

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Injury bug strikes again

Torn ACL latest culprit in 2000 A&M soccer season

By Jason Lincoln
The Battalion

2000 was supposed to be the year it all came together for the Texas A&M soccer team and coach G. Guerrieri. A roster loaded with talent and strong senior leadership had the Aggies talking about joining the nation's elite teams. Then the injuries began.

Sunday the Aggies took another hard loss due to injury when starting midfielder Ashley Murray went down with a torn ACL in her right knee during pre-game warm-ups for A&M's match against Colorado. The injury was the result of what appeared to be a harmless non-contact twist as Murray was running. Now she is sidelined for the remainder of the season.

Murray is the fifth A&M player sidelined with the knee injury this

season. Martha Moore, Michelle Remington, Jamie Marden and Jessica Hamilton all key elements in the A&M lineup. Add Nicky Thrasher's broken fibula and Laci Stephenson's foot injury and the roster is starting to become critically thin.

"We've always talked about how this was the most talented team we've ever had," Guerrieri said. "Not because we thought we had a talented group of starters, but because we thought we had about 15 players who could start. With the injuries, that's definitely being tested now. But thank goodness for a deep roster."

Despite the injuries, the Aggies hold the No. 10 spot in the nation and opened the conference season 2-0 over the weekend outscoring their opponents 9-1, allowing less than five shots on goal.

Bengals coach Coslet quits early

Resignation comes after three consecutive losses in beginning of season

CINCINNATI (AP) — Unable to win, the Cincinnati Bengals found themselves with a new coach Monday with the season all of three games old.

Bruce Coslet quit as coach of the NFL's worst team of the past decade and was replaced by defensive coordinator Dick LeBeau in the first NFL coaching change this season.

The resignation came a day after the Bengals lost their third game in a row and second straight without scoring a point. They have been outscored 74-7 this season and have not made the playoffs since 1990, the league's longest current streak.

"He's a good teacher ... he's good with players," Bengals owner and president Mike Brown said of LeBeau. "I think he can step in now and get our situation back on course as quickly as anybody could."

LeBeau, a former star cornerback for the Detroit Lions, becomes an NFL coach for the first time at 63. He has spent 28 years as an assistant on other coaches' staffs.

"There will be some changes," LeBeau said at a news conference. "I think we have to look at everything."

Coslet coached the New York Jets from 1990-93 and became coach of the Bengals in 1996. Under Coslet,

the Bengals were 7-9 in 1997, 3-13 in 1998 and 4-12 in 1999.

LeBeau said he was stunned by Coslet's decision.

"I tried to talk him out of it," he said. "He was not to be swayed."

Brown, too, was surprised.

"It was hard for me because he's a

"I tried to talk [Coslet] out of it. He was not to be swayed."

— Dick LeBeau
New Bengals head coach

"I have no plans to make that change as I stand here today," he said.

The Bengals' 37-0 loss on Sunday in Baltimore was further evidence of their futility on offense. They had lost 13-0 the week before in Jacksonville after a 24-7 loss at home on Sept. 10.

The Bengals are under pressure to win because taxpayers paid for the \$453 million Paul Brown Stadium in which the Bengals started play this season.

Coslet, a former Bengals tight end, had done two tours as the Bengals' offensive coordinator before becoming head coach in 1996 when Dave Shula was fired. Coslet brought LeBeau back to the Bengals in 1997 for a second term as defensive coordinator.

LeBeau plans to have offensive coordinator Ken Anderson, a former Bengals quarterback, call the offensive plays. LeBeau plans to run the defense with help from linebackers coach Mark Duffner.

Defensive back Cory Hall said the players respect LeBeau.

"Look at the defense we run," Hall said. "He put that package together. I trust him 100 percent."

The Bengals set an NFL record

by losing 107 games in the 1990s, 108 if the Jan. 2 loss in Jacksonville is included.

Cincinnati's total of seven points in the first three games is the lowest for a three-game stretch since the 1978 team scored three points in three weeks during a 4-12 season. Sunday's loss was the 28th in 35 games under Coslet.

"That was about as thorough a beating as you'll see," Brown said after watching the Bengals rush for just four yards in the Baltimore game.

The Bengals dipped into the free-agent market during the offseason, signing safety Darryl Williams and defensive linemen Tom Barndt and Vaughn Booker. The acquisitions have yet to produce any wins.

Former Bengals wide receiver Carl Pickens criticized the team for retaining Coslet as the 1999 season ended. The Bengals released Pickens, their all-time leading receiver, who now plays for Tennessee.

LeBeau has worked on the coaching staffs of the Philadelphia Eagles and Green Bay Packers. He was defensive coordinator under Sam Wyche when Cincinnati advanced to the Super Bowl following the 1988 season.

Sydney 2000

Highlights:

Stripped of gold medal: Romania's 16-year-old Andreea Raducan was stripped of her all-around gymnastics gold medal after testing positive for a banned substance. Raducan tested positive for pseudoephedrine, a drug found in cold medicines.

USA softball back on track: After losing three straight games to take it to the brink of elimination, the U.S. softball team is now in the gold medal game against Japan. Japan was one of the teams to beat the Americans during their losing streak.

Schedule:

TV Schedule: Tuesday, September 26, 2000

NBC:

- 10 a.m. to Noon — Softball
- 7 p.m. to Midnight — Beach Volleyball, Cycling, Weightlifting, Gymnastics, Synchronized Swimming
- 12:41 to 2:11 a.m. — Volleyball, Water Polo

MSNBC:

- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Tennis, Diving, Baseball, Soccer

CNBC:

- 5 to 9 p.m. — Boxing, Soccer, Wrestling

Record Book:

No records were set in the Olympic Games on Monday.

Medal Watch:

| | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|-----|------|--------|--------|
| USA | 23 | 14 | 21 |
| CHN | 21 | 14 | 13 |
| RUS | 14 | 14 | 19 |
| AUS | 12 | 20 | 11 |
| FRA | 12 | 13 | 6 |

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