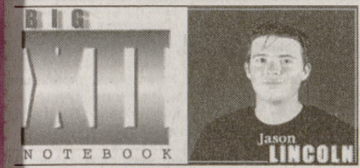


Big 12 races could be tighter than expected



The Big 12 entered this season on the verge of becoming a football superconference. Now, with inter-conference play only two weeks away, the schools of the Big 12 are struggling to maintain their status.

Sure, Nebraska and Kansas State are 3-0, but Colorado and Texas A&M are off the list. Meanwhile, the Pac-10 has three teams in the Top 10.

The non-conference schedule this season showed weakness in even the Big 12's top team, Nebraska. Even though fewer teams are in the rankings, some of the best conference games should happen on Sept. 30. If for no other reason, the games will be good because they will be unpredictable.

Before last week, there was a trio of Big 12 teams in the Top 10. Here's where they are now:

Nebraska
Sitting on top of the college football scene is Nebraska. Just two weeks ago, Notre Dame, which began the season unranked, came within one overtime stop of unseating Big Red. The Cornhuskers are still No. 1, but Notre Dame's near upset gave the rest of the Big 12 some insight into the weaknesses of college football's top team.



Freshman running back **Richard Whitaker** looks to lead the Aggies into Big 12 play.

Kansas State
K-State has jumped to No. 4 in the rankings and won all of its games. But could it have been against an easier preseason schedule? It may have won Saturday with a score of 72-0, but it was to Ball State. The Wildcat defense could be in for a shock when it faces teams like Texas A&M at Kyle Field and Nebraska in a game that will likely decide the Big 12 North. Season after season, KSU coach Bill Snyder makes up one of the easiest pre-conference schedules in the nation; but each season the teams of the Big 12 more often than not fail when they test the Wildcats. Regardless of the score, the Big 12 season will be a wake-up call to Kansas State: now it is time to play real football.

Texas
One of the most heralded groups of offensive weapons in college football history came up short on Saturday at Stanford, another unranked team. The Longhorns took a 10-spot plunge in the polls after being upset in California.

The quarterback controversy that coach Mack Brown denies is obvious with the 'Horns' inability to stick to either Applewhite or Simms.

It will be seen whether Texas can recover, like last season after an early loss, to run through the conference and win another Big 12 South title. But Oklahoma and A&M appear in position to provide even more bad news for Simms and Applewhite.

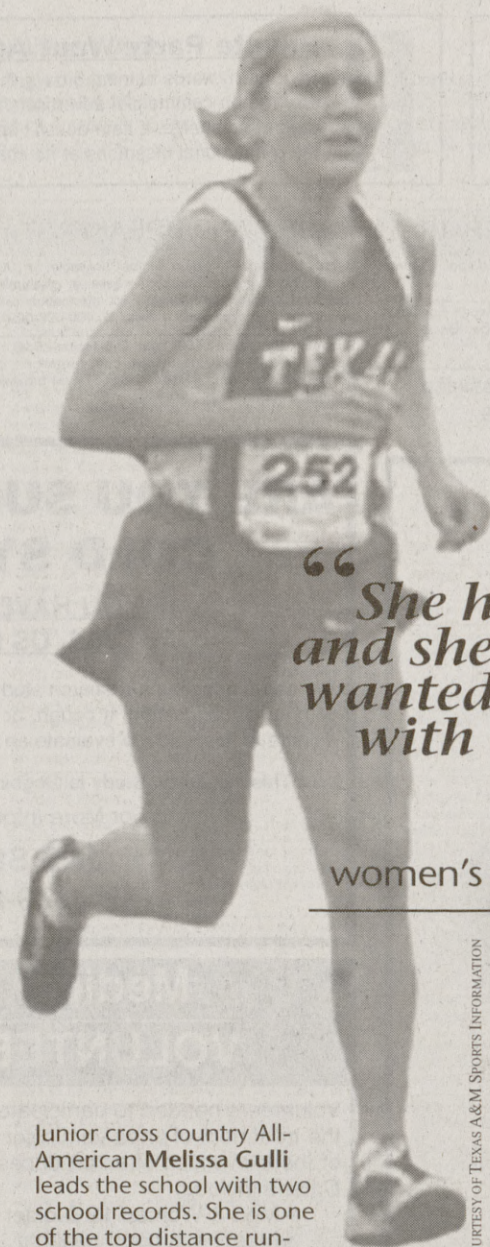
Oklahoma is the only other team left in the polls headed into conference action. Meanwhile, Texas A&M and Colorado search for a way back into the rankings while Texas Tech and Oklahoma State look to break in for the first time this season. But 25 teams, including four Big 12 schools, are still ahead of all of them. The Big 12 season is going to be a lot less clear-cut than it originally appeared.

Cross country nationals in sight for Gulli, A&M

Junior harrier places sixth at Aztec Invitational

By CAYLA CARR
The Battalion

The Texas A&M cross country runner junior Melissa Gulli placed sixth Saturday in the Aztec Invitational held in San Diego, Calif. Gulli and her teammates are prepared for a promising season.



"She hates to lose, and she has always wanted to compete with the best."

— Dave Hartman
women's cross country coach

COURTESY OF TEXAS A&M SPORTS INFORMATION

After a successful track season last spring, Gulli is determined to help take the team to nationals. She is prepared to achieve her personal best as she heads into the regional meet. She is not overwhelmed by the altitude in Colorado, where the Big 12 championships will be held this year. Instead, she is excited about the challenge and has confidence that her team will not be affected.

Gulli began running cross country her sophomore year at Klein High School in Houston, after she was forced to give up soccer due to a severe leg injury.

