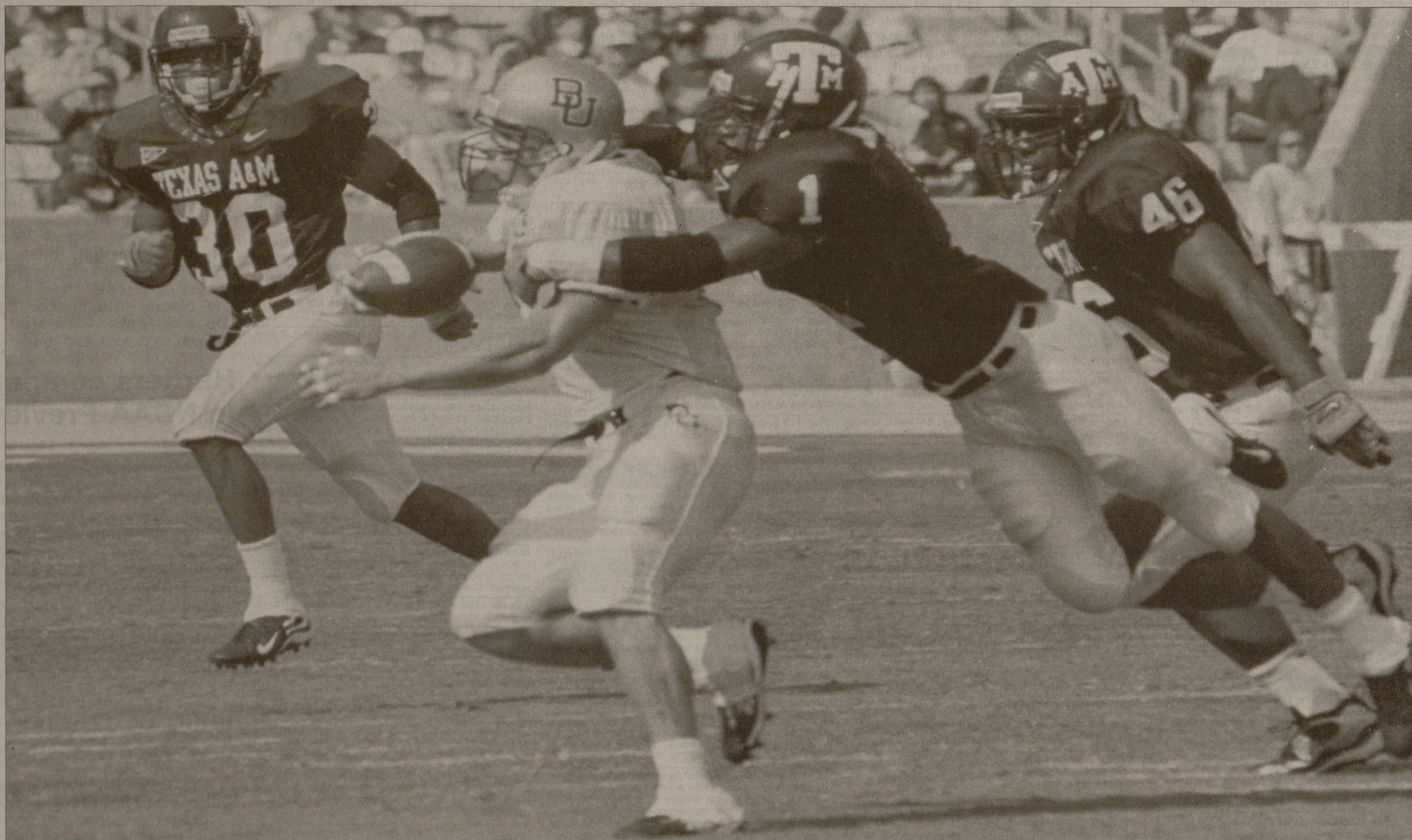


## No. 13 Aggies set to take on Jayhawks

BY AL LAZARUS  
The Battalion



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M junior safety **Michael Jameson** drags down a Baylor University receiver in last Saturday's 45-13 win over the Bears. A&M hosts Kansas tomorrow at 11:30 a.m. at Kyle Field.

