

Sports

Straight Arrow

Victor Wunderle is dead-on at the art of archery

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Victor Wunderle first picked up a bow and arrow at the age of five, and one year later he entered his first archery competition. Since then, his list of accomplishments has grown to establish him as one of the best archers in the world. The senior wildlife and fisheries major from Mason City, Ill., came to Texas A&M as a two-time Junior World Champion.

He has been a member of the Texas A&M Archery Team for the past three years and he won the National Collegiate championship in an outdoor and indoor divisions in a year.

"There's just something with little hostile emotions and anything that shoots," Wunderle said. "My dad shot archery some, which was an influence, but it started out as just a form of entertainment."

On Sept. 4, he took his achievements one step further when he won the 114th National Target Archery Championships in Canton, Mich., against an international field of 64 archers.

The win completed a long season in which Wunderle also competed in the indoor and field championships. He placed in the top ten in both events. Right after the target championships, Wunderle competed in the second annual U.S. Open with the same field of competition.

He was in third place heading into the finals of the competition, edging past Barry Weiperl from Easton, Penn., by a score of 112-109.

The win led to one of the most coveted awards in the nation, the Shenk Award for the best all-around archer out of the three national competitions. With 4,390 points accumulated over three days of competition, Wunderle edged past former Purdue University archer Jason McKrittick in the finals of his last competition.

Coached by Frank Thomas and Kathy Eissinger, Wunderle competes the Aggies' 16-member squad that has won the national championship four times.

Wunderle credits his improvement in the past several years to the two Aggie coaches for their motivational and technical advice, an assessment with which Thomas said he agrees.

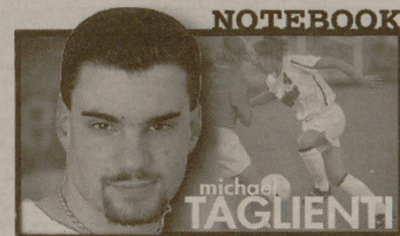
SEE WUNDERLE ON PAGE 8.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VICTOR WUNDERLE
Texas A&M senior Victor Wunderle took home the Shenk Award, given to the top finisher in three national championship events.

A&M faces tough tilt

The No. 10 Texas A&M Soccer Team finished 1-1 last week with a 1-0 win over SMU and a 2-1 defeat to the 11th-ranked University of Hartford.



The Aggies go on the road this week to play the No. 13 Nebraska Cornhuskers Friday and the Iowa State Cyclones Sunday. The Aggies are 5-3 this season.

Children of the Corn

Along with Baylor, Nebraska should be the Aggies' toughest competition this year as they attempt to defend their Big 12 title. The Huskers are 5-2 with losses to the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and No. 9 UCLA. A&M leads the all-time series with Nebraska 3-2. Both losses came in 1996 when the Cornhuskers won the Big 12 Soccer Championship.

Record Crowd

A record crowd of 1,649 people watched the Aggies defeat Southern Methodist University on Friday. Coach G. Guerrieri said although the crowd was large, they seemed wary of the outcome. "The crowd was big for this game," Guerrieri said. "They were kind of quiet, but I think that was because they were kind of scared that this game would end up like our last game against SMU." The Aggies lost to SMU 1-0 in the first round of the NCAA playoffs last year. The Aggies dominated the game, outshooting the Mustangs 18-5 but failed to put the ball in the back of the net. A&M outshot the Mustangs on Friday 19-11 in its 1-0 victory.

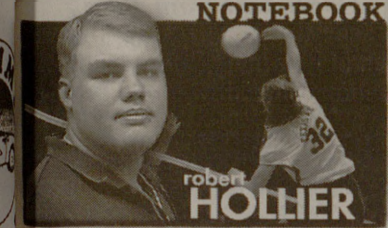
P.O.W.

The Player of the Week goes to sophomore forward Nicky Thrasher. Thrasher scored the winning goal in the overtime victory over SMU. The goal was Thrasher's team-leading fifth of the season. Thrasher leads the Aggies with 11 points on the season.

SEE SOCCER ON PAGE 8.

Aggies make strong start a volleyball tradition

The No. 16 Texas A&M Volleyball Team got off to a great start in the Big 12 Conference with two victories



NOTEBOOK

robert HOLLIER

over No. 25 Texas Tech and Baylor. The Aggies defeated both teams in three-game sweeps. A&M is 9-1 on the year and 2-0 in the conference.

Starting Strong

The Aggies' 9-1 record ties the best start in school history after 10 matches. In 1984, the team went 10-1 before it lost its second match, and the 1995 team, under current coach Laurie Corbelli, went 12-1 before losing its second match.

With victories over Tech and Baylor, the Aggies extended their winning streak to seven. The Aggies can increase it to eight when they host No. 13 Texas Wednesday.

Home Sweet Home

The Aggies have played three games at home and have won all of them, defeating Houston, Texas Tech and Baylor.

SEE VOLLEYBALL ON PAGE 8.

Williams, Kelsay named Big 12 award recipients

DALLAS (AP) — Texas running back Ricky Williams, Nebraska rush end Chad Kelsay and Kansas return man-wide receiver Harrison Hill have been named the Big 12's players of the week.

Williams, a senior, ran for a career-high 318 yards on 30 carries and six touchdowns in the Longhorns' 59-21 victory over Rice.

It was the second-most yards in school history. By also catching four passes for 32 yards, he set a school record with 350 all-purpose yards.

Kelsay spearheaded the Cornhuskers' 55-7 victory over Washington with four total tackles, two solos, three quarterback hurries, a sack, a forced fumble and an interception.

Kelsay set the defensive tone

for the afternoon by knocking down Washington quarterback Brock Huard's first pass attempt and then forcing a fumble on the opening play from scrimmage in the second half.

Hill, a redshirt freshman, had an 81-yard punt return, the fifth-longest in school history, in the Jayhawks' 39-37 victory over Alabama-Birmingham in four overtimes.

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