

A&M soccer and volleyball teams complete successful signing days

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

National Signing Day paid off well for the Texas A&M women's athletics fall sports on Wednesday.

The 11th-ranked soccer team inked five newcomers while the ninth-ranked volleyball team that made it into the elite-eight at this year's NCAA tournament signed one final recruit.

The five additions to the soccer team look to build on the already solid foundation A&M coach G. Guerrieri has built for the 2000 season. With the Aggies only losing a handful of seniors this season, A&M will return almost a complete starting line-up.

Wednesday's addition merely adds depth to a strong, well-rounded roster. Adrienne Dillard is A&M's sole de-

fensive signee. The high school junior from Spring, Tx. is graduating early to play for the Aggies. Guerrieri expects Dillard to compete immediately for the vacant defensive spot.

A&M inked two players in the mid-field — Ashley Murray, from Charlotte, N.C., along with the heralded Kristen Strutz from Spring, Tx. The two players bring control and skill on both sides of the ball.

"Kristen is a big-time triple threat for us in the midfield," Guerrieri said. "She's great in the air, great with her passing and great on the ground."

Up front, Guerrieri inked Jessica Hamilton from Houston at forward.

"Hammy (Hamilton) brings to our Aggie attack what many thought was the missing ingredient in 1999 — pure breakaway speed."

2000 Texas A&M Soccer Signing Class

Name	Position	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown (High School/Club)
Adrienne Dillard	D	5-8	Fr-HS	Spring, Texas (Klein/Challenge '82-'83)
Jessica Hamilton	F	5-6	Fr-HS	Houston, Texas (Cy-Creek/Challenge '81-'82)
Ashley Murray	MF	5-6	Fr-HS	Charlotte, N.C. (Charlotte S.C.)
Kristen Strutz	MF	5-10	Fr-HS	Spring, Texas (Klein Oak/Challenge '81-'82)
Esther Thompson	GK	5-7	Fr-HS	Waxhaw, N.C. (Parkwood/Charlotte S.C.)

2000 Texas A&M Volleyball Signing Class

Name	Position	Ht.	Cl.	Hometown (High School/Club)
Beth Skypala	OH	6-0	Fr-HS	Amarillo, Texas (High/Amarillo J.O.'s 18-Hyrax)

The Aggies' final signee hopes to fill the void left by standout goal keeper Melanie Wilson. Esther Thompson from Waxhaw, N.C., is an All-American prospect in the goal who hopes to make an impact on A&M.

"She's a winner," Guerrieri said. The soccer team hopes that they are

all winners, as A&M looks to break into the top 10 and regain the Big 12 Championship in 2000.

The Aggie volleyball team's lone signee on Wednesday was Beth Skypala, an outside hitter from Amarillo.

Skypala will have the opportunity to make an early impact at A&M.

Signing

Continued from Page 9

The Aggies signed junior college All-American Robert Ferguson from Tyler Junior College. Ferguson originally signed with the Aggies in 1998 but spent the last two years at Tyler.

While Ferguson was a good pickup for the Ags, Slocum was disappointed he did not get more depth at wide receiver.

"Ferguson is a guy we expect to come in and make a contribution right away," Slocum said. "I wish we could have gotten more receivers though. It was an area where we needed help cause we lost some guys there. I would have like to have had a couple more receivers. If you want to talk about disappointments, that's one group where we were."

The surprise of A&M's class was the fact that Slocum, who normally relies on walk-ons to fill the positions, signed special teams players. With All-American punter Shane Lechler graduating and the inconsistency of placekicker Terence Kitchens, Slocum signed punter Cody Seates from Tyler and placekicker Chris Sims from Garland to help solidify the kicking game.

"I was disappointed last year in our overall kicking game," Slocum said. "It is such an important aspect in football that I didn't want to take a chance on it so we brought some guys in."

Both Seates and Sims will come in and have the chance to compete for a starting job in the fall.

Problems

Continued from Page 9

Texas and then another school and not said that the Longhorns have the superior facilities.

ESPN college football reporter Chris Fowler called the Texas facilities the "Taj Majal of college football" on Jim Rome's radio program. Mock even went as far to say that it felt like he was in God's kingdom of college football when he visited the Longhorns.

