

# Aggies split games with ISU, Nebraska

BY BETH MILLER  
The Battalion

This weekend marked Texas A&M's 25th anniversary of women's sports, but the Texas A&M Soccer Team was forced to split the celebration between a loss to the University of Nebraska Friday and a win against Iowa State University yesterday.

Bouncing back from Friday's loss, A&M beat Iowa State, 4-1, yesterday, with junior midfielder Heather Wiebe, sophomore midfielder Cameron Chorn, freshman forward Heather Ragsdale and junior forward Nicky Thrasher scoring goals for the Aggies.

The lone Iowa State goal was scored by Erica Florez, who pounced a ball off the left goal post senior goalkeeper Melanie Wilson.

"[Florez] caught me moving, but I thought the ball was wide," Wilson said. "When I saw it going toward the post, I set up to grab it when it bounced off. I don't understand how it went in the goal, because the ball hit the dead center of the post. I'm still not sure how it went in."

The Aggies' silver-anniversary opener against Nebraska Friday did not produce the results they were hoping for as A&M lost 1-0.

Both teams entered the game strong and aggressive, but the defenses allowed only seven shots on goal for the Aggies and nine for

the Cornhuskers. Wilson compiled eight saves in the game. The Cornhuskers' only goal was on a penalty kick in the first period by Jenny Benson.

After a fierce first period, A&M defender Martha Moore was injured when a Nebraska player stepped on her left knee. Officials said the injury was a deep bruise.

A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri said injuries will force the team to focus on offense.

"We will basically be looking to control the pace of the remainder of the games by really playing our style, which is strong, attacking soccer," he said. "Our best defense will be in our attack the rest of the way out."

Junior defender Amber Reynolds said the loss to Nebraska was difficult because of the teams' rivalry.

She said losing the game could hurt the team if it does not win the rest of its conference games. However, she said the Aggies are positive and will put the loss behind them.

"The Big 12 championship is always between us and Nebraska, and this game is always a prelude to the Big 12 tournament," Reynolds said. "We know that we needed to win this game to win the Big 12 Conference regular season title."

"We need to win all the games now. We need to go out and kill all the other teams and make sure we get the recognition we need."



A&M junior midfielder Heather Wiebe gets her shirt pulled by a University of Nebraska defender during Friday night's match.

# Astros win Central division, buy more time at Astrodome

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros bought themselves at least one more game in the building that brought the world AstroTurf, but the team and the fans still said goodbye to the Astrodome yesterday.

The Astros finished their 35th and final season in the dome with an 9-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

In doing so, Houston clinched its third straight NL Central title and a playoff berth. They will play either the Cincinnati Reds or the New York Mets for the first two games of a best-of-5 series, and then return to the Dome for Game 3 on Friday and a fourth game later, if necessary.

Yesterday's crucial game was sandwiched between celebrations honoring the more than three decades of indoor Astros baseball.

Astros manager Larry Dierker, who was an 18-year-old rising prospect with Houston when the stadium opened, threw out the ceremonial first pitch to thunderous applause from 52,033 fans, a club-record fifth straight game with 50,000 or more fans.

"Immediately afterward, I don't think it hits you. But as the evening progresses, I think it rose on you," Dierker said. "I wouldn't be surprised if I don't shed a tear before the night is over."

Country singer Charley Pride delivered a low-key rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner,"

and then the Astros turned to the business of keeping their season — and baseball in the Astrodome — alive for another day.

"Everything here was just memorable, and I'm going to miss it," Joel Manjarris, a Houstonian who attended his first game at the Astrodome in the inaugural season, said. Manjarris said he will be back for the playoffs.

Closer Jay Powell withstood hundreds of flashbulbs through two batters as he tried to get the final out.

The fans rose to their feet as Mark Grudzielanek stepped to the plate, but he singled to score Dave Hansen and make it 9-4.

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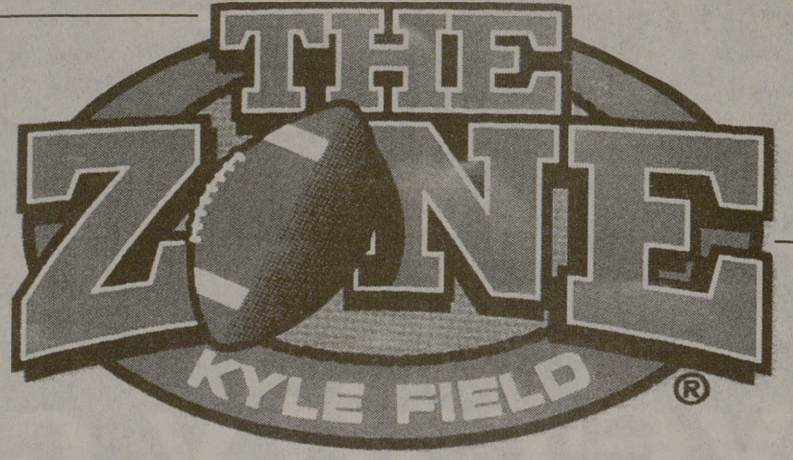
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