

## A&M women to close out fall slate

By JEREMY BROWN  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's tennis team will finish the fall portion of its season this weekend by hosting the ITA Southwest Regional Tournament.

The tournament is held for the top players from all NCAA Division I schools in Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. Twenty-seven schools will be represented.

A&M head coach Bobby Kleinecke said the tournament is the most important one that A&M will play in this fall. It will determine which singles and doubles players will be invited to the National Invitational Indoor tournament, which will be held Feb. 1-4 in Dallas. The regional winners will receive automatic bids.

"Based on the ITA All-American, I think we will have one of

the strongest regions in the nation, and I think that will help everyone," Kleinecke said.

The A&M doubles teams are seeded high in the tournament

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— Bobby Kleinecke  
A&M head tennis coach

with Ashley Hedberg and Jessica Roland at No. 2 and Martina Nedorostova and Majorie Terburgh at No. 3. The No. 1 doubles team is Vladka Uhlirova and Janet Walker of Texas.

Hedberg and Roland had a surprising showing at the ITA All-American, where they made it to the semifinals. No other A&M women have advanced that far in the All-American tournament.

"That was a very, very big feat," Kleinecke said.

In the semifinals, Hedberg and Roland lost to the No. 1 doubles team in the nation, Paola Palencia and Ipek Senoglu of Pepperdine.

The A&M women are not seeded as high in the singles portion of the tournament because of a poor

See TENNIS on Page 2B.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M women's tennis team, led by Martina Nedorostova (above), will host the ITA Southwest Regional Tournament this weekend to close out their fall schedule.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

Heather Ragsdale, shown here against Baylor, had a goal and an assist in the Aggies' win over Colorado in the first round of the Big 12 Tournament.

## Aggies defeat Buffs to begin Big 12 Tourney

STAFF AND WIRE

Heather Ragsdale and Kristen Strutz each had a goal and an assist to lead No. 9 Texas A&M past Colorado, 3-1, in the quarterfinals of the Big 12 soccer tournament at the Blossom Athletic Complex Wednesday.

The Aggies started the scoring early as Juli Goin tallied for the fifth time this season in the fifth minute. Strutz played a ball from the midline to Heather Ragsdale on the left flank that Ragsdale headed past the Colorado defense to Goin. Goin hit a shot with her left foot that slid past the diving Colorado keeper, Whitney Peterson, and found the net just inside the left post. Strutz and Ragsdale earned their eighth and ninth assists, respectively.

With 19:27 left in the first half, Melissa Cartmell beat Aggie goalkeeper Esther Thompson from the top of the 18-yard box to make the score 1-1 at the break.

The match was played evenly in the first half as the teams each had eight shots and each goalkeeper collected three saves.

"I thought we played really sharp

in the first ten minutes of the game," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "Colorado outplayed us the last 20 minutes of the half and scored a goal to tie the game."

In the second half, however, the Aggies controlled the pace of the match and outshot the Buffaloes, 15-3.

The Aggies regained the lead for good in the 50th minute as Ragsdale scored her 14th goal of the season with a blast from the top of the 18-yard box. Jodie Mitchell played the ball into Ragsdale from the midline and was credited with the assist, her third.

Strutz solidified the win with her ninth goal in the last nine games and her 10th of the season. Strutz defeated a couple of Colorado defenders and scored from 15 yards out.

"I think that Colorado deserves some credit because they came out and played hard," Guerrieri said. "We had to step up and in the second half and play our best to win. Ragsdale and Strutz give us big play potential even when we are not playing particularly well. That is exactly what they did tonight."

## Warning: Possibility of eruption at any time

A&M's A.D. Achilefu serves as a sparkplug at two positions on the court



STUART VILLANUEVA/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M middle blocker/outside hitter A.D. Achilefu has come back from ACL/MCL surgery to be one of the Aggies' most valuable players.

By BREE HOLZ  
The Battalion

Texas A&M volleyball coaches Laurie and John Corbelli had to do a lot of persuading to convince A.D. Achilefu to become an Aggie three years ago.

"I really did not want to come here at all," Achilefu said. "I was stuck on going to UT because I thought this place was crazy."

However, Achilefu loved A&M as soon as she visited the campus and did not make any other recruiting visits.

"I came on a visit and fell in love with it," she said. "I thought the campus was really friendly, and, along with the strength of the coaches, it made a good combo."

Achilefu, a sophomore from Houston, is a 5-foot-8 middle blocker. The average height for a middle blocker at the Division-I level is 5-foot-11.

"When we saw how athletic and explosive she was, we were amazed," Corbelli said. "We didn't know exactly where we would need her. We just knew we needed her on our team."

Achilefu sees competing against taller players as a challenge.

"No one expects me to come out and play that position," she said. "They never know what I can do, so I'm really never intimidated by taller players."

Achilefu has been competing at the middle position and the outside hitter position.

Because of her power and versatility, she has become one of the team's most trusted players off the bench.

"We really consider her our seventh starter," said middle blocker Heather Marshall. "She just has that fire in her

See ACHILEFU on Page 2B.

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**NON-TRADITIONAL STUDENT APPRECIATION WEEK**

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<b>Tuesday</b>	Dinner with Aggies Plus (a student group for non-traditional students) Texadelphia in Northgate behind Loupots at 8 pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	Brown Bag lunch "Understanding your Dreams", noon 146 Koldus Building in the Student Activities Area
<b>Saturday</b>	Tailgate- 3 hours before the Oklahoma game, PA 67 in front of the Heep Building Look for the Aggies Plus banner

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<http://aggiesplus.tamu.edu>  
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