Season's game against the University of Kansas was supposed to be a warmup for the Texas A&M Football Team — a game to get ready for the following week's game against the University of Nebraska. But the Aggies needed a late-fourth quarter 75-yard drive to score a touchdown against Lawrence, Kan., with a 24-21 win. Despite a road game against a rejuvenated University of Oklahoma squad looming on Oct. 23, excuse A&M for having only one game on its mind — Kansas.

The Aggies (4-1, 1-1 Big 12) and Jayhawks (4-4, 0-2 Big 12) will square off Saturday at 11:30 a.m. at Kyle Field.

Coach R.C. Slocum said last year's game was a "easy to look ahead," offensive line coach Valletta said. "But you can't do that because that's what loses you the game."

Slocum learned that the hard way last year. After jumping out to a 14-0 lead in the first quarter, the Aggies trailed 23-3 over the next 50 minutes of play.

Against the Jayhawks, meanwhile, slowly moving on offense until running back D'Andre "Tiki" Hardaway scored from the A&M 1-yard line to give Kansas a 21-17 lead.

The Aggies responded, and running back R.C. Slocum's three-yard touchdown pass to the impressive 75-yard drive.

Coach R.C. Slocum said last year's game should benefit the Aggies as they prepare for Kansas.

"It helps us — that is was a close game last year," Slocum said. "We kept playing and taking control of it, but we just didn't do it."

The Aggies defeated Baylor University, 45-13 Saturday without the services of quarterback Randy McCown, who injured his back lifting weights, and running back D'Andre "Tiki" Hardaway, who was out with a groin injury. Both players are questionable to play against KU.

Offensive coordinator Steve Kragthorn said the Aggies' game plan for Saturday should not be affected by injuries.

"We're going to design a game plan that our backs can run," he said. "We've got to get our backs playing."

When the Bears repeatedly kept eight or nine players close to the line to stop the Aggies, A&M responded in the second half by successfully airing the ball out.

Coach Slocum said he expects the Aggies will see more of the same from the Jayhawks Saturday.

"Like we've said all along, we want to be able to run the football," he said. "But they're more of an eight- or nine-man front team."

The Jayhawks are coming off a 50-9 thrashing at the hands of rival Kansas State University, but A&M quarterback Randy McCown said despite the lopsided loss — and three other KU blowout losses this season — the Aggies will treat Kansas like any other opponent.

"We don't pay any attention to who we're playing," he said. "We just treat every team like the Super Bowl champions."

Despite losing to Texas Tech University in their first conference game, the Aggies are in good position in the Big 12 South after last weekend, when the only teams who had been undefeated in conference play, Tech and OU, lost. Now every team has one loss except

for Baylor, which is 0-3 in Big 12 action.

Slocum said the Aggies' early conference loss does not leave much room for error.

"We're in the race right now, and we've got one strike against us already," he said. "It's a week-to-week thing, and you either go forward or backward every week."

## Soccer looks to bounce back against Florida State, Colorado

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

Senior midfielder **Jessica Martin** tries to elude a defender against Florida State University Sept. 12 at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

The Texas A&M Soccer Team will try to rebound from last weekend's losses when the University of Colorado and Florida State University come to town.

The Aggies (10-4) will take on Colorado tonight at 7:00 at the Aggie Soccer Complex. A&M currently is in third place in the Big 12 standings with a conference record of 4-3. Colorado (10-5) trails the Aggies with a 3-3 conference record.

Last weekend's 1-0 losses to Baylor University and Texas Tech University are putting the Aggies in a difficult position for the game against Colorado.

A&M assistant soccer coach Phil Stephenson said he wants A&M to prove that last weekend was a fluke and it will not happen again this year.

"We've got to make a statement to everybody in the country that's watching to say it [last weekend] was an anomaly," Stephenson said. "It wasn't the usual A&M. It was a down weekend, and that [was] our one for the season."

It might be difficult for the Aggies to return to their early season form, but senior midfielder Mandy Davidson said she thinks the Aggies will be able to respond to the challenge for tonight's game.

"We're expecting a tough game," she said. "Having come off of two losses we know that teams are going to think that we're more vulnerable, but at the same time I think it's going to make us stronger."

"I think that they are going to think that we've lost it and that they're going to beat us, but I think they're in for a big surprise."

After tonight's game, the Aggies will return to action on Sunday night at 7 against Florida State.

