

Showdown at sunset

A&M, UT play for second place at 7 p.m.

By BRIAN RUFF

The Battalion

The Texas Aggie soccer team (13-5, 7-2) will look to close out its 2000 Big 12 regular season with a win when the Texas Longhorns (12-5, 2-2) visit the Aggie Soccer Complex tonight at 7 p.m. Texas is in the midst of its best season in school history. The Aggies hold a four-game win streak, with their last loss on Oct. 8 to Nebraska in Lincoln. The team is also ranked No. 9 in the nation and holds a 7-0 record at home. The game will decide who will take second place in the Big 12 behind the Nebraska Cornhuskers, who clinched the Big 12 title earlier in the week. The matchup's winner will also be given the second seed in next week's Big 12 tournament.

Texas will hope to rebound from a 2-0 loss to the Oklahoma Sooners on Sunday. The loss handed the Longhorns their second loss in Big 12 play and a tie with A&M for second in the conference.

"They [the Longhorns] put the ball on the ground and move it around," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "They look for a lot of combinations, and defensively, they've been pretty stingy all year."

The Aggies are coming off two road victories in Oklahoma against the Sooners and the OSU Cowgirls last weekend.

The 2000 Longhorns are led by midfielder Kati McBain, who has tallied 28 points on the season. Forward Kylee Wosnuk is second on the team with 26 points.

The Aggies have defeated the Longhorns eight straight times since the series began in 1993.

They have outscored Texas by a combined score of 29-3 in the all-time series, including a 5-0 thumping of the Longhorns last year in Austin.

"With Wosnuk up front, they can take you on one vs. one, and change the game all by themselves," said Guerrieri. "They're confident, and this is a team that believes in themselves."

Texas has not finished better than fourth in the Big 12 standings at season's end. The Longhorns are guaranteed at least a third-place finish in 2000.

"[Texas] is making a big commitment to the program, and now they are seeing some results," said Guerrieri.

In only her second season with the Aggie squad, forward Heather Ragsdale leads the team in points (31), goals (12), assists (seven) and shots (63).

She also leads the team in game-winning goals with three on the season. Goalkeeper Esther Thompson is also providing the Aggies with strong backstopping, with a 10-1 record and a 0.91 goals against average.

If the Aggies defeat the Longhorns, it will be the second straight year the Aggies claimed the second-place spot in the final Big 12 standings.

The Big 12 tournament will be held at the Blossom Soccer Complex in San Antonio starting Nov. 1. The championship match will be held on Nov. 4.



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M soccer team takes on its archnemesis, Texas, tonight at 7 at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

Aggie swimmers get two-for-one at Kansas

Texas A&M swimming and diving taking on Jayhawks, Big 12

By JEREMY BROWN

The Battalion

The Texas A&M swimming and diving teams begin conference competition with two meets in two days at the University of Kansas this Thursday.

After a dual meet with Kansas, the teams will stay in Lawrence to compete in the Big 12 Relays.

"We really like racing on consecutive days because the conference meet and the NCAAs are spread over three days," said assistant men's coach Jay Holmes. "One-day dual meets do not give us a chance to (practice) that."

Both the men's and women's

teams are 1-0 after defeating unranked TCU in a dual meet last Friday. The 17th-ranked men won by a score of 471-94 while the 25th-ranked women won by 166-106.

Kansas has not competed in any dual meets this season but did win its traditional Lake Race against Southern Illinois.

In the race, Kansas swept the individual and team races, with Brian Soria winning the men's race and Gwen Haley winning the women's.

In its 1999-00 dual meet, A&M swept Kansas in both the men's and women's competition.

The Kansas men are unranked and in the midst of rebuilding. They have

a new head coach after Gary Kempf, the head coach for 20 years, was given an administrative position.

The new coach is Doug Dickinson, a 12-time All-American swimmer from Texas who helped lead the Longhorns to NCAA titles in 1990 and 1991.

"We respect Doug (Dickinson)," Holmes said. "He is one of the up-and-coming coaches."

Last season, the Kansas men finished fifth in the Big 12 Championship and none of its swimmers advanced to the NCAA championships.

The Kansas women are also unranked and led by a young coach, Cathy Burgess, who is in her third

