

Aggies sweep weekend soccer

BY REECE FLOOD AND JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

It was a weekend of positives for the Texas A&M Soccer Team as it took two wins in front of hometown crowd. With a conference win over the University of Colorado on Friday and a victory on Sunday against Florida State University, the Aggies built momentum to carry them through the final days of the regular season.

Highlighting the weekend was junior forward Nicky Thrasher, who scored the game-winning goal in both games.

The Aggies started Friday's game against the Buffaloes with a high level of intensity that gave them a quick lead. Thrasher scored two goals within three minutes of each other early in the game.

Both goals were scored off a pass from senior midfielder Mandy Davidson. Thrasher said that she and Davidson had been working on timing the pass and shot all week and both goals looked exactly like what they had been practicing.

"Mandy set me up great," Thrasher said.

After the two quick goals, the Aggies seemed to lose some of the intensity they started with and did not take advantage of several scoring opportunities they had throughout the game.

A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri said the Aggies were thrown a little off guard when Colorado started the second half with a different game plan.

"The first half I thought we came out and played really well," Guerrieri said. "Colorado did a good job of coming out and changing the tempo of the game in the second half and we didn't do a good enough job of adjusting to it."

"It's nice that we can not play our best and still come out with a win."

— G. Guerrieri
A&M soccer coach

Guerrieri said he was not pleased with A&M's overall effort.

"I'm disappointed in our intensity in the last 45 minutes of the game," he said. "It's nice that we can not play our best and still come out with a win."

Despite the lack of intensity, the Aggies were able to outshoot Colorado, 28-6, and managed to shut out their opponent for the sixth time this season.

"A shut out is a big thing," Guerrieri said. "Especially in this conference."

Sunday evening would prove a much greater challenge for Thrasher and the Aggies. With low temperatures, high wind and a wet field, Texas A&M would struggle against the visiting Seminoles.

The Aggies managed to control the game in the first half and take solid shots at FSU goalkeeper Sarah Crawford. Crawford proved to be a solid force in the box, turning back the Aggie offense and singlehandedly keeping the Seminoles in the game.

A&M freshman Heather Ragsdale would be the first to get past FSU's Crawford, scoring in the 14th minute of the game. A&M tried to capitalize on the lead and open it up yet was unable to score again in the opening 45 minutes.

In the second half, Florida State forward April Murphy found her way past A&M goalkeeper Melanie Wilson after only 1:20 of play. Murphy's goal would be the only score for the Seminoles as A&M regrouped and once again attacked.

Thrasher, after having several shots on goal repelled by Crawford, took her second free kick at the goal after a foul by Florida State. This one would find its way low and deep into the back of the net to break the tie in the 77th minute to win the game.

"It's frustrating when you have so many shot opportunities and don't get one in," Thrasher said. "It was a big boost for the team when I finally got it past."

Intrasquad meet opens swim season

BY BREANNE HICKS
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Swimming Teams dove into competition Friday and Saturday in an intrasquad meet at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium. The meet began the Aggies' season and offered a preview of what is to come for A&M.

The men's and women's teams were split into two mixed teams, Maroon and White. Maroon won the meet and raced to the finish with a total of 266 points against White's 247 points.

Men's swimming coach Mel Nash said the meet served as a fun and useful way to begin the season.

"When you go against each other, there is trash talk all week," he said. "We had a nice kickoff. It let us know where we are."

In the men's competition, senior Devin Howard finished the meet with three individual first-place finishes. He captured the 200 and 100-meter butterfly with times of 1:55.49 and 51.03, respectively, for the White team. Howard also took first in the 200-meter individual medley at 1:57.21.

Leading the Maroon team was sophomore Riley Janes, who took first place in the 100-meter freestyle with a time of 46.00. Janes also was a member of the first place 200-meter medley and 400-meter freestyle relay teams.

"Riley is a racer," Nash said. "This is what he loves to do."

First-year women's swimming coach Steve Bultman said he was pleased with the meet's results.

"We had a couple of outstanding swimmers," he said. "We got up and raced hard to see where we stand, and that is all you can expect."

Leading the meet in the women's competition was senior Monica Stroman, who ended the meet with four first-place finishes. Stroman finished with times of 1:06.29 in the 100-meter breaststroke, 2:23.22 in the 200-meter breaststroke and 2:07.17 in the 200-meter individual medley. Stroman also captured first in the 200-meter individual medley relay with team members Amy Osmun, Clara Ho, and Kelly Bolton, with a time of 1:47.20.

Two time All-American senior Tracy Evans finished the meet with two first-place finishes. She won the 1000-meter freestyle with a time of 10:09.67 and seized the 500-meter freestyle with a time of 4:58.93.

"We trained really hard this week," Evans said. "We swam well and we surprised ourselves and our coaches."

Bultman said he will use the results of the meet to assess the team's strengths and weaknesses going into the season.

"We raced hard, and this helps us to determine who will swim in the events next week," Bultman said.

The Aggie men and women swimming teams will return to competition next weekend at the Big 12 Relays in Ames, Iowa.

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