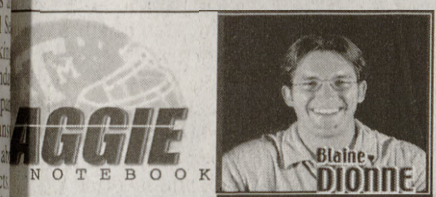


SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Aggies face critical week



Blaine Dionne

Winning their first road shutout in 24 years, in a conference game no less, was not enough to please the Texas A&M football team. In fact, they are upset about it.

"The whole time that I've played football, since I was 6 years old, I never played in a game that I couldn't get into it like I usually do," said linebacker Jason Glenn said. "It was to a point where everybody was just out of it. We had a great week of practice last week, but it seemed like we practiced a lot harder than we played in the game."

So where does that leave the Aggies this week, playing Iowa State in Ames? They are in a precarious situation. This is a make-or-buy game for the Aggies.

These are not the Cyclones of old. Their only loss of the season is to No. 1 Nebraska — and that game was 21-20 late in the third quarter because the Huskers were able to put ISU away.

"This really is a make-or-buy game for both teams," said linebacker Brian Gamble. "They're one win away from becoming bowl-eligible and having their first winning season in like 30 years. It gives us a conference win and puts us closer to becoming bowl-eligible."

One of the players who expects to play a large role in helping the Aggies get closer to bowl eligibility is receiver Chris Taylor, who has tallied five catches for 107 yards in the last two games.

"It's been a relief (my performance)," said Taylor. "I don't care about my stats as long as we're winning, but it was good to be able to do some things to help the team. This week Iowa State could be 6-0, so I've got to perform well."

Blaine Dionne is a senior journalism major.

A&M riders take arena by storm

By Amanda Lawrence
The Battalion

The Texas A&M equestrian team, starting its second year as a varsity sport, is taking the arena by storm. Seventy-five equestrian team members and three coaches make this year's squad the biggest and possibly the best A&M has ever seen.

In their first outing of the season, Oct. 6 and 7, the Aggies came away from the West Texas A&M Western shows with a second place and two third place postings.

In the first show, A&M took second behind West Texas. Individually, Quincy Cahill took the high point rider honors and placed first in open horsemanship and second in reining. The Aggies came away with five first place ribbons.

In the second show, A&M wrapped up third in a tie with Sul Ross behind West Texas A&M and newcomer Kansas State. In the reining competition, Tannetje Mayeux came away with a fourth place finish followed by Cahill in sixth place. Other first place finishers included Jessica Racher, advanced I, section II, and

Danielle Aeck, intermediate I.

In the third show at West Texas A&M, OSU stepped up and came out with a first place finish. Behind them were West Texas A&M, followed by the Aggies. Jamie Bodiford, open section I, and Sommer Morgan, advanced II, section II, placed first at the meet.

Next, the Aggies will travel to take on Oklahoma State University in English competition. A&M will face OSU, the reigning national champions, as well as other opponents, Saturday and Sunday. This will be the first English show that A&M has competed in thus far in this season.

Last year the Aggies came away fifth out of 100 teams in national Western riding competition held in Atlanta, Georgia.

This year the team has grown to 75 girls from last year's 45. The ability level ranges from beginner to intermediate to advanced.

"We've gotten a lot of strong new riders; I think we will be competitive," said English and Western rider Jessica Rogers.

Not only the quantity of the riders has increased, but also

the quality.

"We have a lot of new faces, a lot of new talent, a lot of great attitudes. We had a great first show," said coach Tana Rawson.

Along with an increase in roster, the facilities the Aggies practice in and the horses they ride have also improved.

"The facilities have increased in the fact that we've gotten a new arena (N.W. "Dick" Freeman Arena), which allowed us to have a new outdoor arena. It also gave us more opportunities for practice time," Rawson said.

"With the addition of the stalls, we were able to take on some new horses. We have the opportunity to have better horses to ride on which is ultimately better for the girls riding."

The top returners for A&M are Quincy Cahill and Germaine Dougherty. Cahill, a Western rider who was the national champion and the high point rider. The top English rider, Dougherty, won zones in the open category and the open fences category. Dougherty placed fifteenth out of 26 in the Cacchione cup.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN BURNS/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M equestrian team member Tricia Trunek (above) jumps a one rail fence at the team practice field. The equestrian team is excelling in only its second season at A&M.



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