

# Sports

Page 7A

THE BATTALION

Monday, August 27, 2001

## Aggs pound Hurricanes, 11-0

### No. 11 A&M squad to open season Friday after ousting Tulsa in exhibition matchup

By JEREMY BROWN  
THE BATTALION

It took only 29 seconds for Linsey Johnson and the 11th-ranked Texas A&M women's soccer team to put the ball in the net and begin a 11-0 rout of the Tulsa Golden Hurricanes in an exhibition game Saturday night at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

Johnson, a freshman forward from Midland, Texas, scored the first goal with an assist from senior forward Nicky Thrasher and went on to lead the Aggies' scoring with three goals.

With her second goal, Johnson put the Aggies up 3-0 only 2:49 into the game.

A&M head soccer coach Gerald Guerrieri said he was impressed by Johnson's performance but not surprised.

**"Tulsa is not a bad team. It is one thing to beat a bad team by this type of score, but Tulsa is a good team."**

— Gerald Guerrieri  
A&M soccer coach

"Linsey Johnson is going to be a handful for our opponents for the next four years," he said.

Guerrieri kept his team on the attack the entire first period, and Tulsa could not keep up. The Aggies scored 10 points in the first period.

"Tulsa is not a bad team," he said, "It is one thing to beat a bad team by this type of score, but Tulsa is a good team."

Tulsa was picked to finish second in the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) by a WAC

coaches poll.

Goalkeepers Esther Thompson and Angela Barker saw little action for the night as the Aggies' attacking style of play kept the ball on Tulsa's half of the field almost the entire game. Thompson only had to make one save during the first period.

"I always look at it this way ... I'd rather be bored and winning than full of work and losing," Thompson said.

Tulsa only managed to take four shots at the goal, and the Hurricanes' first attack of A&M's goal did not happen until almost 12 minutes into the game. By then, A&M was already up 3-0.

"We are big believers in the best defense is a strong attack," Guerrieri said. "If we can play most of the game, or all of the game in the other team's half of the field, it makes the life of our goalkeeper a lot easier."

Thrasher is fully recovered from the broken leg that ended her season last year and forced her to take a medical redshirt. She contributed to A&M's early run by scoring the second goal of the night, and she finished with two goals and two assists.

After jumping out to a 10-0 lead in the first half, the Aggies slowed the pace down in the second and pulled many of their starters.

Junior forward Heather Ragsdale, last year's top scorer, put up A&M's last point by scoring on a penalty kick in the second half.

Senior midfielder Michelle Royal tallied three assists and netted one goal during the exhibition.

After the game, the two teams held a 30-minute practice period when A&M scored three more goals.

The Aggies open the regular season on Friday at the Aggie Soccer Complex against Samford and then welcome first-ranked and defending national champion North Carolina Sunday for a top-20 showdown.



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Sophomore Kristen Strutz looks to pass in Saturday's 11-0 defeat of Tulsa. The Aggies will open up the regular season on Friday night against Samford at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

#### SPORTS IN BRIEF

##### Cowboys to tangle with L.A. in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The "bad boys" from Oakland made a good first impression on Mexico's football fans. But Dallas promised them a long-delayed glimpse of Emmitt Smith on Monday night.

Raiders fans outnumbered Dallas Cowboys followers Sunday as the teams got a glance at 112,000-seat Azteca Stadium, where they will play Monday night — or at least a look at the part of the field not covered by a tarp against a drizzling rain.

It's the sixth time since 1978 the NFL has brought a preseason game to Mexico City. Soccer is king here, but NFL games are popular on television and local football teams have a decent following.

The Cowboys and their cheerleaders have long been fan favorites here, aiming marketing toward Mexico and taking part in earlier preseason American Bowls.

The security-conscious Cowboys shunned fans on their arrival Saturday evening at a hotel one newspaper described as a "bunker." Raiders stars, meanwhile, signed autographs and joked with children.

Raiders tight end Roland Williams joked with a girl who handed him a Cowboys helmet to sign: "No, no, no. I'm with the Raiders. I'm one of the good guys."

The massive soccer shrine offers the chance for fans to make themselves felt.

For Mexican fans, it's a rare chance to see top-level football players in person, even in an exhibition game.



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