

Aggies travel to Lincoln for showdown

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

The last time the University of Nebraska's Memorial Stadium did not sell out for a Cornhusker football game — Nov. 3, 1962 — John F. Kennedy was president.

On Oct. 17, 1981, an unranked Nebraska team broke into the Associated Press top 25 poll.

The Cornhuskers have not left the poll since.

Mind-boggling stats like these are commonplace at Nebraska, where calling football a religion would be insulting it — because not everyone believes in a religion.

In the past 37 years, the Cornhuskers have won five national championships, had four perfect seasons, won 21 Big 8/Big 12 Championships and posted 365 wins (nearly 10 per year).

After ending Nebraska's 19-game winning streak with a 28-21 victory last season at Kyle Field, the Texas A&M Football Team (6-2, 3-2 Big 12) will square off with the revenge-minded Cornhuskers (7-1, 4-1 Big 12) Saturday at 2:30 p.m. in Lincoln, Neb.

"It's a great challenge to play one of the most legendary programs in the nation at their place," A&M coach R.C. Slocum said. "That should be motivation enough for us."

Knowing another conference loss would all but end their hopes of winning a third-straight Big 12 South title also figures to be a motivating factor for the Aggies.

"This is a make-or-break game for us," junior outside linebacker Jason Glenn said. "We've got to take each game now like it's our last game."

A&M saw some improvement from its much-maligned running game in last Saturday's 21-3 victory over Oklahoma State University.

But the Aggies' 152-yard total against the Cowboys probably will not get the job done if they are to upset Nebraska for a second straight year.

In 1998's victory, A&M racked up 259 rushing yards and received 100-yard plus performances from running backs Dante Hall and Ja'Mar Toombs.

The Aggies' dominance rushing the ball was crucial in a game that saw quarterback Randy McCown complete only two passes, although one was an 81-yard touchdown strike to wide receiver Chris Taylor.

A&M offensive coordinator Steve Kragthorpe said

a big day on the ground will be vital to the Aggies pulling out a win over the Cornhuskers in an unfriendly environment.

"We know it's going to be a hostile environment," he said. "[A successful running game] does things for us confidence-wise, and it keeps the defense off balance — knowing you can run and throw."

An effective running game and Taylor's big play allowed the Aggies to play with a lead for most of last year's game, a situation Slocum said is essential to beating Nebraska Saturday.

"Any game is different when you're playing with a lead," he said. "If you get a few points to play with, that's when you can pull out all the tricks."

"This is a make-or-break game for us. We've got to take each game now like it's our last game."

—JASON GLENN
A&M LINEBACKER



The Cornhuskers enter Saturday's contest after two consecutive weeks of uninspired play. On Oct. 23, the Cornhuskers lost to the University of Texas for the third straight time, and they narrowly avoided being upset by the University of Kansas last Saturday.

But the notion that the Cornhuskers are more vulnerable than usual is quickly dispelled by McCown.

"It's still the same old Nebraska, I don't care what anybody says," he said. "When they're playing at home, they're as tough to beat as any team in the country."

Hall is considered doubtful for Saturday's game due to a sprained ankle, and Glenn is expected to play but could still be hampered by a sprained ankle.

With his backup, Christian Rodriguez, not expected to play due to a sprained knee, true freshman Jarrod Penright figures to see some playing time against the Cornhuskers.



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M freshman linebacker Jarrod Penright tackles Oklahoma State quarterback B.J. Tiger in the Aggies' 21-3 win over the Cowboys last Saturday at Kyle Field.

A&M women's tennis to host regional tournament

STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M will host the 1999 Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Southwest Regional Championships beginning today at the A&M Varsity Tennis Center.

More than 25 schools will be represented at the individual tournament being hosted by A&M for the first time.

Matches today and Saturday will start at 8:30 a.m., and admission is free. Some early rounds will be contested at the Omar Smith Tennis Center on campus, and the tournament will conclude on Monday.

"We are excited to be hosting the ITA at our new facility," A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke said. "Many of the coaches have played at our facility or have heard about it and wanted us to host."

A&M sophomore Martina Nedorostova, the defending Big 12 No. 1 singles champion, is the highest seeded Aggie in the field of 128 competitors. Ranked No. 43 nationally, Nedorostova is the tournament's sixth seed.



NEDOROSTOVA

Aggie senior Lisa Dingwall is seeded No. 16, while A&M freshman Olivia Karlikova is one of eight players who are seeded No. 17.

The tournament's top seed is the University of Arkansas' Chin Bee Khoo, and the University of Texas' Michelle Faucher is the No. 2 seed.

Louisiana State University's Bruna Colosio is the No. 3 seed, while Baylor University's Jahnavi Parekh and Katja Kova are seeded fourth and fifth, respectively.

In the doubles bracket, Dingwall and Nedorostova are the tournament's third seed.

The top-seeded tandem is LSU's Colosio and Ana Mores, while Arkansas' Andrea Ho and Khoo are the second seed.

The tournament will consist of the main singles draw of 128.

Then a consolation draw of 64 will begin following the round of 128 and a second round consolation will begin following the main round of 64.

There will also be a doubles draw of 64 with no consolation rounds.

The singles champion and finalist and the doubles champions will advance to the third leg of the ITA Grand Slam, the Rolex National Indoor Championships, Feb. 3-6 in Dallas.

15th-ranked volleyball team faces 'Huskers

BY BREE HOLZ
The Battalion

After defeating Texas Tech University in three games on Wednesday night, the Texas A&M Volleyball Team will head to Lincoln, Neb., to take on the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Lincoln Center.

The Aggies find themselves in a three-way tie for first place in the Big 12 with 12th-ranked University of Texas and 13th-ranked Nebraska. Baylor University defeated the former league-leading Longhorns in five games on Wednesday night to help move the Aggies into the first-place tie.

The Aggies (19-4, 10-3 Big 12) and Cornhuskers (18-5, 10-3 Big 12) met earlier this season at G. Rollie White Coliseum with A&M winning, 15-3, 13-15, 15-5, 13-15, 15-13.

The Aggies have won the teams' past two meetings — both in College Station — but are 0-6 at Nebraska. The Cornhuskers hold the all-time series lead, 10-6.

Senior middle blocker Lauri Leahy said Nebraska's crowds make it difficult to win in Lincoln.

"Nebraska, for us, has always been a big match," she said. "They've got big crowds that always sell out. But it will be good to play there because we've got a lot of confidence right now."

"There's a lot at Nebraska for us to accomplish, and I think we're up for it."

A&M volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli said it's tough to play teams twice and come out with a win while executing the same plays.

"If you can make some changes, some adjustments, add some new things, then you're going to do very well against that team," Corbelli said. "After you've played a team once, they know what you're capable of."

Senior outside hitter Summer Strickland said



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore outside hitter Michelle Cole spikes the ball against Texas Tech University Wednesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M can deceive its opponents by running plays that use all of its hitters.

"Our opponents don't know who we're going to," she said. "We've got hitters coming at them from every direction, and we have perfectly capable hitters from each position on the court that can put the ball away."

Statistically, the Aggies are dominating offensively and defensively in all areas of their game.

A&M leads the Big 12 Conference in digs per

game with 18.64. The Aggies are also ranked third in blocks with 3.11 per game and hitting percentage with .239.

Senior middle blocker Amber Woolsey is ranked third in the conference in blocks per game with 1.58, while Leahy is ranked seventh with 1.27.

Strickland, senior outside hitter Celia Howes and sophomore outside hitter Michelle Cole are ranked third, sixth, and tenth, respectively, in digs per game.

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