## A2322

1998:Sept.

# Sports

Page 7 • Friday, September 25, 1998

#### Aggies try to forget distractions, Soccer team prepares for SMU **BY AARON COHAN** take out frustrations on Eagles The Battalion On paper, it looks like a lopsided game as

#### **BY JEFF SCHMIDT** The Battalion

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AT HELL

Texas A&M offensive coordinator Steve s building ragthorpe probably wishes he had taken e head football coaching position at the pleted theniversity of North Texas

t in an at After all, A&M is ranked 108th out of eir own 2 Division IA teams in total offense and, e A&M ge to a suspension, will not have senior with thenning back D'Andre "Tiki" Hardeman. n chapter Instead, Kragthorpe will be coaching ainst North Texas Saturday, as the No. Aggies host UNT.

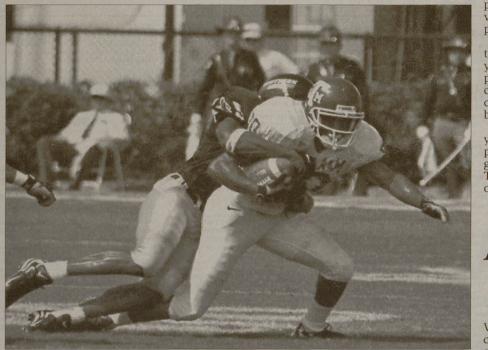
Kragthorpe, who was North Texas' offenve coordinator from 1994-95, was offered Habita e UNT job last season but said he turned there down out of loyalty to coach R.C. Slocum. red that "I just felt that at this point of time it best for me to stay at A&M," Kragthey are rpe said. "I really like the situation where es helpinm in. I think R. C. made a leap of faith d they yjumping out there and naming me colinator. I felt loyalty to him. I think a lot im as a head coach and enjoy workg for him.

ople in the Kragthorpe will not have the services of rdeman this season, recently suspendfor the season because he did not meet CAA satisfactory progress requirements. Hardeman was allowed to play inst Florida State and Louisiana Tech **Daffue** to a clerical error in the posting of addes at the registrar's office.

As a result of playing an ineligible yer, A&M forfeited the win over isiana Tech

Slocum said he does not think the susision will have an effect on his team. I don't think it's going to be a bad disction at all," Slocum said. "Players n't read newspapers very much, so othhan that it's not going to be a big deal. 'I think he's proven that he's a good You lose a considerable amount of perience. With [fullback] Jason Bragg ghurt we really don't have any expence to lose at that position.

The A&M offense can not afford a drop If in production. The Aggies are averag-



GREG MCREYNOLDS/THE BATTALION

Junior wide receiver Chris Cole catches a pass against Southern Mississippi Saturday. Cole has 12 catches for 162 yards, leading the Aggies' 108th-ranked offense.

ing only 111 rushing yards a game.

Hardeman, averaging 52 yards a game, also scored four of A&M's six touchdowns this season.

A&M will turn to junior running back Dante Hall to pick up the ground game with Hardeman sidelined.

Hall rushed for 76 yards on nine carries and two touchdowns against Southern Mississippi.

Despite the loss, Slocum said he does not consider losing one player a problem. "One of the foundations of building a

team is trying to get everyone to understand that it's not about one guy,' Slocum said.

"It's about the overall group. Whatev-

er the situation, you have 100 guys out there. You try not to let the loss of one player be that big of a distraction.

The Aggies had better not look past the Mean Green or they could see a sequel to last season's game.

UNT took a 10-10 tie into halftime against A&M, before A&M scored 26 unanswered points for the win.

Hardeman scored two of the Aggies four touchdowns against UNT.

'Last year, North Texas was coming off a win over Texas Tech and we struggled with them for a good while," Slocum said. "Our players remember playing this team just a year ago. They know it's going to be a challenge for us.

the favored Texas A&M Soccer Team prepares to host the Southern Methodist University Mustangs. The game will begin at 7 p.m. at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

The offensive struggles that SMU has faced this year, after losing four top players, have made them dig deep to find that talent core that has traditionally been there

Yet earlier games this year are forgotten in the players' minds for this Both

Texas rivals look forward to facing each

ELLIOT

"It's the same thing every year,"

sophomore defender Claire Elliott said. The match is very physical and demands full concentration on both offense and defense.

The Mustangs bring a speedy front, both in forwards and midfielders that can easily wreak havoc on the A&M defense.

Junior defender Ashley Fendley said Jamie Campanaro, a senior midfielder and leading scorer for SMU, is a top priority for the A&M defenders.

"She, like the rest of their front, are great offensive threats that are very quick," Fendley said. "We cannot allow them to cross midfield a lot.

The defense is the main aspect the Aggies have worked on this week just in case the SMU offense resurfaces.

A&M coach G. Gurrieri said not to overlook SMU

SEE SOCCER ON PAGE 8.

### A&M begins conference play at Tech

#### **BY ROBERT HOLLIER**

The Battalion

The No. 17 Texas A&M Volleyball Team (7-1) concluded its preseason matches with a dominating win over Houston.

In that game, junior middle blocker Amber Woolsey had the best game of her career with a career-high in kills with 18 and a hitting percentage of .654.

The Aggies have a fivematch winning streak, but they have not played since their home-opener against Houston Sept. 15.

The Aggies will try to increase their winning streak to six when they travel to Lubbock to face No. 25 Texas Tech (10-2) Friday at 7 p.m.

A&M is 9-7 all-time in its conference openers, but is 2-5 when they open on

the road. The Aggies are 2-1 as they open their Big 12 conference schedule against the Red Raiders.

Coach Laurie Corbelli said every win counts when competing in one of the toughest conferences in the country.

"Given our youth and inexperience, a big goal for this group is to finish in the top four in the (Big 12) conference and battle for that top notch," Corbelli said. "In a conference like this, a lot of the teams have the same goal, and it would be very satisfying for us to

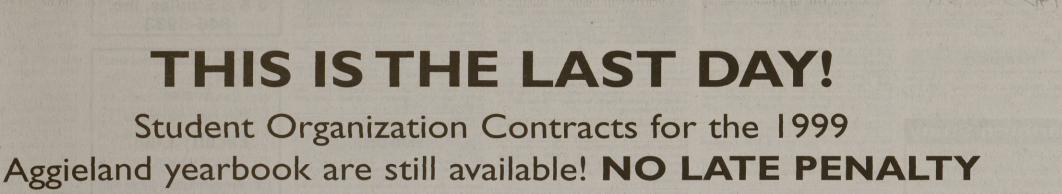
achieve that mark." After the Aggies play Tech, they return home to host Baylor (6-5) on Sunday at 3 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

In the all-time series, the Aggies are 39-5 against Baylor and the Aggies de-feated the Bears both times last year.

Despite the Aggies' recent dominance over the Bears, Corbelli said the team cannot get overconfident with so many tough conference matches still ahead.

"The Big 12 is going to be incredibly tough," Cor-belli said. "I think eight or nine teams could battle for the top four spots. Every outcome of every match will be a mystery. The championship is going to be up for grabs.

I am confident that the quality of our game will continue to improve, and depending on how quickly our athletes respond to the system and the competition, I do believe that things could turn out very much in our favor many times throughout the season.



#### grudge match. other every year.

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