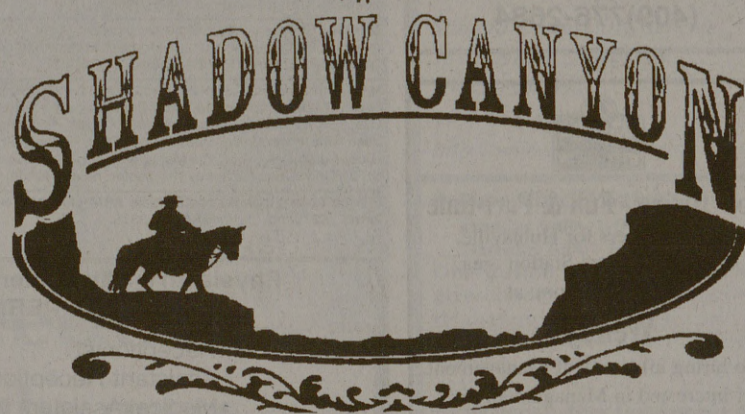
"I'd play an easy non-conference game at home, like Nebraska has been doing for years and years and years," Cooper said. "They come back this week (after a 56-27 victory over Louisiana Tech) with another tough one: Alabama-Birmingham. And how about Florida? They've got The Citadel."

Zereoue, meanwhile, says the Buckeyes better be ready.

"To me, Ohio State seems like a cocky and confident team," Zereoue said. "Last year, they had a tough time against Wyoming and we're not Wyoming. If they don't play like the No. 1 team, there could be a surprise. ..."



DAVIE



EVERY WED. - KARAOKE

September

3rd - Jason & The Scorchers
w/Bare Jr.

4th - Breedlove
w/Reclamation

17th - Roger Creager
w/Johnny Goudie

October

1st - Cowboy Mouth

8th - Haywood
CD Release Party

15th - Tripping Daisy

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