

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

OSU Cowboys look to upset A&M's Big 12 hopes

By BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

Heading to Stillwater, Okla., has never been as significant for the Texas A&M football team as it will be this weekend. In order to keep next week's mammoth meeting with the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners worthy of the hype, the Aggies must first take care of that other school from the Native State, Oklahoma State.

According to A&M coach R.C. Slocum, the Aggies (6-2 overall, 4-1 Big 12) had better not look past the Cowboys (2-5, 0-4), or they could suffer a nasty relapse of this season's last blemish against Colorado.

"You'd like not to have to learn life's lessons twice," Slocum said. "We've been through that deal this year with Colorado. I'm sure a lot of people thought because they were 0-4, that we didn't have anything to worry about."

"You've got the same thing, now that we've been playing like we've been playing the last two weeks. But that doesn't mean you don't have to go to Oklahoma State and do all the right things, because they're going to get great preparation for us this week."

OSU is coming off a 37-21 loss to the Colorado

Buffaloes, its fifth straight loss of the year after starting 2-0. While the Cowboys have been struggling lately, they came on in the second half of last week's loss to pull within a touchdown before CU took the lead for good.

The Cowboys will be starting freshman quarterback Aso Pogi for the third straight game. Pogi racked up 300 yards of passing offense in each of his first two starts. He is looking to lead his team back into the win column against the Aggies.

Oklahoma State coach Bob Simmons said his young quarterback is progressing as well as can be expected.

"I think Aso would tell you himself that although his performance (against Colorado) was good, the fact that we didn't win is what he's about, and so am I," Simmons said. "He'll be a good quarterback for this program, but the bottom line for this football team is really trying to find that 'W.'"

According to Simmons, finding that "W" will be difficult against the Aggies, who are sporting a new offense this season.

"A&M's a different ballclub (this year)," Simmons said. "They're a lot more diverse offensively than they've been in the past. It's been three yards and a cloud of dust, putting it on their defense. But with Mark Farris and Robert Ferguson, a big-

play receiver, they give you a lot more formations."

Not only is the A&M offense clicking on all cylinders, but the A&M defense also has found its groove since the Colorado loss.

Over the last three games, the Wrecking Crew has allowed a total of 17 points to Baylor, Iowa State and Kansas State. In that time, the Aggies' opponents have been shut out for 10 of 12 quarters.

A&M has also had plenty of success against the Cowboys over the past few years. OSU has not managed to score a touchdown on A&M since 1997, when the Aggies beat the Cowboys, 28-25, in the first overtime game in A&M history.

Outside linebacker Jason Glenn said that facing the potent K-State offense last week should help the Aggies against a steadily improving Cowboy offense this week.

"They have a very, very good offense," Glenn said. "They racked up 500 yards twice in the last two weeks. It doesn't matter what defense you're playing — when you can put up 500 yards, you're a potent offense."

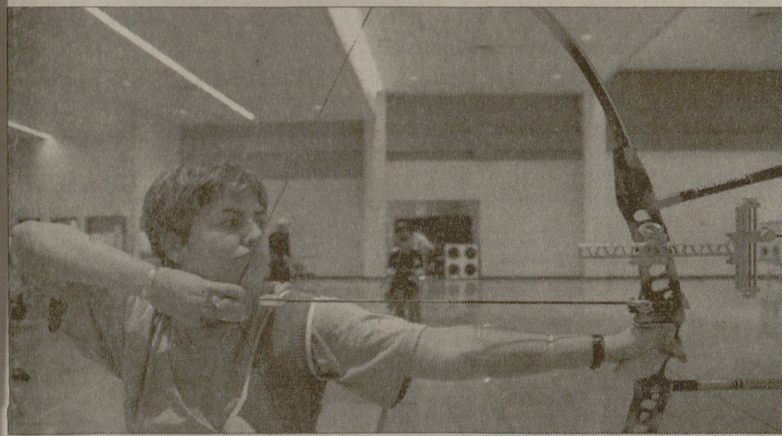
Kickoff for the game will be 1 p.m. at Lewis Field in Stillwater. There is no television coverage this week.

If A&M can escape Stillwater with a win, the Aggies will be set to host a Big 12 Showdown on Nov. 11 against Oklahoma.



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M's defense has allowed only 17 points in the last three games. Saturday, it looks to continue its success against OSU.



BERNARDO GARZA/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M archery team opens its season with the Aggie Invite.

Archery opens season with Aggie Invitational

By DIANNE XAVIER
The Battalion

After spending hours perfecting its shooting skills, the Texas A&M women's archery squad is ready to defend its national championship title as its season opens tonight at 5:30 at the Aggie Invitational. The meet will last until Sunday in the Student Recreational Center.

"Our first tournament is going to let us see where we stand and how we are doing against other teams," said coach Kathy Eissinger. "It will

also give us a chance to clean our forms and improve our skills for the latter part of the season."

Individual rounds will be shot Friday at 5:30 p.m., Sat. at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and Sunday at 9 a.m. The team competition will take place at 5 p.m. Saturday.

Eissinger said she expects the team to do well and foresees her squad winning its sixth national collegiate championship in a row.

"We've won it for the past five years and, with the strong shooters

we have, I don't see how we can't repeat," Eissinger said.

The great depth of the women's team is composed of Dianne Cornish, Kimi Nedeau and Sharon Jones, who were all members of last season's compound team that defeated the University of Texas for the national collegiate title.

Newcomer Mary Zorn, who is the No. 2 female compound archer in the nation and 25th in the world after winning her first gold medal this summer at the World Junior Cham-

pionship, said this event will show her what an actual collegiate tournament is like.

"It is important for us because it is the first big shoot we have," Zorn said. "It's a good one to start off with, and we hope to perform well on our home turf."

Eissinger said she believes A&M has the strongest archery program in the nation due to the commitment of the players.

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