Before she started, she thought of it as a crazy sport, but after she began running, success came quickly for her.

She had always wanted to go to A&M and was quick to make her decision when deciding what college she would attend. Gulli said she feels like her biggest influence has been coach Dave Hartman. She said he has made cross country fun and rewarding.

Hartman describes Gulli as very competitive.

"She is one of the hardest-working girls on the team. She hates to lose, and she has always wanted to compete with the best," he said.

She has been running steadily since her freshman year and has shown improvement as she begins her third season.

Her freshman year she was the team's top finisher three times and posted her season best by placing fourth at the Miami Invitational. Her accomplishments continued her sophomore year as she finished in the Aggie women's top five

four times, placed eighth at the Texas A&M Invitational and made All-Region, where she finished 22nd.

Last spring Gulli broke out as one of the top distance runners in the conference. She set two new school records in the 5,000 meters and the 3,000 meters at the Big 12 Outdoor Meet, placing fourth and fifth. Gulli's ultimate goal this season is to qualify for nationals with her team and make All-American by finishing in the top 15.

She said she is grateful for her cross country experiences and is confident that, with hard work, she can accomplish many things. She said cross country has taught her how to excel in life.

Gulli and her teammates anticipate their next big meet in New York on Sept. 30. She said this meet will show them where they stand because they will face stiff competition from nationally ranked opponents. Gulli says she will continue running after graduation and will always remember what cross country has taught her.

"Cross country helps you to learn to work with other people and it makes you stronger in other aspects of life."

Sports in Brief

Texas A&M women's cross country team jumps from No. 23 to No. 20 in polls

The Texas A&M women's cross country team moved up to No. 20 in this week's edition of the FinishLynx/NCAA Division I Women's Cross Country National Poll released Monday.

Fueled by their season-opening victory at the Aztec Invitational this weekend, the Aggie

women jumped three spots in the poll from their No. 23 preseason ranking.

Texas A&M is one of four Big 12 teams ranked in the poll.

Kansas State came in at No. 3, followed by defending conference champion Colorado at No. 4. Missouri is right behind A&M at No. 21. Nebras-

ka is receiving votes after falling from the No. 22 spot. The Aggies are also the highest-ranked team from Texas and the second-highest from the South Central Region behind No. 9 Arkansas.

Texas A&M will send a partial squad to Waco to compete in the Baylor Invitational this Saturday.

Sydney 2000

Highlights:

Flying Dutchman: Dutch swimmer Pieter van den Hoogenband knocked off heavy favorite, Australia's Ian Thorpe, in the 200-meter freestyle Monday. In the process of winning gold, Hoogenband tied his own world record of 1 minute, 45.35 seconds.

China strikes gold in men's gymnastics: After two Olympics of underachieving, the Chinese finally took home gold Monday night in a landslide at the Sydney Superdome. The Americans finished fifth in finals competition.

Schedule:

TV Schedule: Tuesday, September 19, 2000
NBC:
• 10 a.m. to Noon — Swimming; Equestrian; Rowing
• 7 p.m. to Midnight — Gymnastics (Women's final); Swimming; Volleyball
• 12:41 to 2:11 a.m. — Basketball; Canoeing; Water Polo
MSNBC:
• 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Softball; Soccer; Tennis; Archery
CNBC:
• 5-9 p.m. — Boxing; Tennis; Cycling; Sailing


Record Book:

Setting the Standard:
Weightlifting: China's Yang Xia broke world records in the snatch, clean & jerk and total lift on Monday.
Swimming: American Tom Molchow set a new Olympic record in the 200-meter butterfly on Monday.

Medal Watch:

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
USA	6	5	2
Fra	4	6	2
Chn	4	1	5
Aus	3	5	5
Ita	3	1	3


Loose Diamonds

Round Cut				Emerald Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
2.07	K	S12	\$9450 ⁰⁰	1.53	J	S11	\$6500 ⁰⁰
2.01	J	VS1	\$11000 ⁰⁰	1.02	K	VS1	\$3500 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
1.32	F	VS2	\$7950 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
1.16	E	S12	\$6100 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
1.04	H	VS2	\$5600 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.				
.80	J	S12	\$2175 ⁰⁰				
.81	I	S12	\$2375 ⁰⁰				
.72	I	S13	\$1500 ⁰⁰				
.71	J	S11	\$1990 ⁰⁰				
.71	I	S11	\$2190 ⁰⁰				
.68	G	S12	\$1350 ⁰⁰				

Marquise Cut				Princess Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.39	F	S12	\$4500 ⁰⁰	1.27	J	VS1	\$4150 ⁰⁰
1.21	J	S12	\$4200 ⁰⁰	.86	F	VVS2	\$3400 ⁰⁰
.94	K	S12	\$3400 ⁰⁰	.72	E	VS2	\$3700 ⁰⁰ EGL Cert.
				.70	J	VS2	\$1850 ⁰⁰

30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
A PARTIAL INVENTORY

FULL TIME JEWELRY REPAIR ON PREMISES
SAME DAY - 24 HOUR REPAIR



John D. Huntley Inc.

Class of '79
"Very Personal Investments"

Rare Coins, Loose Diamonds, Precious Metal, Fine Jewelry, Watches, Tennis Bracelets, Cocktail Rings & Colored Gemstones
313B South College Ave. (Albertson's Center) • 846-8916


* ΣΝ * ΣΦΕ * ΤΚΕ * ΦΔΘ * ΕΧ * ΣΑΕ *

To all the men's fraternities...

CONGRATULATIONS

On Fall Rush 2000!!!

From the ladies of



ΔΓ

* ΠΚΦ * ΛΧΑ * ΚΣ * ΚΑ *