A&M will face a good passing team in the Seminoles. Florida State is a team that likes to dominate the ball with possession.

A&M junior midfielder Heather Wiebe said that playing a nonconference opponent like FSU is important for the Aggies.

"We've got to play teams from all over — not just in our conference — if we want to win a national championship, which is our goal," she said.

Stephenson said although this is a nonconference game, the team will be ready to play hard and leave the field with a win.

"We're looking at a national picture; we have to win," he said. "It doesn't matter who it is. Our intensity in practice this week has shown that whoever steps on the field is going to have a real hard time."

Entering last weekend, A&M was ranked seventh in both the NSCAA and Soccer Buzz polls, but the pair of losses dropped the Aggies to 21st and 19th, respectively.

Davidson said this weekend is very important for the Aggies.

"I think it's a 'make-or-break our season' kind of weekend," she said. "We need to come out and win."

## A&M swimming teams highly anticipate upcoming season

hope to continue success after top ten finish at NCAA Championships last year

BY JASON LINCOLN  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Swimming Teams begin competition Friday with an intrasquad meet at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium.

Relays continue to be a strong focus for the A&M men who are so focused on a total team performance that they often set personal bests during the events.

"Relay's get us psyched up," Morrow said. "It has a tendency to be our strong point because each one of us is determined not to let our teammates down."

A problem area that A&M will have to try and solve is the speculated loss of three All-American swimmers who might red-shirt what would have been their final season. The reason for the red-shirt season would be in anticipation for

work coming before talent.

"I've been real pleased with what they've bought in with what I'm asking them to do," Bultman said. "I think we have some talent. We just need to improve and we could surprise some people. There definitely is some talent here to work with."

The team has grown during the off-season from a small collegiate squad at 14 members to one with the depth to compete in every event. With 25 swimmers, the squad feels that it will be able to utilize the depth to build on the point scoring and allow individuals to specialize in their best events in addition to the added relay ability.

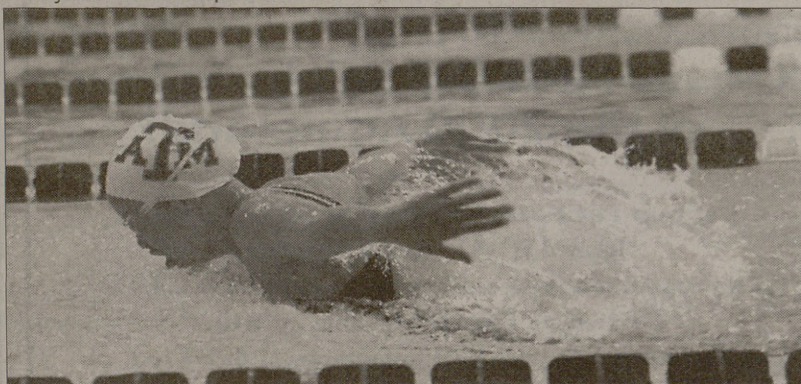
The growth is largely due to walk-ons and transfers that Bultman hopes to shape into a powerful A&M squad.

With the added numbers on the team, the Aggies have turned to a diverse group of seniors to provide leadership to a young team, that is hoping to start a winning tradition. With four swimmers and a diver returning as seniors, the Aggies have



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Swimming Teams begin competition Friday with an intrasquad meet at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Women wanting to build winning tradition under new head coach Steve Bultman

BY JASON LINCOLN  
The Battalion

This season the Texas A&M Women's Swimming Team has new look. A new coach, a large squad and an attitude characterize what the Aggies hope will be a winning combination.

Steve Bultman came from an assistant's position at Georgia with visions of having a program of his own that he could mold into what he hopes will be one that follows the winning traditions of many other Aggie sports.

In the early period of the season Bultman has set the tone for A&M's season with hard practices and grueling workouts that A&M hopes will translate into success as they head into the competitive season.

"Steve is a great coach with a lot of new innovative ideas," senior Monica Stroman said. "He works us hard, but in the long run it will be well worth it."

"He's a drill sergeant, but he's making us better swimmers. We love it."

The team has been responding to Bultman's philosophy of hard

SEE MEN'S ON PAGE 8.

SEE WOMEN'S ON PAGE 8.