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Equestrian team tries to advance to national meet

By CODY STARK
 The Battalion

It is now or next year if the Texas A&M women's western equestrian team hopes to advance to the national meet in Conyers, Ga.

The Aggies will travel to the Animal Science Arena in Stillwater, Okla. today for the last three shows of the regular season from Friday through Sunday.

West Texas A&M has a 14-point lead over the Aggies as A&M hopes to secure their place with the nation's best. Kansas State is a distant third and Oklahoma State rounds out the top four in the region.

Unlike the English competition, only the top team in the region gets to advance to the national meet.

First year head coach Tana Rawson is very optimistic about the Aggies chances of upending WTAMU.

"Ultimately we would like to get ahead of West Texas," she said. "The ability will be there, but it takes a little luck too." "It's possible, it's very possible. That's our goal."

Several Aggies have already qualified for the regional meet. The team is led by junior Quincy Cahill who is the defending national champion in the reining class competition.

While she has already qualified in the reining class, she needs only two points to qualify in the open class.

Cahill is also on the verge of securing the American Quarter Horse Association High Point title, which will make her the number one western rider in the nation. She has a commanding lead over WTAMU's Tara Standridge, 63 to 48.

Junior Brenda Farias has advanced to the regional meet in the beginner class.

Senior's Danielle Aeck and Jessica Rogers have advanced in intermediate horsemanship.

Qualifying in the advanced class are sophomore Julie Beken and senior Lizzie Urbanovsky.

Senior Jamie Bodiford and sophomore Tannetje Mayeux will try to earn enough points to move on to regionals in both the open and reining classes.

Mayeux is not letting the pressure get to her.

"You can't stress about things, you can only do as good as you can do," she said. "So I'm just going to do my best, and I know I have a chance. I know that all of us are going to try our best. I think A&M will do good."

TIGERS

Continued from Page 1B

the team's have used that time to prepare for the LSU matchup.

Coming off their double sweep against Stephen F. Austin State University and the University of Texas - San Antonio Roadrunners last Saturday, the Aggies hope to stay undefeated for the season when they meet the No. 23 LSU women's tennis team (4-0).

"We know we'll have to go out and scratch and claw for every point we get."

— Bobby Kleinecke
 A&M women's tennis coach

"It's always good for both teams to get their feet wet with their first few matches, but these teams meet every year about this time, and we

always know that it's gonna dogfight," said A&M women's coach Bobby Kleinecke. "The biggest strength of this LSU team is its tenacity during every game every match. We know we'll have to go out and scratch and claw for every point we get."

Saturday, the last action of the LSU women's team was with a 6-1 win against UL-Monroe and a 6-0 win against Southern University Lady Jax by the scores of 6-1 and 6-0, respectively.

However, LSU coaches understand that this match will prove to be the first high-caliber competition their team will face this season.

"This is always a big match for us every year, and we can sort of use it as an indicator for how our season is gonna go," said LSU women's coach Tony Minnis. "They're a real impressive team, especially with Leah Killen in their lineup. She's beaten us both times we've played against her, so I think we'll do well against her is pretty important for us on Saturday."

RED RAIDERS

Continued from Page 1B

double figures in all but one game this season. Ellis is also pulling in 6.6 rebounds per game, the second-highest on Tech's roster.

The Red Raiders lead the Big 12 series between the two teams, 5-1, and hold a decisive advantage in games played in Lubbock, posting a 3-0 record in those contests. The two teams split the series last year, with the Aggies winning both games.

Tech and A&M allow more points per game than any other team in the Big 12, with the Red Raiders allowing an average of 75 points per game and the Aggies allowing 75.5.

Despite being the shortest team in the conference, A&M holds an edge over Tech in rebounding, pulling in 38 boards per game, while Tech averages 37.6 rebounds, one of two Big 12 teams posting a negative rebounding margin.

The Red Raiders are 6-4 in Big 12 this season, including a 60-59 win over No. 21 Oklahoma on Jan. 16.

Tip-off at the United Spirit Arena is set for 12:45 p.m. The game will be televised regionally on ESPN2.

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THIS IS WHERE IT GETS GOOD

Sports in Brief Women's team faces Baylor

The Texas A&M women's basketball team hopes to record their fourth straight victory over the Baylor Bears in the last of the years with a win in Waco on Saturday night.

The top three scorers in the Big 12 conference will go head-to-head for the second time this season.

The conference's top scorer, A&M senior forward Jaycee Saunders led the Aggies to their first win over the Bears, scoring 34 points in the Aggies' 87-81 upset victory.

Baylor came up short despite a 41-point performance by post Danielle Crookmore, who leads the team in scoring.

Texas A&M is coming off a 41 thumping by the Texas Longhorns at Reed Arena Wednesday night. Baylor suffered a 67-56 loss to the Texas Lady Raiders on Wednesday. The loss was the Bears' third straight loss, all against top 25 teams.

*Tip-off for the match-up is set for 8 p.m.

Track prepares for Iowa State

One week after the men's team outscored Arkansas in the Houston Classic, the track team will travel to Ames, Iowa, for another win. The women's finishing sixth last week in Houston, hope to pass the competition for a top-three finish.

The indoor competition begins today with unseeded preliminary events and will continue Saturday with field events and seeded track events.

All-American Kris Allen hopes to continue his dominance of 60-meter hurdles, as fellow American Bashir Ramzy will compete in the triple jump, anchoring the 1,600-meter relay and keep Allen company in the hurdles. Freshmen Jonte Bell and Ronny Jimenez look to make impressive starts in the 400-meter run and the shot put, respectively.

All-American senior Melissa Trotter and junior Terra Taylor will compete in shot put. Trotter ready has a provisional qualification with a throw of over 40 feet. Senior Christina Ohaeri also scored a provisional qualification in the 60-meter hurdles. Robyn Burkhardt, with consecutive top three finishes, attempt to continue her jumping streak.

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