

Cross country expands roster to 42

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams are coming off an open weekend. Both teams have been training through the last few weeks for Saturday's race at Oklahoma State.



NOTEBOOK

Tom KENNEDY

Anyone Up for Football?

The Aggies can ask this question now that they have expanded their roster to 42 runners. With a roster that size, they have enough or an offense, defense and special teams. There have been nine additional walk-ons added to the team since the season opened in early September.

On the men's side, freshmen Aaron Henriksen, Brandon Junter, Will Slaughter, and Jason Josa were added.

Additions for the women include freshmen Ginger Beran, Brooke Blackwood, Shaundra Hadden, and Tiffany Virag. Sophomore Caroline Kohler also returned to the team after a one-year leave.

Coach Dave Hartman expects the Kingwood High School product to strengthen the team.

"I think she'll help us in track and next cross country season," Hartman said. "She ran pretty well the first few weeks."

Ranking Woes

The men and women experienced different results in this week's South Central Region Coaches' Poll.

The women dropped from sixth to eighth despite winning the title in Hattiesburg, Miss.

The men moved up one spot to 12th after capturing the team title at the same meet. Hartman feels that the poll is not indicative of where his teams are this early in the season.

The Aggies get to see how accurate the polls are this weekend. Arkansas, which holds the number one ranking in the region for the men and women, will be running in Oklahoma.

Hartman in Sydney?

Even though Coach Hartman is on the coaching level now, he continues to run just as he did in college. In fact, Hartman is more ambitious than ever, setting goals that are far beyond what he aimed for in college.

"I'd like to break twenty nine minutes for the ten [kilometer race]," Hartman said.

Other goals for Hartman include qualifying for the United States Track and Field Championships in the 10,000 meters and the 2000 United States Olympic Trials in the same event.

Hartman also anticipates a possible move up to the half-marathon. As for training and coaching, he is currently learning how to juggle his schedule since his move to A&M.

"I'd like to workout a system where I work on my strength during the [Aggie Cross Country] season, and once the season is over I can work on my racing," Hartman said.

Runners of the Week

This week's runners have been hand picked by Coach Hartman since there were no race times to gauge the team on.

On the men's side, sophomore Jim Pat Darcey earned the award for having consistency in his training.

For the women, freshmen Kayci Waters and Jennifer Whatley received co-honors for their strong running in Hattiesburg, Miss., the previous week and for their improvement over the season.

In their first season of running, both have made their case for varsity consideration at the end of the season.

Tom Kennedy is a junior sports management major.

Moscovic

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When the Aggies started the 1998 season, they had four places on the team to fill with the departure of four starting seniors from last year.

Moscovic made the most of her opportunities becoming the staff Aggies' setter.

Corbelli said she saw a lot of promise in Moscovic when she was recruiting her and had little doubt that she would have a lot of impact and influence on the court as a freshman.

Jenna is one of the top recruits in the nation," Corbelli said. "She's got tremendous talent and poise to really make a big difference in our program and we actually have seen Jenna play even more aggressive than she did against Baylor.

She's learning timing and getting her position down really well.

"We've been working on a couple of areas of her game that can enhance our offense. I think other teams think just because she's a freshman and that she's also setting most of the time, that all her focus is on that. She's young, but she doesn't play young. Jenna is doing what she's supposed to be doing and it's really a privilege to have a player like her on our team."

Moscovic has certainly done her share in helping lead the Aggies to a 9-1 record and a 2-0 record in the Big 12. The Aggies' 9-1 start is their best since 1995 when the team started the year 10-1.

Moscovic is averaging 12.19 assists per game and has contributed 2.23 digs, .058 blocks and 1.15 kills per game. She also has a hitting percentage of .297, third on the team.

Junior outside hitter Summer Strickland said Moscovic has impressed her from the start, and her adjustment to the college level has not been difficult.

"As a freshman, she is doing really well," Strickland said. "She's not bothered by the fact that she is a freshman. She's taking everything in stride. Playing at the college level doesn't seem to bother her."

"As a setter, it's her job to run our offense and she has done a real nice job of bringing it all together. She does a good job of getting the middles involved in the game early, and she really takes charge of the offense. She always brings a positive attitude to the court and she has a lot of fun out there."

While Moscovic has enjoyed the success the team is having, she knows her most important role on the team is doing anything she can to improve her teammates' performances on the court.

"I think my most important role is to make the hitters better," Moscovic said. "Making them better is my job, and I like that I get to take part in every single play and that I can have such an impact on every play. I can help control the direction of the game."

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