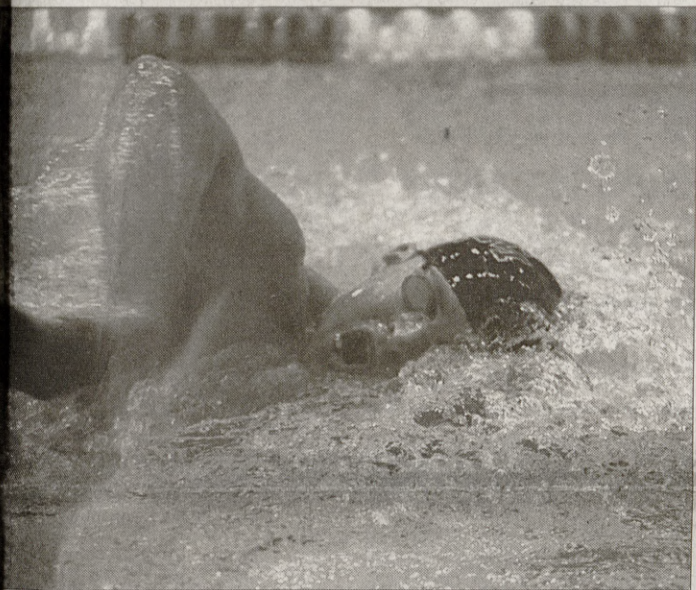
year. Last year, they finished fourth in the Big 12 and sent two swimmers to the NCAA Championships: Lyndsay DeVaney in the 1500-meter freestyle and Carolyn Grevers in the 100-meter breaststroke. Both women return for this season.

The A&M divers might have a little more work cut out for them against KU.

The six Kansas divers who qualified for the NCAA Zone Diving Championships last year return for this season.

Coaching them is Kevin Lawrence, who is in his third year and has previously coached St. Cloud

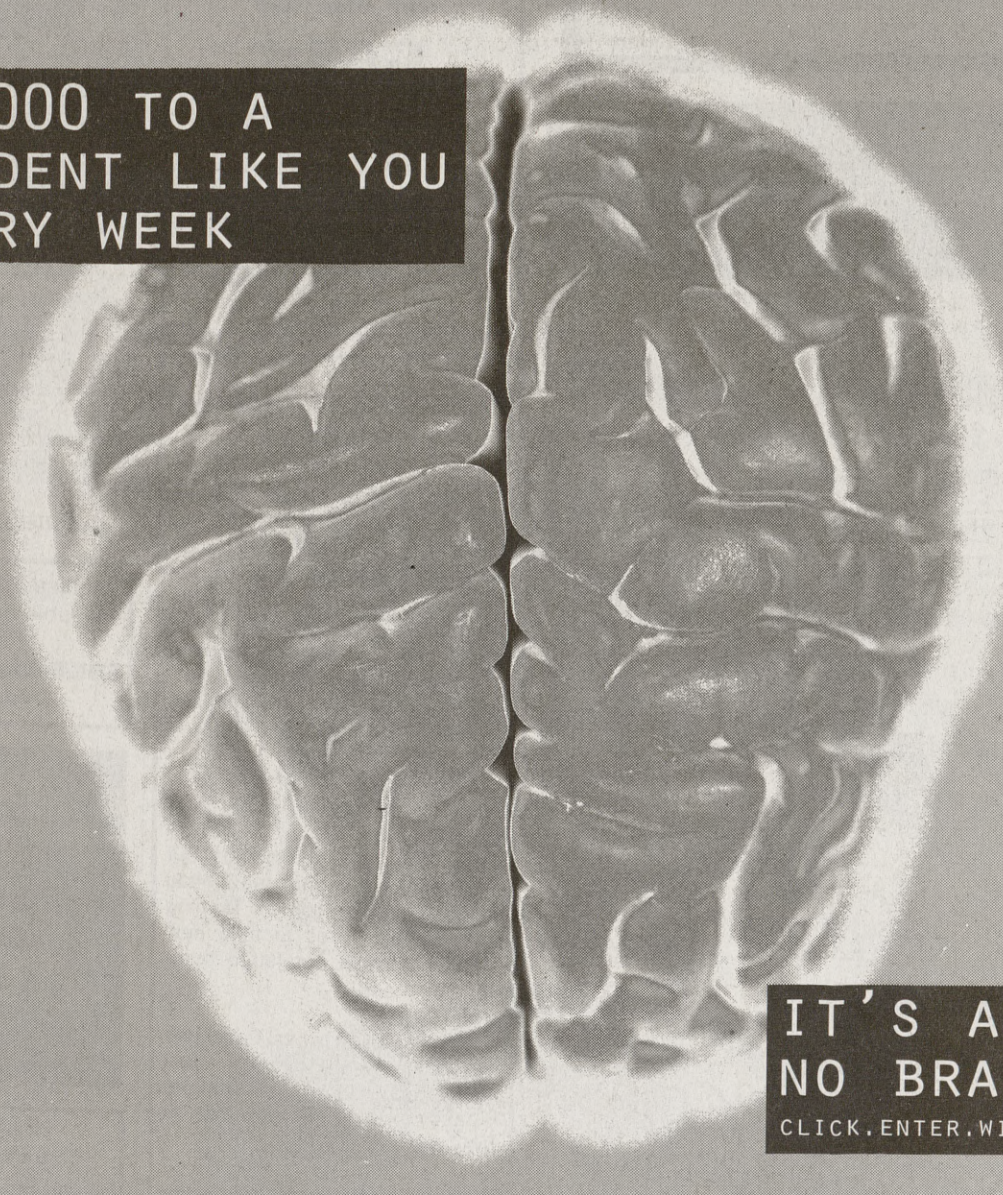
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