

The Battalion

## Losses by Oklahoma, Texas Tech give Aggies hope in Big 12 South

NOTEBOOK



Three-peat?

The Texas A&M Football Team (6-2, 3-2 Big 12) will take on the University of Nebraska (7-1, 4-1 Big 12) Saturday in Lincoln, Neb. The game is set to kick-off at 2:30 p.m. and will be televised regionally by ABC.

Tech will travel to Austin to battle Texas, while the Sooners will be in Ames, Iowa, to face a much-improved Iowa State team.

Lechler Eyes Record

Senior punter Shane Lechler is within reach of the NCAA's career punt-average record of 44.3 yards per punt, owned by former Mississippi punter Bill Smith. Lechler's career average is 44.4 yards per punt, but he needs five more punts to reach the minimum requirement of 250 career punts.

Lechler already is on pace to finish his career as A&M's all-time punting and net punting leader.

A&M/Nebraska Facts

Nebraska leads the all-time series with A&M, 6-2. The Aggies' 28-21 victory over the Cornhuskers last season at Kyle Field was their first over Nebraska since a 27-0 shutout in Lincoln, Neb., in 1955. The Aggies have not played in Lincoln since 1972.

The Cornhuskers are coming off a scare in Lawrence, Kan., Saturday, when they had to come

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## A&M heads to Big 12 Tourney

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Soccer Team will join seven other teams in San Antonio today to take part in the Big 12 Conference Tournament at the Blossom Athletic Complex.

The single-elimination tournament will run through Saturday.

The Aggies are seeded second in the tournament behind first-place University of Nebraska and will have to win two games in order to make it to the championship game.

A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri said he is pleased by A&M's place in the brackets.

"We like where we are," he said. "We think the opportunity for us to put ourselves in a position to win a championship is good."

The only three conference teams that defeated A&M this year — Baylor University, Texas Tech University and Nebraska — are in the other bracket and will not play the Aggies unless they meet in the championship game.

A&M's first game of the tournament will be today at 5 p.m. against Iowa State University.

The Aggies defeated Iowa State, 4-1, earlier this season and hold a 5-0 all-time record against the Cyclones but are still preparing for a challenging game.

"We know their going to be coming out hard, like it's the last game of the season," senior midfielder Mandy Davidson said. "We expect a very tough game from them."

Guerrieri said Iowa State will be a tough team to face, especially in postseason play.

"If they don't beat us on Wednesday then their season is over," he said. "With that in mind, I think that we can expect them to come out fighting like their lives depend on it."

If the Aggies win today, they will play again tomorrow against the winner of the University of Missouri-University of Colorado game. This means the Aggies will have little time to rest and prepare for their next opponent, but Guerrieri said he is not concerned about that.

"The good thing is that we've played all these teams once, so we know enough about them," he said.

Guerrieri said the Aggies' main concern is not their opponent, but themselves.

"If we play to our maximum, which means offensively, defensively and in transition, then I think we'll be able to put ourselves in a position to win the tournament," he said.

The Aggies are coming of an impressive season end, which included a 7-0 shutout win over the Uni-



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

A&M senior midfielder Mandy Davidson works the ball against the University of Houston last Sunday

versity of Houston the last game of the season.

The Aggies are not just playing well, but also have the confidence it takes to be successful, Davidson said.

"We are very confident in the way that we're playing," she said. "We had a great two weeks of practice, and we're ready to play."

Guerrieri said everything the team has gone through this season has prepared it for this moment.

"Everything that we've done in practice, hopefully all of the experiences that we've taken from our games, are there to help us try to win championships now," he said.

Like any team, A&M has had its fair share of injuries this season, but the Aggies appear to be in good shape as the Big 12 Tournament begins.

Freshman defender Martha Moore and senior defender Ashley Fendley were in and out of the last few games of the season with leg injuries, but both seem to be close to 100 percent for this week, Guerrieri said.

"It looks like — knock on wood — for the first time in over a month that we can have all of our back line back," he said.

Today will be the first time since late September the entire A&M starting lineup will be able to play.

## Conference race still up for grabs heading into key weekend matchups

NOTEBOOK



doug SHILLING

As the Big 12 moves into November, the conference races are heating up. Seven of the 12 teams in the conference still have realistic shots at ending up in San Antonio.

Only two Big 12 games will be televised this weekend, with the

Colorado-Kansas State game at 11:30 a.m. and the Texas A&M-Nebraska game at 2:30 p.m. being carried regionally. No game involving Big 12 teams will be televised nationally this week.

Showdown Saturday

With the Big 12's divisional races still up in the air, Saturday's contests should go a long way toward clearing things up.

Colorado will try to keep its championship hopes alive at Kansas State. For the Buffaloes to make it to San Antonio they must win their next three games. Kansas State will stay in the driver's seat in the North with a victory.

Texas travels to Oklahoma State to attempt to keep its lead in the South. Coming off a last-second win over Iowa State, the Longhorns will try to keep things rolling going into next week's showdown with Texas Tech.

Speaking of Texas Tech, the Red Raiders host the Cyclones as they try to rebound from last week's 34-7 thrashing at the hands of Missouri. Tech needs to win its remaining games to win the South division.

Meanwhile, the Cyclones need a win to increase their chances of becoming bowl-eligible. Iowa State has not been to a bowl since

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Stupid things to say at a cool party #16

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