

# Sports

## Ride wave of wins Houston contest

Robert Hollier  
The Battalion

matches into the 1998 season, the No. 19 Texas Volleyball Team is off to a great start. The Aggies are their only loss coming against No. 11 University

Aggies went 3-0 and won first place in the All Sports Tournament in Ann Arbor, Mich., over the weekend. A&M defeated the University of North Carolina, Louisiana State University and the University of Michigan to take their No. 1 spot. Senior outside hitter Stacy Sykora was named tournament MVP.

Their game against Michigan was a rematch of last year's game in the second round of the NCAA Volleyball Championships. The Aggies won that match as well.

With their first seven games on the road, the Aggies will play at home for the first time when they host the University of Houston Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies will also look for their fifth straight game.

In 1997, the Aggies played the Cougars twice in a home-and-home series. A&M won both matches three games to two.

The match against Houston will be the Aggies final pregame before they begin conference play next week against Texas Tech.

"The preseason schedule is fitting for what we need," Texas Tech volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli said. "We faced some competition at both of the tournaments and the Houston match is important because they (Houston) are always so well prepared to play us."

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## Big 12 awards announced

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Missouri running back Devin West, Iowa offensive end Reggie Hayward and Kansas State kicker Grammatica have been named the Big 12's players of the week.

West turned a career-high 33 carries into a "BIGGEST" record 319 yards and touchdowns. Hayward had 55 yards as the Tigers beat Kansas in addition to breaking Harry Ice's 57-yard school rushing mark. West set an all-time record with 333 all-purpose yards, topped by Darrell Wallace in 1985.

Hayward had five tackles, one for loss, and caused a fumble in the Cyclones' victory over Iowa. Iowa State registered 10 sacks and held Iowa to 42 yards rushing, a season's best effort since 1992.

Grammatica hit three field goals, including the longest in history with a kicking tee, hitting a 65-yarder in the team's 73-7 victory over Northern Illinois. It was the longest college field goal and a Big 12 record, besting a mark he shared.



GRAMMATICA

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## Stepping up to the tee

• Ryan Palmer returns with 7 others to anchor the A&M Men's Golf Team.

• Women's Golf Team faced with filling spots of two All-Big 12 performers.

BY GRANT HAWKINS  
The Battalion

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This year marks the 25th anniversary of Texas A&M Men's Golf coach Bob Ellis' arrival in Aggieland. Over that time, he was named Southwest Conference Coach of the Year four times. He is a 1998 inductee into the College Golf Coaches Hall of Fame and has produced Aggie golfing greats such as PGA players Jeff Maggert and David Ogrin.

His Aggies open their 1998-99 season this week. The Aggies return seven players from last year's team that finished fifth in the Big 12 conference. The talent is there, but how that talent is going to perform on the course is something Ellis said he is concerned about.

"The team outlook is really undecided right now," Ellis said. "We have a lot of variables to look at."

Leading the charge for the Aggies will be senior Ryan Palmer. This has been a good year for the Amarillo native. Palmer won back-to-back tournaments in the spring, capturing the Louisiana Classic after carding a final round of 65, and the Border Olympics three weeks later in Laredo, Texas.

During the summer, Palmer competed in the U.S. Open at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. Palmer said he knows his experience this summer will not only help him this season, but also help the team.

"After the Open, I realized I could play with the big boys," Palmer said. "I just have to take that experience and do good things with it, and hopefully the team will be able to feed off that."

A&M will also look to Matt Welch, a senior from DeSoto, Texas, for additional leadership. Welch competed in only three tournaments last year, but Ellis said he knows his leadership will be needed.

"Being an upperclassman, you are going to be looked up to," Ellis said. "We need that leadership not only from Ryan but also from Matt."

The Aggies third senior, Ty Cox, will be red-shirted this year.

A&M will have one newcomer to the team, freshman Sean Gilliland, from Harker Heights, Texas. Gilliland won the Collegiate Championship at Waterwood National in Huntsville, Texas, this summer and qualified for the Aggies' first tournament this fall.

Sophomores Ryan Tull and Clay Fullick will be counted on again this season for the Aggies. Tull had two top 15 finishes last year at the Border Olympics and the BellSouth Intercollegiate. As a true freshman, Fullick competed in three of the four fall tournaments last year.



What does a team do after losing the Big 12 Women's Golf MVP Isabelle Rosberg, and Big 12 All-Conference star Jamie Hullett? Get better. That may be the case for the Texas A&M Women's Golf Team in the 1998-99 season.

For the past four years A&M has followed the coattails of Hullett and Rosberg to three runner-up finishes — two in the Southwest Conference and one in the Big 12 — before breaking through last year as Big 12 champions, ending four great years for Hullett and Rosberg.

Now the Aggies are looking for some new players to carry them to a repeat performance in the Big 12, and hopefully, a spot in the NCAA Championships. A&M Women's Golf coach Jeanne Sutherland is hoping the three players — junior Anna Becker, sophomore Mimi Epps and sophomore Marta Ostos — will be able to handle the load for the Aggies this year.

"I think Anna, Mimi and Marta are all ready to step up," Sutherland said. "They have all developed over the summer into better golfers and they are excited about being team leaders."

The one making the biggest leap of the three has been Epps. The Houston native competed in the U.S. Women's Amateur this past summer after qualifying for the event in Houston. The leap has been apparent to teammate Becker.

"Mimi really found her game this summer," Becker said. "She is really playing great."

Becker is coming off a stellar spring in which she captured Big 12 All-Conference honors, placing second at the GTE Memorial Tournament at Pebble Creek before winning the Betsy Rawls Longhorn Classic in Austin a month later. For Becker, the question is how she will bounce back from a back injury that severely hampered her down the stretch last spring.

"My back feels a lot better," Becker said. "I've been doing a lot of rehab, and the back is doing good so far."

Ostos enters the fall season after a solid spring both in America and in her homeland, Mexico.

Ostos won the Mexican Amateur last spring and was chosen to represent Mexico in the World Cup in November. To represent the Big 12 conference as champions, the Aggies will need help from their supporting cast. Christie Arlitt, Jennifer Karnes and Amanda Rayford all return for the Aggies in '98.

Five freshmen will round out their roster. Jennifer Poth from Austin, Jennifer Cates from Seattle, Wa., and Amanda Spratlin from Keller were all redshirted last year.

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