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Ags defeat Oklahoma, Oklahoma State over weekend at Aggie Soccer Complex ear in ad). This rate a

BY REECE FLOOD

After finishing third in the Big Conference last season, the xas A&M Soccer Team started 1999 season off on the right ot last weekend with two wins

er conference opponents. The Aggies defeated Oklahoma ate University Friday night, 4-0, and beat the University of Okla-

ma, 5-0, Sunday afternoon. Junior forward Nicky Thrasher id she was impressed by her ammates' level of play.

"I thought we all went out at a gh level of intensity and just ept it going throughout the ame," she said. "We played 90 inutes of good soccer, attractive

The first goal of the game came minutes into the contest from nior midfielder Mandy David-

She received a pass from hrasher from the left side of the eld before putting the ball in the

Davidson said she was excited out getting the season's first al and setting an example for

"I think it's a great way for me go out as a captain and as a seor to really take the game," she id. "It was fun to get the first oal of the year.

Aggie goals were also scored by freshman midfielder Andrea Starns, freshman midfielder Jessi-

ca Martin and Thrasher. This year's top-10 recruiting class showcased its talent as several freshmen contributed to the

In addition to the goals from Starns and Martin, defender Martha Moore played well, using her speed to patrol the backfield.

Davidson said the newcomers

looked like experienced players in their first collegiate game. "I think they played excellent," Davidson said. "They are very composed, very talented players that step right into college ball, no problem.

Thrasher said walking away from the first game of the season with a victory was very important for the team

"Especially in conference, it's very important," she said. "It's a good booster for us because it will The Aggies carried the same at-

titude into their second game against Oklahoma Sunday after-A&M once again dominated its

opponent with 20 shots on goal and held the Sooners to only

Thrasher and Starns once again found the back of the net, and sophomore forward Jodie



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Junior forward Nicky Thrasher controls the ball against Oklahoma State University. Thrasher had two goals and an assist over the weekend.

Mitchell and junior midfielder Alison Peters each headed the ball past the OU goalkeeper for goals. Freshman forward Heather Rágsdale joined the list of scorers with a shot on an open net from the middle of the field.

Starns said she is a little disappointed the team is not ranked higher in the polls but feels that two shutout victories in one weekend will improve the Aggies'

'Right now we're not getting the respect we need nationally,' Starns said, "so we're just out here to make a statement now."

Although scoring goals seems to be the team's strongest at-tribute, this year the Aggies have switched their emphasis to the importance of defending the goal.

Every time that we keep a shutout in a game, we're going to post a bagel up on our bagel pole," Davidson said. "It's just a reminder to us that defense is important and that you win games with a tough defense.

After the birds and time do away with the bagels, there will be a nail in a wooden post representing each time the Aggies shut out, or "nailed"

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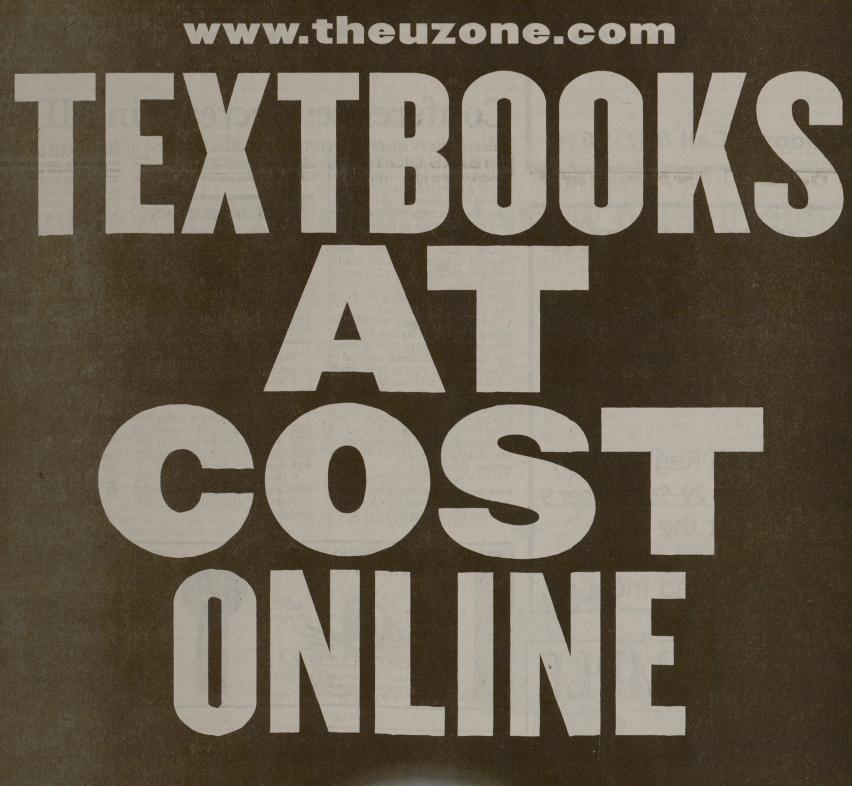
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