

Aggies open season with shutout



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Freshman forward Jessica Hamilton scored two goals against Central Florida on Friday before suffering a season-ending knee injury Sunday.

Staff and Wire

The No. 11 Texas A&M soccer team opened its season with a 5-0 win over the Central Florida Golden Knights Friday at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

The Aggies were in mid-season form, dominating the pace of the entire game, while outshooting the Knights 32-5.

"We looked like a team that was playing its eighth game of the season," soccer coach G. Guerrieri said. "Now it is just a matter of improving our intensity."

In fact, A&M was playing its eighth match of the season after

playing seven games across the Atlantic Ocean on the team's preseason European tour.

Sophomore forward Heather Ragsdale scored the game-winner just six minutes into the contest. Ragsdale received the ball from sophomore midfielder Andrea Starns, who recorded her first of two assists.

Along with Starns' two assists, senior midfielder Heather Wiebe and sophomore midfielder Jessica Martin all pitched in with assists of their own.

With the win, the Aggies improved their record to 1-0 while Central Florida dropped to 0-1.

FIRST STEP

Continued from Page 11

way like I'm sure this team is capable of doing, then they're going to be more than on the map. They're on the map already. They're going to be under consideration for elite status — just with their performance today. That performance will beat almost anyone."

Guerrieri has set A&M on the right course, accruing a winning percentage well in the .700s during his first decade.

But for A&M to accomplish its goal in 2000, it will have a long list of obstacles to overcome. Injuries top that list.

In nine months, the Aggies have had six knee injuries. Entering game two, A&M had four key players out for the season — Michelle

Remington, Martha Moore, Laci Stephenson and Jamie Marden. Sunday's game cost A&M one more. True freshman Jessica Hamilton went down with yet another torn anterior crucial ligament (ACL) for the Aggies and a big loss to A&M's offensive package.

The second obstacle brings back a long list of bad memories for A&M. Nebraska promises to maintain its Big 12 status as the Aggies' nemesis in the North. The Cornhuskers have a history of upsetting A&M in big games and lead the series 7-3. Since 1995 six of the 10 matches have been single-goal decisions. The last match resulted in the Aggies' elimination from the NCAA tournament.

Now the only question is how A&M will react to the Carolina loss for the remainder of the sea-

son. A loss to the nation's top team does little to A&M's national standing. Plenty of other Top-25 teams still lie ahead. Next weekend alone A&M will play Top-10 and Top-25 teams in Harvard and Hartford.

After all, A&M can still meet UNC again this season — in the national championship game.

"The time to play UNC is in the very last game of the season," Guerrieri said. "That's when it counts."

UNC recognizes that could very well be the case if the Aggies continue to play as they did in their loss to the nation's premier team.

"With that team that opened the game, that's a Top-four team," Dorrance said. "It's a Final Four team."

Now A&M just has to get there.

SOCCER

Continued from Page 11

"Today was a test for us to see where we are. We have to make ourselves better from this experience."

With 16 national championships in the last 20 years, Guerrieri said UNC's fitness is on a

whole different level.

"Fitness is very important in soccer," he said. "UNC achieves the highest level of fitness of any team in the country. Today we saw that level, and now we've got to try to take ourselves to that level."

OPENING WEEKEND

Continued from Page 11

decent contest was the Kickoff Classic in the New Jersey Meadowlands. But, No. 15 USC against No. 22 Penn State turned out to be as much of a wash as the other games with the Trojans spanking the Nitany Lions, 29-5.

The AP's No. 1 and No. 2 teams, Nebraska and Florida State, have dominated the top two spots in everybody's preseason polls and are expected to battle for the national title at the Orange Bowl in January.

Aggieland Credit Union Welcomes Damon W. Holditch to its Board of Directors



Damon W. Holditch '65

Gary R. Bego, Chairman of Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union, is pleased to announce the appointment of Damon W. Holditch to their Board of Directors. Greater TEXAS operates AggieLand Credit Union in College Station.

Holditch is a 1965 graduate of Texas A&M University where he was a member of the Corps of Cadets and received his Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering from A&M in 1967. Damon Holditch has a broad business background and has owned and operated Austin RentAll Party for 15 years.

Damon and his wife Becky have two sons and a daughter, all graduates of Texas A&M. Becky teaches in the Round Rock school system. Damon and Becky are both active in their church and community affairs.

The Board of Directors and staff of AggieLand Credit Union and Greater TEXAS Federal Credit Union want to welcome Damon to its board and look forward to his contributions to the successful growth and operation of the credit union.



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