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SPORTS IN BRIEF

arriers have solid weekend Soccer club team Coach Hartman's debut

BY TOM KENNEDY The Battalion

Texas A&M Men's and Women's Cross Country started off their season with a strong performance ROOMM/Cougar Classic in Houston Saturday morning.

e flat course at McGregor Park did not prove to ch of a challenge to either squad.

e men covered a 4-by-2 mile course in teams , with each man running two separate legs on

highest placing from the men came from the sophomore Jim Pat Darcey and freshman Chris ho placed fifth with a combined time of 40 minnd 23 seconds.

₂ Aggies also took sixth with true freshmen on Beasley and Mike Sovinsky covering the e in 40:34

e team of junior transfer student Carl Stewart dshirt freshman Bryan Oubre came in one secter for a seventh place finish.

erall, first year coach Dave Hartman was d with how the men ran, adding that their best ng is vet to come.

SERVICE will be a developmental year because we have be of freshmen and a transfer (from University as-San Antonio)," Hartman said.

e fastest individual split by an Aggie was run by on Beasley in 19:49.

hers breaking the 20-minute barrier for their 2-nile split were Stewart in 19:50 and Darcey in

e women, covering a 2-by-2 mile course, fared nely well.

iding the way for the Aggies was the team of ju-Ann Dwyer and Sandie Ramsey, who placed fourth with a time of 23:50 Freshmen Kristy Bonn and Lauren Crawford fin-

ished in seventh place with a time of 24:01. Sophomore Brooke Edwards and freshman Katy Gilstrap teamed up for an eighth place finish with a time of 24:16.

"On the girls' side, we did really well; we were really strong," Hartman said. "As we gain experience, the women's team ... will move up. True freshman Melissa Gulli led the way for the

women with an 11:33 two-mile leg. Dwyer and freshman Sarah Doyle finished in 11:40

and 11:45, respectively.

Others finishing in twelve minutes or under were Edwards in 11:53, sophomore Debbie Villarreal in 11:55, Bonn in 11:57, and senior Marisa Tuzzi in 12:00. Gulli, who had the lead after running her two mile

leg, felt that the race was a good starting point. 'It was pretty good for the start of the season," Gul-

li said. "We'll have a really good team this year and we'll go far.' The race, which the teams ran in a controlled

manner, was used to determine a starting point for all of the runners.

Darcey said he felt the meet would show the team what it needs to work on. We're trying to see where everybody is at and

where our fitness level is at," Darcey said.

The men and women look ahead to their first team scoring of the season at the University of Miami-Ohio next Saturday.

Hartman is excited to see how his teams will fare in team competition.

"It'll be interesting to see how they all run at once," Hartman said. "I think we'll improve on our finish in the Big 12.

weight reak up the Saints

ce Ditka and Co. avenge opening 1997 loss to Dick Vermeil's Rams 12th Man meeting

LOUIS (AP) — Mike Ditka's d season started out a lot betan the first, despite losing

erback Billy Joe Hobert. e New Orleans Saints turned rst-half turnovers into touchs and had only one turnover. s for the sting with a mistake-laden ckennermance from the St. Louis in a 24-17 opening victory ay. Lamar Smith caught one down pass and threw for an-

on an option play. Le Saints opened at St. Louis w.ubste second straight year. Ditka

lost 38-24 to Dick Vermeil last year in the coaching comeback game for both men.

Hobert ruptured his right Achilles tendon dropping back to pass on the artificial turf with 14:20 remaining. Hobert, who is likely out for the season, was 11for-23 for 170 yards and one touchdown before being replaced by Danny Wuerffel.

New Orleans also won despite rushing for only 35 yards on 24 carries and getting shut out in the second half.

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The Rams fumbled five times, losing one of them, and had one interception of Tony Banks' deflected pass that led to a Saints touchdown on the following play. Four Rams missed a chance to tackle Smith on a 35-yard pass pass play from Hobert that put New Orleans ahead 24-0.

Banks had an effective game statistically. He was 29-for-44 for 298 yards and one touchdown and hit Éddie Kennison for a 15-yard score that cut the gap to 24-14 with 7:14 left in the third.

conducts tryouts The Texas A&M Women's Soccer Club Team will conduct tryouts this

week at Simpson Drill Field. The tryouts will be Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

No. 19 Ags win 2, lose one to Pacific

The No. 19 Texas A&M Volleyball Team finished with a 2-1 record over the weekend at the Pacific Tournament.

The Aggies won their first two games before falling to No. 11 Pacific in the final game.

In the first game, the Aggies defeated Creighton 15-2, 15-8 and 15-1.

Senior Stacy Sykora had a match-high 15 kills and 11 digs, and junior Amber Woolsey added 12 kills in the win.

A&M improved to 2-0 the following day with a 3-1 (9-15, 15-12, 15-9, 15-5) victory over Georgia Tech.

The Aggies were led again by Sykora, who had 20 kills, and Jenna Moscovic, who had a team-high 48 assists and 10 digs.

The Aggies fell in their third match to Pacific 15-6, 15-11, 15-11 despite a team-high 19 kills and 10 digs from Sykora. Both Sykora and Woolsey were

named to the All-Tournament Team. Pacific placed four on the team and Georgia Tech placed one.

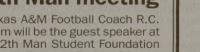
Slocum will be the guest speaker at the 12th Man Student Foundation tonight at 7 p.m.in Rudder 601.

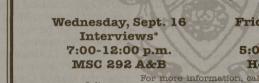
winningest coach, passing Homer Norton in last year's win over Texas.

Texas A&M Football Coach R.C.



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cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us... and along these fibers, as sympathetic threads, our actions run as causes, and they come back to us as effects." --Herman Melville--