

## Top-ranked North Carolina overpowers A&M, 4-1

### A&M makes first step to elite status

### Aggie soccer unable to contain Tar Heels in front of record home crowd

By JASON LINCOLN

The Battalion

The 2000 Texas A&M women's soccer season has been nine years in the making. The goal — to be the nation's fifth national champion in the 21-year history of NCAA women's soccer.

Accomplishing that goal meant upsetting the titan of college athletic teams, University of North Carolina soccer.

In 20 seasons, the Tar Heels have never failed to make a Final Four appearance, racking up an unprecedented 16 national titles. Under the direction of one of the world's premier soccer coaches, Anson Dorrance, UNC has only lost 19 games ever — making Dorrance's .951 winning percentage a mark that is likely never to be surpassed in any sport at any level.

With the Tar Heels' dominance over NCAA Division I, little room has been left for the nation's other top teams in the spotlight. A handful of teams each season are given attributes such as "talented" and "Top-10," but in the shadow of North Carolina there is little room for consideration as one of the elite.

The Aggies hoped to make a big step toward that status this weekend by upsetting the defending national champions and the nation's top-ranked team. They fell short.

Despite its shortcoming, A&M still managed to move closer to its desired level Sunday.

"They don't have to just beat us to get there," Dorrance said. "If they keep winning the rest of the

See First Step on Page 13.

By BREE HOLZ  
The Battalion

After starting its season with a win on Friday night, the 11th-ranked Texas A&M soccer team could not handle powerhouse University of North Carolina on Sunday afternoon. The Aggies were defeated 4-1 at the Aggie Soccer Complex, while drawing a record crowd of 2,794.

A&M moves to 1-1, while the defending national champion and top-ranked Tar Heels improve to 2-0 for the season.

"We gave up goals that we shouldn't have given up," said A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri. "UNC took advantage of their opportunities, and we blew ours. If we want to compete with the top teams, we are going to have to cut down on our mistakes."

With 25:16 on the clock in the first half, senior midfielder

Heather Wiebe passed to senior forward Nicky Thrasher, who scored the first goal of the game.

The Aggies played solid defense throughout the first half, but with 1:48 to go, UNC freshman defender Catherine Reddick scored the Tar Heels' first goal of the game.

Guerrieri said the Aggies missed opportunities on offense in the first half.

"We went into halftime feeling like we had dominated for 35 of the first 45 minutes," he said. "But we missed an open goal, and we missed three other chances where we should have been on the back post with the finish."

With the score tied 1-1 after halftime, the Aggies came out of the locker room with intensity. However, after many offensive opportunities in the first half, the Aggies played a stronger defense against the Tar Heels in the second half. Junior goalkeeper Angela Barker made countless saves, but with 19:14 on the clock, UNC junior midfielder Jena Kluegel struck

again for the Tar Heels.

A&M could not gain any momentum, and with 6:35 on the clock, the Tar Heels found the net once again when freshman forward Alyssa Ramsey scored, bringing the score to 3-1, but UNC was not finished. With 2:39 left, Ramsey scored once again to give the Tar Heels a 4-1 lead and the game.

"We played incredible in the first half," said Thrasher. "We played with a lot of heart. But in the second half, we made some costly mistakes, and they capitalized on them."

"But, it's the beginning of the season, and we have to learn from our mistakes, and that's the one thing that we can take from this game."

"Right now we're kicking ourselves because we know we're better than the way we played," Guerrieri said. "The good news is, we play a 20-game schedule, and, from here on out, we don't have to play any No. 1-ranked teams."

See SOCCER on Page 13.



JASON LINCOLN/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior forward Nicky Thrasher turns the ball down the sideline against North Carolina Sunday. Thrasher scored A&M's only goal midway through the first half before UNC responded with three unanswered goals.

## Opening weekend highlights upcoming college football season

By BLAINE DIONNE

The Battalion

After this weekend, Saturday channel surfing will end in homes across the United States until the end of the year.

