

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Aggie field general

Midfielder Heather Wiebe silent leader for team

By REECE FLOOD
The Battalion

Heather Wiebe need only drive a short distance down Highway 6 to go to her family's home in Spring, Texas.

"Being near her family is important to Wiebe and is one reason she came to A&M.

"It's close to home," Wiebe said. "My mom can make it to all the games."

"Before becoming a leader for one of the best collegiate soccer teams in the nation, Wiebe graduated from Klein Oak High School in Spring, lettering three times at the center midfield position.

"The senior midfielder has had a lot of opportunities to see action and improve her game at A&M. Wiebe played in 18 games her freshman year, starting in 17 of them. She played in all 45 games the following two seasons, starting in all but one of them.

A&M coach G. Guerrieri said Wiebe has become a great asset for the team over the years. He credits Wiebe's work ethic as the reason for her and the team's success.

"She has brought a level of professionalism that has never been matched — before she arrived or since," Guerrieri said. "She is the workhorse on a hard working team."

Senior defender Amber Reynolds is also impressed with Wiebe's level of play.

"She's our playmaker," Reynolds said. "The way she plays is 110 percent every time. It's hard to do that every game."

Wiebe's tenacity on the field is demonstrated by the black eye she received against Baylor on Sunday. Wiebe has developed into a team leader, not just a highly skilled player. Unlike most leaders, though, Wiebe is not outspoken and tends to keep quiet on the field.

"She leads more by example," Reynolds said.

Guerrieri said Wiebe is a "quiet player that gets everything done."

Reynolds said one of Wiebe's best features is her unselfishness, her desire to be a team player.

"If we lose and she had a great game, she's still mad," Reynolds said. "That's what sets her apart."

Guerrieri echoed Reynolds' sentiments about his star midfielder.

"She is the most unselfish player on the most unselfish team I've ever coached," Guerrieri said. "She hasn't received the accolades because she's not a flashy player. The biggest reason I recruited her is she's a winner."

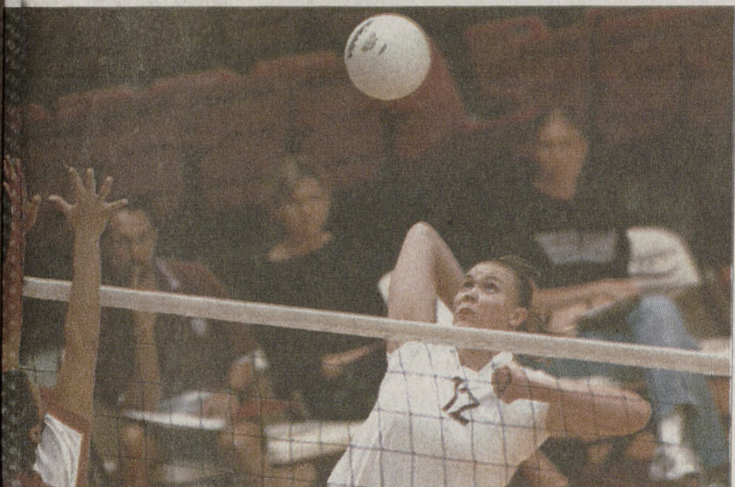
Wiebe's two peers may be on to something. When asked to speak about her own success at A&M, all she mentioned was the 1997 Big 12

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PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior midfielder Heather Wiebe has used her tireless work ethic to lead the Aggie soccer team for the past three seasons. In her final season, Wiebe has taken her intensity to another level.



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Senior middle blocker Heather Marshall spikes against Iowa State. The win gave the Aggies their longest home winning streak in team history.

Texas A&M volleyball team blows out ISU

Win breaks record, gives Aggies longest home winning streak in team history

By BREE HOLZ
The Battalion

The Texas A&M volleyball team defeated the Iowa State University Cyclones Wednesday at G. Rollie White Coliseum, 15-5, 15-1, 15-9.

The win marked the 25th consecutive home win for the Aggies, surpassing the previous record of 24. With the win, the Aggies improve to 9-4 (4-2 Big 12) while Iowa State falls to 2-12 (0-7 Big 12).

A&M coach Laurie Corbelli said the fans are a major factor in the Aggies' success at G. Rollie White.

"I know teams don't like coming to G. Rollie," she said. "The Twelfth Man gets talked about a lot around the conference. It's a feared crowd, but not because it's a rude crowd, but it just gets so loud."

The Aggies are extremely successful at home, but winning games on the road will be the key to A&M's overall conference success.

"The Big 12 is wide open," Corbelli said. "For all of the teams in the Big 12, it's becoming a bigger challenge to win on the road. It's a tough sport to play on the road."

Freshman middle blocker Tara Pulaski got things going for the Aggies with a kill to give A&M the first point of the game. After ISU scored its first point on a block, the Aggies came back to score five straight with four kills from senior middle blocker Heather Marshall.

ISU called its first timeout of the match, and the Aggies answered with two more kills from Marshall.

An ace from junior setter Jenna Moscovic moved the Aggies to a 9-2 lead, but the Cyclones began to gain momentum with three A&M hitting errors.

Two aces from sophomore outside hitter A.D. Achilefu increased the lead to 12-5, and a block from Moscovic closed the game.

ISU scored its only point of game two on the first play. A&M took control from there, thanks to four kills from junior outside hitter Erin Gibson.

The Aggies took a 4-0 lead in the third with two kills from outside hitter Rebecca Wynalda.

ISU answered by scoring three straight points on A&M miscues.

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