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# A&M's Thrasher out for at least 3 weeks

By BLAINE DIONNE AND  
JASON LINCOLN  
The Battalion

Texas A&M forward Nicky Thrasher was ready to lead the Aggie soccer team into the Top 10. Thrasher, one of the Big 12's leading offensive threats for the past three seasons, would not get the chance to do it with her scoring. Instead, she had to be content to watch it from the bench as

A&M defeated first No. 7 Hartford and then No. 17 Harvard.

What first appeared to be a bruised calf suffered early in A&M's game against Hartford was later determined to be a broken fibula.



THRASHER

"Well, she's out for a while," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "We'll have to see how she does."

The injury will sideline Thrasher for at least three weeks and probably most of the season. It marks the sixth A&M player lost to injury for an extended part of the season. A&M's injury woes have seen four torn ACLs and a foot injury prior to this injury.

In 1999, Thrasher scored 21 goals and added 10 assists. In 1998, she

was the offensive MVP of the tournament.

Those injuries have taken some of A&M's top prospects for the 2000 season. Yet the Aggies still been able to take down some of the country's top teams and the No. 7 seat in the polls. A&M will have to try and maintain their status with a thin bench by replacing some key veterans, with Thrasher atop the list.

# McNair unveils name and logo

After months of speculation, franchise has identity

HOUSTON (AP) — A not-too-well-kept secret was revealed Wednesday when Houston owner Bob McNair announced that the nickname of the NFL's 32nd franchise will be the Texans.

The name won out over the Stallions and Apollos.

"Are you ready for some football?" McNair shouted to a downtown crowd estimated at 16,000 which turned out to learn the team's name, logo and colors.

The colors for the team that will begin play in 2002 will be battle red, steel blue and liberty white with a bull's head logo that includes a Texas Lone Star on one side.

"We're so excited about the return of the NFL to Houston," McNair said. "We don't want to be stereotyped as cowboys. We are proud of our past, but we don't

want to be bound by it."

Looking out over a stretch of downtown Texas Avenue that was turned into a football field, complete with goal posts, NFL com-

**"I rooted for the Oilers, and now I'll be rooting for the Texans."**

— Chris Lockeridge  
Houston football fan

missioner Paul Tagliabue revealed the team name and logo on a large screen.

"With teamwork you can achieve the impossible," Tagliabue said. "Not many years ago, you thought 'it's not going to hap-

pen,' but it did happen, and you can be proud of yourselves. You made it happen."

McNair paid \$700 million for the franchise in a lengthy battle with Los Angeles, a favored place for the NFL because of the size of its media market. But Los Angeles never presented a unified plan, and McNair won the team.

The crowd that showed up on a steamy afternoon reacted positively to the new name. Several spectators grabbed their cell phones to spread the word. "Yeah, it's the Texans," one man shouted into his phone.

Another fan, Chris Lockeridge, beamed beneath his hard hat which bore a sign with the year 2002 and a question mark attached.

"I rooted for the Oilers, and now I'll be rooting for the Texans," Lockeridge said.

## JITTERS

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said. "We have talent that's always waiting to play. The more players we use, the harder it is for an opponent to stop."

That proved exactly the case as A&M was able to control the match despite never scoring more than four points in a row. In the first two matches, the Aggies were drawn out to 15-11 and 15-9 wins. But when the new faces came on the court, the

Cougars did not know who they needed to stop, resulting in a 10 point win.

"This year it feels like we're really deep and we all play really well together," A&M setter Jenna Moscovic said. "Consistent passing enables us to do a lot on the floor with any position."

Texas A&M volleyball is no longer a team dominated by its front lineup. This year's team looks to win through its varied offensive threats from both the starters and on the bench. A fact that they hope will get them through an entire season fresh for another NCAA run.

## ROAD TRIP

Continued from Page 1B

championship and much of their team was awarded as MVP of the '98 squad.

UF's main asset is their athletic department, Guerrieri said, and the Aggies will have to deal with that as well as the Gators' home-field advantage.

Sophomore Heather Ragsdale, week's Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week, said the matchup with the Gators and the Seminoles could play into the Aggies' advantage.

"They play with a lot more speed, a lot more space (than Hartford or Harvard)," Ragsdale said. "Also, their offense is going to be a lot more like ours."

What region of the country sports played in can dictate what type of playing surface you use. In New England, A&M was last weekend, there was thick, thatched grass that slowed the game down, effectively negating the Aggie speed.

In Florida, as Ragsdale said, the game is a closely trimmed Bermuda grass. Bermuda has an opposite effect on ball, sending it careening about the court and making team speed necessary.

"We'll be able to pass the ball a lot like we want to and play our style a lot so than we did last weekend," Ragsdale said.

Also, the Aggies might receive a reprieve from this much-ballyhooed week in weather, where temperature records have been dropping like flies.

The weather in New England last weekend was 88 degrees for both games. Florida has been experiencing more Texas temperatures but is expecting thunderstorms throughout the next few days.

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