That's right — college football has finally returned from its annual eight-month hibernation and is ready to go full throttle for the first campaign of the new millennium.

The rivalries, the mascots, the spirit and

the pageantry of the game are all back for another glorious fall, and after all the preseason predictions from prognosticators everywhere, it is finally time to put on the pads and settle matters on the field.

Armchair quarterbacks were given a small taste of what is to come in 2000 with five "classics" last weekend.

Unfortunately, not much about any of the games was classic. Three of the contests fea-

tured — Top-15 teams matched up against unranked opponents: No. 2 Florida State vs. Brigham Young in the Pigskin Classic, No. 8 Kansas State vs. Iowa in the Eddie Robinson Classic and No. 11 Virginia Tech vs. Georgia Tech.

You could smell the blood before the lights came on, and so could the Seminoles and Wildcats.

The defending national champion Noles

picked up where they left off last season by running the outgunned Cougars ragged, defeating BYU 29-3. The Wildcats had some trouble early on, but were able to pull out a sloppy 27-7 win over the Hawkeyes, courtesy of a fourth-quarter interception that set up a touchdown.

The one game that had promised to be a

See OPENING WEEKEND on Page 13.

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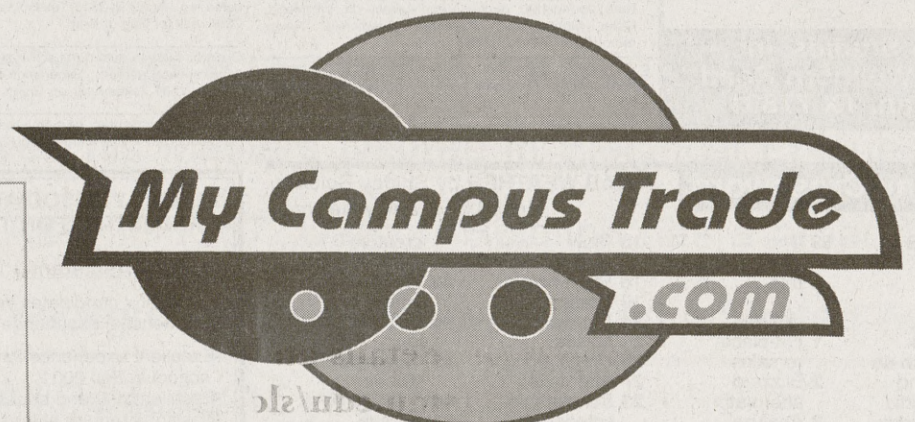
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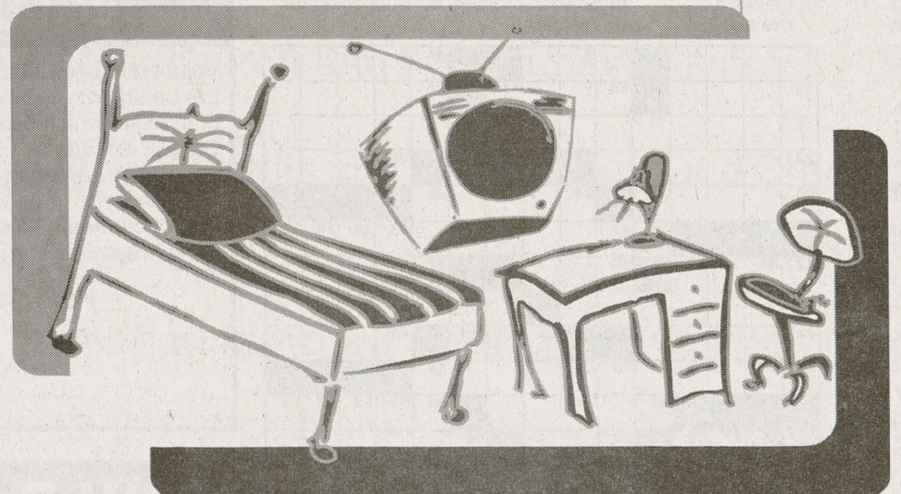
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