

Running against the best

Seventy cross country squads to descend upon A&M

By BRIAN RUFF

The Battalion

Texas A&M's golf course will be occupied not by golfers Saturday morning, but by thousands of high school and collegiate cross country runners from across the state as the Texas A&M cross country team hosts the 13th annual Texas A&M Invitational.

Cross country teams from around the state will participate in one of the most competitive meets in the region.

Rice, Texas, Houston, North Texas, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, Louisiana-Lafayette, Texas Southern, Prairie View A&M, Texas-San Antonio and other competitors will travel to College Station in search of a team title.

Texas A&M's women seek to defend the 1999 TAMU Invitational title they won for the first time in the 13-year history of the

meet. Rice and Texas look to be the women's biggest threats for the team title.

Rice was tied with the women's team after the TAMU Invite last year, but A&M's sixth-highest-finishing runner placed nine spots ahead of Rice's top finisher, giving the team title to the Aggies.

The women's team is coming off a second-place finish at the Iona meet in New York on Sept. 30. The team moved up in the rankings to 19th in the nation. Melissa Gulli led the Ags with a time of 21:13.8 and a 10th-place finish.

"So far, the women have run great," said cross country coach Dave Hartman. "We came into the season ranked 23rd in the pre-season poll, and they got as high as 18th. They're running as well as I expected."

Gulli said that the team is confident going into the weekend.

"We have a pretty good shot at winning the meet," Gulli said. "It should give us some confidence going into the Big 12, because we are running against Texas, which has always had a good team."

The team has yet to face any Big 12 opponents. Hartman said the women will challenge Arkansas for the regional title at the South Central Regional meet in Denton.

The men's team finished 12th at the Iona meet and hopes to better its third-place finish behind Rice and Texas at the 1999 TAMU Invitational.

Chris Lee led the Texas A&M pack at the Iona meet with a time of 25:19.5 and a 23rd-place finish.

"Chris (Lee) has been having some great workouts for the last two weeks, and it's just been a matter of time before he converted

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FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M cross country teams will host the 13th annual Texas A&M Invitational this weekend at the Texas A&M golf course. Admission is free, with action starting at 9 a.m.

Aggies travel to Waco to face Baylor Bears

By BLAINE DIONNE

The Battalion

Rebounding from a home loss is not something the Texas A&M football team (3-2, 1-1) is used to facing. But that is exactly what the Aggies are up against this Saturday as they travel to Waco to face the Baylor Bears (2-3, 0-2).

The best performance Baylor has mustered against the Aggies since 1985, when the Bears beat A&M, was a 20-20 tie in 1990 at Kyle Field. After losing last week at home to then-winless Colorado, however, the Aggies are well-prepared for this latest Battle of the Brazos.

"It won't be hard to get up for them as long as we practice hard and stay focused," said linebacker Jason Glenn. "We can't say 'Oh my goodness, we just lost to Colorado.' We've got to put that behind us and play Baylor to the best of our ability. If you don't put them away early, with their fans, they can sneak up on you and beat you."

Glenn and company on the defensive side of the ball will have to improve on their poor performance last week. The Wrecking Crew's tackling

"We've got to put [the Colorado loss] behind us and play Baylor to the best of our ability."

— Jason Glenn
Aggie linebacker

was inconsistent at best, with Colorado quarterback Craig Ochs running through the Aggie defense with the ease of a hot knife through butter. Perhaps the most poignant example of A&M's

tackling woes on Saturday was Ochs' 18-yard run up the middle where six different Aggies missed CU's elusive QB.

Glenn said it was a case of the Aggies not knowing their opponent well enough.

"I guess we underestimated their quarterback a little bit," Glenn said. "He was a freshman, but he's a great athlete and he surprised a lot of us."

"We just didn't wrap up. If we would've wrapped up, I believe it would have been a big difference in the game."

Baylor will be looking to win its first conference game since 1998 this weekend, having dropped its last 10 consecutive contests to league opponents.

A&M coach R.C. Slocum said the team will be going back to basics to pull out a win this week.

"When you lose a game like that one last Saturday, you've got two choices: You can lie there and whine or you can pick yourself up and try to get better," Slocum said.



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

Wide receiver Robert Ferguson fights for yardage against Colorado last Saturday. He and the Aggies will be fighting for a win in Waco this week.



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