Are Texas' facilities better than the Aggies'? No. The Longhorns' are newer, however. A&M's facilities are still state of the art, but they do have some years on them. And that can mean all the difference to a recruit. All things being equal to an 18-year old kid, he will choose the newer-looking things because to him, his perception is that newer is better.

The Aggies have made plans to upgrade and modernize their facilities, but something needs to be done sooner rather than later.

While A&M will still sign quality people, talented recruits have been and will be driven away because of perceptions.

For the Aggies to continue to be competitive and stay on top, they need to quickly figure out how to turn the tide on these perceptions, before they become reality.

Doug Shilling is a junior journalism major.

Sports in Brief

A&M recruit named to USA Junior team

Texas A&M men's basketball signee Nick Anderson of Baton Rouge, La., has been named to the 2000 USA Basketball Men's Junior National Select Team by USA Basketball's Cadet and Youth Committee and will compete in the 2000 NABC/Nike International Hoop Summit on April 2 in Indianapolis, Ind.

The sixth annual NABC/Nike International Hoop Summit is an international game benefitting the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

It features the USA Basketball Junior National Select Team comprised of 12 of the United States' top high school senior boy basketball players and an International Select Team consisting of the top 20-year-old and younger players from around the world.

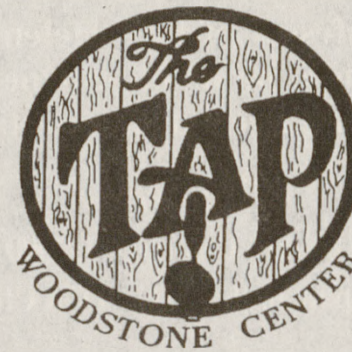
The 2000 Hoop Summit will be on Sunday, April 2 at 1 p.m. (EDT) at the Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Ind. The USA vs. Internationals match-up will be held in conjunction with the NCAA Men's Final Four and will be televised live on ESPN.

MSC Film Society presents . . .

THE GOONIES
On Friday
February 4th,
JOIN THE ADVENTURE
(7:00 & 9:30pm)



Tickets: \$3.50 at the door or \$3.00 in advance at the MSC Box Office. (845-1234)
All films shown in the Rudder Theatre Complex.
Persons with disabilities please call 845-1315 to inform us of your special needs.
Questions? Call the Aggie Cinema Hotline 847-8478.
Website: <http://films.tamu.edu>



TONIGHT LADIES' NIGHT

All ladies 18 ↑ free all night

\$1 bar drinks & pint
ALL NIGHT LONG

696-5570

for details

Party Safe and Designate a Driver

Ready to Begin Your Future Today?

Today's employers are looking for applicants with real-world work experience. Don't get left behind!

Come join the nearly 400 Ags who are currently working for a proven industry leader!

Part-Time Opportunities:

- ◆ Customer Service
- ◆ Programming
- ◆ Purchasing
- ◆ Clerical/Office Support
- ◆ Hardware Repair and Support
- ◆ PC Support/LAN Administration
- ◆ Inventory Control

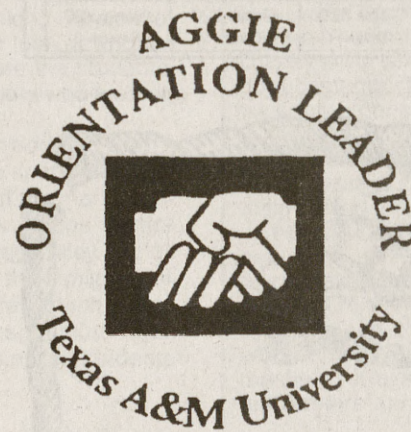
For more information or to apply, give us a call at 595-2609.

E.O.E.

UCS... A Tradition in Quality...
A Commitment to Aggieland!

www.UniversalComputerSys.com

Want to Motivate the Class of 2004?



Applications available January 23 - February 7

Interviews: February 10 - 13

Mandatory Training: April 8 and 9

Orientation Leader Applications are due February 7 in 314 YMCA

For questions and applications please call 862-2746 or stop by 314 YMCA

Email: aolp@stulife2.tamu.edu Web: <http://stulife.tamu.edu/slo/aolp>