

Ags face Stanford in tourney

BY DOUG FUENTES
THE BATTALION

So far the No. 18 Texas A&M volleyball team has been perfect in the 2001 season.

It has rolled to a perfect 5-0 record, and in those five matches, it has failed to lose a game. This weekend, however, the Aggies will test their perfect ways as they host the Verizon Texas A&M Invitational at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M is fresh off a commanding 3-0 victory over University of Texas-San Antonio on Tuesday. Senior outside hitter Brandi Mount led the team with 19 kills as A&M had a .278 hitting percentage as a team.

With the starters playing most of the time, the Aggies breezed through game one. The match tightened up in the second and third games as A&M volleyball head coach Laurie Corbelli sat most of her starters and got some other players in the game. However, as was the case in its previous four matches, A&M was able to pull off the sweep.

"There are moments that get tight, but that's our focus," said A&M senior outside hitter Michelle Cole. "If we think we should beat a team, we want to come out and put the hammer on them."

"That way, when we start playing teams that are more to our ability or even some teams that might be better than us, we still want to come out and play our game hard from the first point to the 30th point," Cole said.

The Aggies stand to face teams more to their ability in the invitational as they face off against No. 9 Stanford and Florida State.

The Florida State Seminoles (1-2) are coming off a rough first weekend of competition at the Pepperdine Tournament. The Seminoles knocked off Fresno State in their season opener but fell to Northern Arizona and host Pepperdine.

"Florida State is going to offer a lot of physical players. They are a very big team with lots of great blocking."

— Laurie Corbelli
A&M volleyball head coach

Florida State is led by Norisha Campbell who is averaging 4.62 kills per game and Jennifer Anderson who is averaging 11.08 assists per game.

Stanford (4-0) is coming off a tremendous 3-1 victory over No. 4 Penn State on Tuesday in State College, Pa.

The Cardinals boast one of the best collegiate players in the country in junior Logan Tom. Tom was a member of the 2000 U.S. Olympic volleyball team and is the only current collegiate player who

was on the Olympic squad. So far this season, Tom is leading the Cardinals with 4.54 kills per game.

"Florida State is going to offer a lot of physical players," Corbelli said. "They are a very big team with lots of great blocking and attacking coming our way. They're going to be determined to upset a ranked team."

"Stanford, being the highest ranked team in the tournament, they're probably a little more experienced at higher levels," Corbelli said. "They have a lot of tradition of being a very strong program. It's going to be a great challenge. It's exactly why we wanted them to come here."

Also competing at the invitational will be No. 25 Texas. Because of scheduling, the Aggies and Longhorns will not compete against one another in the invitational. However, that does not mean the Aggies will not have an eye on their rivals to the west.

"I wish we could play them right now," Cole said. "Playing that team always gets us so fired up. But we'll have to sit and watch for right now, bide our time and wait until later. I want to see them play though because they have a lot of new things going on."

A&M kicks off the tournament today at 6 p.m. against Florida State. Texas and Stanford take the court at 8 p.m. while Texas and Florida State kick off Saturday's play at 5 p.m. with the Aggies taking on Stanford at 7 p.m.



CODY WAGES • THE BATTALION

Senior outside hitter Brandi Mount blocks a lob by UTSA's Stacy Schmidt Tuesday. The Aggies will play Florida State and Stanford this weekend.

A&M to battle Cardinals, Bears this weekend

By JEREMY BROWN
THE BATTALION

Wet weather has wreaked havoc on the No. 10 Texas A&M soccer team so far this season.

Rain last week caused both the season opener against Samford and the showdown with No. 1 North Carolina to be postponed. The Samford game will be played on Oct. 30, but a new date for the North Carolina game has not yet been agreed upon.

Again this week, the rain will cause problems for the Aggies. Unwilling to postpone another game because of field conditions, A&M has moved tonight's battle with No. 8 Stanford to San Marcos. Sunday's game against No. 5

California was still scheduled to be held at the Aggie Soccer Complex as of Thursday.

"It is a huge advantage for our opponents to have the game without the 12th man," said A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri. "They went from facing one of the most electrifying atmospheres to nobody."

Losing the home field advantage is not the only adverse effect of the rain on the Aggies.

"It is having a major effect on our practices," Guerrieri said. "We can't practice on the entire field. It is equivalent to a basketball team practicing on a racquetball court."

With Stanford and California slated for this weekend, the Aggies will need to get as much practice as possible.

The Stanford Cardinals are ranked No. 8 by Soccer Buzz and No. 16 by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA).

In their season opener, the Cardinals fought from two goals down to defeat Florida 3-2 in overtime.

The Cardinals return eight starters from last season's team which finished 14-6-1 and went to its third straight NCAA tournament.

The California Golden Bears present an even tougher test for the Aggies.

Ranked No. 5 by Soccer Buzz and No. 12 by NSCAA, the Golden Bears were picked to finish second in the Pacific 10 Conference behind second-ranked UCLA.

California has a 2-0 record after

winning the Cal Invitational last weekend. In the invitational, the Golden Bears flattened Pacific 4-0 and came from two down to beat Michigan 4-2.

California is led by All-American forward Laura Schott. Schott, who is a junior, led the team in scoring her freshman and sophomore years and already has a goal in both games this season.

The Aggies will try to keep the ball away from Schott and the rest of California's attack by using its own strong set of forwards, led by senior Hermann Award candidate Nicky Thrasher, to attack California's goal.

The Golden Bears return six



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Freshman forward Linsey Johnson dribbles past Tulsa's Keely Flynn during an exhibition game in August. A&M's match tonight against Stanford has been moved to San Marcos.

See SOCCER on page 7.

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