

Women's soccer league sets teams for 8 cities

NEW YORK (AP) — Parlaying deep-pocketed investors, a strong television presence and the popularity of the World Cup championships, a women's professional soccer league is to begin play next spring.

The Women's United Soccer Association Monday approved teams for eight cities: Atlanta, Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Orlando-Tampa, San Diego, San Francisco and Washington.

Listed as alternates were: Chicago, Columbus, Detroit, Los Angeles, Miami, Portland, Raleigh-Durham and St. Louis. Any of those cities might be selected if one of the original eight drops out. Also under consideration are Milwaukee, Denver and Houston.

The league begins in April 2001 and has letters of intent to play from all 20 members of the 1999 U.S. world championship team.

"We want the focus entirely on the women's game," said Julie Foudy, co-captain of the 1999 U.S. team. "We all know how difficult it is to get a league off the ground."

"With all the resources these companies have and all the promotion you can have, we feel you need that directed focus and energy that is solely behind the women's game. We are

totally committed to playing for just the WUSA and hoping that is the league that gets sanctioned."

WUSA envisions stadiums with capacities of 6,500 to 10,000 for an 80-game schedule, far smaller than Major League Soccer sites. It might not find those venues immediately, and could temporarily emulate the MLS, which has many teams playing in NFL stadiums.

"We need to get one season behind us so we know our exact venue needs," said John Hendricks, chairman and CEO of Discovery Communications and WUSA's board chairman.

The keys to success are signing the best players and hooking up with television. TV coverage would be on TNT and CNN/NI, mostly on weekend afternoons.

The U.S. Soccer Federation set a May 1 deadline to submit business plans. The WUSA, with a four-year TV contract with Turner Broadcasting and such heavy corporate backers as Time-Warner, Comcast and Cox Communications, already has met that deadline.

"The official U.S. Soccer standards require each team with a minimum salary level of \$400,000," Hendricks said. "From the investor side, to get the absolute top players involved, we needed to double that budget."

Aggie football team preparing for final scrimmage of spring

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Day 14 — that is what the Texas A&M football team faces next in spring training.

The Aggies will conclude their last spring practice in pads with a scrimmage on Kyle Field at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday.

After that the team will have a brief practice in shorts on Wednesday and then it is all over until August.

"There is a challenge any time you get towards the end to not coast through the last day," A&M football coach R.C. Slocum said. "We'll be competing with the other teams to see that our 14th day is better than theirs."

The A&M coaching staff will have to wait and hope that their fifteen days of spring practice were more effective than the other 100-plus Division I programs.

"It's really not much time," Slocum said about the spring training program. "Colleges are the worst-coached athletes in the country because of the limited time the coaches get to spend with the guys. 15 days all spring is really not enough."

Spring has not been kind to A&M, healthwise. Nine players are currently injured, including four offensive tackles and a pair of tight ends.

"Practice is going well except that we've had quite a number of injuries," Slocum said. "That goes hand in hand with spring training though because of the condensed time period and the fact that your beating on each other every day."

Tuesday is the last chance for quarterback hopefuls Vance Smith, Mark Farris and Colby Freeman to put in their bid for the starting position before August.



PHOTOS BY SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION



ABOVE: Sophomore running back **Joe Weber** carries the ball during the Aggies' scrimmage March 25 at Kyle Field. A&M has its last scrimmage of the spring Tuesday at 4:30 at Kyle Field.

LEFT: Freshman quarterback **Colby Freeman** gets under center during the Aggies' scrimmage. Freeman is battling for the starting position with sophomores Mark Farris and Vance Smith.

#	Name	Pos.	Injury
76	Michael Mahan	OL	shoulder
87	Michael DeLaTorre	TE	back
89	J.P. LeCompte	TE	?
51	Taylor Whitley	OL	ankle
68	Britt Lively	OL	ankle
73	Alan Reuber	OL	broken tibia & fibula
5	Ja'Mar Toombs	RB	hamstring
9	Bethel Johnson	WR	ankle
29	Maurice Harris	RB	hip pointer

ERIC ANDRAOS/THE BATTALION

Singh uses advice for win

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Without clubs handed down by his father, Vijay Singh would never have learned to play golf in Fiji, a tiny South Pacific country with about 12 golf courses — and now, one Masters champion.



SINGH

The key advice for the Masters had as much to do with his head as his stroke.

Singh required 124 putts over four days on the contoured, concrete-like greens of Augusta National, the highest number by a winner since officials began counting.

He also had four three-putts, disrupting the trend of recent winners who had no more than one.

He showed as much fear over his putts as when Tiger Woods, David Duval and Ernie Els all made their run at him during the weekend — none.

"I missed the cut here two years and I was really disappointed," Singh said. "I talked to people about it, especially my wife. She said, 'You cannot come over here thinking you will put bad. You've got to come here very positive with what you're going to do.'"

Without some putting advice from his wife, he might never have won a major.

Three years ago, while teaching his young son how to putt, Ardena Singh noticed a much smoother stroke from her husband when he used a crosshanded grip.

He made the change, and a couple of months later won the PGA Championship at Sahalee in Redmond, Wash.

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- Massage Therapy**—\$35 for Rec Members and \$45 for non Rec Members. Appointments can be made at Member Services. For more information stop by the Member Service Desk in the Rec.

AQUATICS	EVENT DATE	REGISTRATION
Basic SCUBA	April 17-20 & 24-27	April 3-13
Rescue SCUBA Diver Course	April 19-20 & 22-23	April 3-14
Lifeguard Training	April 27-30	April 3-21
Certified Pool Operator	May 15-16	April 10-May 10

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

GRAPHIC LAYOUT ASSISTANT—Assist the Graphic Designer with the creation and design of all print media distributed on and off campus for the Department of Recreational Sports. This will include the design and compilation of the Rec Sports Battalion ads, calendars, flyers and brochures. Applications available in Room 202. For more information call Angela Stanton-Anderson at 845-1001 or visit our homepage.

REC SPORTS AEROBIC INSTRUCTORS—Auditions will be held Sunday, April 30 from 1:00 p.m. until finished in room 304. To apply fill out the yellow Aerobics and Fitness Employment Application at the 2nd floor Rec Center Reception Desk. Last day to apply is April 27.

CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER—Experience preferred. Will accept the following certifications: ACE, ACSM, NSCA, Sam Houston State University, and AFAA. Applications in room 202.

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GREEN CHARGES	WEEKDAYS	WEEKENDS
Student Green Charges	\$11	\$14
Faculty/Staff/Alumni/Retiree	\$14	\$17
Guests	\$17	\$20

TAMU OUTDOORS

EVENT DATE	REGISTRATION
Intro to Canoeing	April 11 Mar. 27-April 10
Horseback and Hiking Day Trip	April 15 Mar. 27-April 11
Rafting Day Trip	April 15 Mar. 27-April 11
Rock Climbing Day Trip	April 15 Mar. 27-April 11
Kayak Open Practice Session	April 18 April 3-17
Intro to Canoeing	April 18 April 3-17
Kayak Roll Clinic	April 25 April 10-24
Kayak Workshop	April 29-30 April 10-25
Canoe Day Trip	April 29 April 10-25
MAY BREAK TRIP	
Rocky Mountain Climbing	May 20-27 NOW-April 25
AUGUST 2000 BREAK TRIP	
the Bahamas	Aug. 19-25 NOW-June 15

INTRAMURALS

REGISTRATION	
Baseball Hitting	April 3-11
Disc Golf	April 3-11

• Intramural sports registration closes at 6:00pm. on closing date.

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