

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

## Running Into the Future

### Aggie Harriers vie for repeat of 1999 success in 2000 campaign



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Junior Brandon Beasley is the men's lone returning top-seven runner

BY CAYLA CARR  
The Battalion

The 2000 Texas A&M cross country teams are composed of newcomers and veterans, and both groups will be called upon to contribute to the teams success.

The men are looking at a rebuilding year after their success last season. The women are looking for improvement over last season and a chance to qualify for the NCAA championship meet as they bring back all seven starting runners from last year's squad.

For the men's cross country team, 1999 was the first time in 17 years it made its way back to the NCAA meet. After finishing 22nd in the nation last season, the men have a lot to live up to this fall. After losing All Americans Scott Lengefeld and Stephen Erath to graduation, senior Bryan Oubre and transfer senior Jason Koop from Baylor said they hope to become this year's leaders and take their team back to nationals.

After losing four runners to gradu-

ation, A&M coach Dave Hartman said he thinks this will be a challenging year for his young, but talented, team.

"When you lose all but one in your top seven heading into the season, it is going to be a rebuilding year," said Hartman.

The lone returning top-seven member is junior Brandon Beasley. With newcomer Jason Koop and all of last year's freshmen returning, Hartman said he feels confident his runners will be able to compete.

"We aren't starting from scratch, but we're definitely starting in a hole," Hartman said. "If they do the right things, they have the talent to accomplish what we did last year."

Hartman said the men are looking forward to having Colin Campbell, a sophomore transfer from the University of Arkansas, and Joe Lanzillotti, a freshman from Bossier City, La.

Hartman said that the Aggies will face some challenging races this year due to the runners who have red-shirted. Senior Mike Hummel and sophomore Tommy Bonn, one of last

year's highly touted recruits, both plan to redshirt this season.

Hartman made a similar decision in his first year as head coach two years ago. That was another rebuilding year, and he chose to redshirt Erath and Lengefeld to save them for the next season, when they would have a deeper roster to back them up.

Most of the members of last year's women's team are returning. The women are looking to follow in the men's footsteps on their way to the NCAA championship. Hartman said he expects them to be in the Top 25 before the season is done. Andrea Bookout and Melissa Gulli, both juniors, established themselves as two of the better runners in the Big 12 last spring.

Gulli broke two A&M school records in the spring, provisionally qualifying for nationals in both the 3K and 5K runs. Bookout, running in the 1500 meters, was less than one second short of qualifying for the NCAA meet last spring.

See RUNNING on Page 3B.

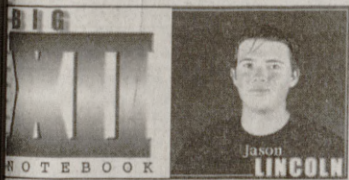
## AP Top 25 College Football Poll

- 1- Nebraska (39)
- 2- Florida St (28)
- 3- Michigan
- 4- Miami Fla
- 5- Wisconsin (1)
- 6- Texas (2)
- 7- Kansas St
- 8- Florida
- 9- Georgia
- 10- Virginia Tech
- 11- USC
- 12- Tennessee
- 13- Alabama
- 14- Purdue
- 15- Washington
- 16- UCLA (1)
- 17- Clemson
- 18- Ohio St
- 19- Mississippi
- 20- Oklahoma
- 21- Illinois
- 22- TCU
- 23- Notre Dame
- 24- Michigan St
- 25- So Miss

RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

## Longhorns not alone in Big 12 South race

### Aggies, Sooners should be worthy opponents for the vaunted, untested UT lineup



The Longhorns, ranked No. 6 by the Associated Press, have stirred up big expectations for the season with some of the hottest offensive prospects the country has seen in years. With a mix of old and new, Texas appears to have returned as not only a Big 12 force, but a national one as well.

The first full week of football has come and gone. The teams of the Big 12 can take a look at how they stack up against each other and against the rest of the nation with the major exception - Texas.

However, it is two weeks into the season, and Texas has yet to play in anything besides an intersquad scrimmage. That scheduling is a dangerous gamble by UT coach Mack Brown.

Any team promising such a high-powered offense will need time to tweak and rest during the course of a season. The Longhorns will get no such luxury, playing 10 straight games starting Saturday against Louisiana-Lafayette.

The team's only Saturday off will be on Nov. 18, a week before UT plays Texas A&M in what could be a decision game for the Big 12 South's division crown. By that time Texas will be either riding

high on success or so exhausted that a late-season drop-off is inevitable.

Meanwhile, the Big 12 South's two other early contenders, A&M and Oklahoma, will have to spend another week guessing about the UT offense. Will Chris Simms or Major Applewhite throw to the nation's best lineup of wide receivers? Will the "Big 3," Texas' trio of the nation's top wide receiver recruits have an immediate impact? Will Hodges Mitchell still be able to run through Big 12 defenses?

Nothing is for sure until Texas' expected star lineup actually plays a game together. Until then, it is just a nice-looking depth chart.

During the time Texas is polishing its offense, the rest of the Big 12, already strong in defense, will be building offensive attacks that could spell disaster for the Longhorns toward the end of the season.

Oklahoma returns Josh Huelgel, the Big 12's leading passer in 1999.

See BIG 12 on Page 3B.

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