



BRADLEY ATCHISON/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore forward Michelle Remington (left) works the ball past a Navy defender during the GTE Soccer Classic. The Aggies will battle sixth-ranked Notre Dame today in Klein, Texas, in the Adidas College Classic.

## 8th-ranked Aggies face Notre Dame, Vanderbilt at Adidas College Classic

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

The eighth-ranked Texas A&M Soccer Team will try to improve on its 6-0 record this weekend at the Adidas College Classic in Klein, Texas. A&M kicks off the tournament today at 4 p.m. against sixth-ranked University of Notre Dame and plays again Sunday against Vanderbilt University at 2 p.m. A&M junior midfielder Alison Peters said the Aggies anticipate a challenging weekend. "We're expecting two extremely talented teams," she said. The team's first game of the tournament will be against the highest-ranked opponent A&M has faced this season, putting the Aggies in an unfamiliar position. "The whole time we've been chased because we've been ranked," Peters said, "everyone's been looking at us like 'Ooh, this is the game' for them to get on the board. This is like a game for us to get recognized, too. Now it's like we're not being chased—we're doing the chasing, we're after them."

A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri said today's game against Notre Dame may be the Aggies' most difficult game of the season so far. "Notre Dame has the potential to win a national championship, so we're expecting our biggest test of the season to date," he said. The Fighting Irish come to Klein with a great deal of speed, strength and experience. Four Notre Dame starters are nominees for the Hermann Trophy, soccer's equivalent of the Heisman Trophy. A&M senior defender Ashley Fendley said her team will be ready for its opponent. "We know what we can do," she said. "A lot of girls on the team have played the [University of] North Carolinas, have played the Santa Claras and played all these teams, and we know what to expect, so we're not going to be intimidated." For the Aggies to be successful this weekend, they will have to maintain their aggressiveness on both offense and defense. Peters said the A&M offense is capable of pressuring the opponent and can be successful against

Notre Dame. "Being a tough game, I think we'll be ready for it," she said. "We'll be fired up. We'll put all the pressure we've put on everyone else—hopefully more." Fendley said the defense will continue the attacking style of play it has used in the past few games. "We were kind of laying off people and letting them run at us, and we'd have huge gaps in the field," she said. "Now we keep pushing up and making them play to us. We're trying to push up and put the pressure on them and get the pressure off of us." The Aggies currently are ranked eighth by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA), the highest ranking A&M has seen this season. Guerrieri said the ranking is pleasing, and he hopes the Aggies can remain successful. "We're always flattered to be put in with the elite of the elite," he said. "It sets a standard for us, and it's a standard we've got to try to live up to and try to play higher than."

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