

Hungry Ags take on Tulane

No. 10 A&M looks for needed experience against Green Wave

By JEREMY BROWN
THE BATTALION

When last weekend's games against New Mexico and the Mexican National Team were postponed, it was yet another setback for the No. 10 Texas A&M soccer team.

The team already had postponed its first two games of the season because of rain and

had to move its next two games from College Station to San Marcos.

Games were not the only thing the team was missing. Because of the wet field conditions, practices could not be held on the field, and the team was forced to use areas much smaller than a normal soccer field.

With games looming against No. 3 Portland and No. 9 Washington at the Washington-

Nike Classic in Seattle this weekend, A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri was determined to get his team more experience and its first game at the Aggie Soccer Complex this season.

That opportunity arose when the Tulane Green Wave agreed to travel here for a game at the Aggie Soccer Complex at 5:30 p.m.

As soon as A&M learned that its game with New Mexico would be canceled, it tried to locate a team within a seven hour bus ride so air travel would not be a factor. Teams such as Texas Christian University declined, but by Thursday, Tulane had accepted the offer.

"We are not going to be looking any further ahead than Monday," Guerrieri said. "We played really well last Sunday against Cal. A big part of this game will be trying to build on that momentum."

The Aggies beat No. 12 California 3-1 to claim their first victory of the season and bring their record to 1-1. They opened the season with a 4-2 loss to No. 4 Stanford. Both games were played in San Marcos.

Guerrieri said that the Aggies have mixed feelings about playing their first true home game because of all the schedule changes, but he added that the team needs to get on the field.

"We need to give the freshmen the chance to see what it is like to play in Aggieland," Guerrieri said.

So far, A&M's freshmen have done well without any home

field advantage. Freshman forward Linsey Johnson leads the Aggies in goals and points through two games. She has two goals and an assist for a total of five points.

Freshman midfielder Amanda Burke leads the team in assists with two and, coming off the bench, freshman forward Emma Smith also has scored a goal for the Aggies.

"Against Cal, we started four freshmen," Guerrieri said. "That is remarkable knowing the talent that we had returning from last year."

Tulane also has had scheduling problems this season. Their game versus Northwestern State on Sept. 9 was canceled because of wet weather and the games scheduled for this weekend versus Charleston and South Carolina were canceled. The Green Wave are 0-2 with losses to Mississippi State and Alabama. They were outscored 9-2 in those games.

They are returning eight starters from a team that finished 8-11 last season. They do not have any seniors on the roster and are coached by first-year head coach Betsy Anderson.

Texas A&M was the first team that Tulane ever faced, opening its inaugural season in 1996 with an 8-0 loss to the then No. 8 Aggies, in the only meeting between the two squads.

Anyone who purchased a ticket for the New Mexico game will be able to use that ticket to get into tonight's game.

NCAA, NFL squads made right choice

For a few days last week, it almost was disappointing to be a college football fan.



TRUE BROWN

After the tragedies in New York and Washington, D.C., it looked as though the NCAA would go ahead with last weekend's games, a decision that would have been a terrible mistake.

It was not until Thursday that the NCAA decided all Division I-A games would be postponed, but even then, the NCAA's decision was not made until after the NFL announced it would postpone week two of its season.

For a while, it appeared that the NFL would go ahead and have games Sunday and Monday, but it was not until several players contacted NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and told him they did not feel safe playing that the league decided to call off this weekend's games.

The NFL's reluctance to miss work this season is not all that surprising, considering the league carried on with its schedule in 1963, just two days after President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Then-NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle later said having games that weekend was the

decision he regretted most in his 29 years as commissioner.

The only other time the league did not play was because of labor disputes.

But it is disheartening to know the NCAA waited until the NFL made its move before making the obvious choice of not playing.

It is almost possible to see where the NCAA was coming from in waiting so long to make a decision, as Saturday was set to be one of the most important game days of the season.

The state of Florida alone had three games scheduled with national title implications, as six teams in the top 11 were slated to do battle.

But, looking at where the state of Florida fits into Tuesday's disaster, to have games there would have been in very poor taste.

Fifteen of the 19 suspected hijackers had ties to Florida. And, in Del Ray Beach, just 50 miles from the Rose Bowl where No. 1 Miami and No. 13 Washington were to lock horns, it is believed that seven of the terrorists had homes, living among the people they were planning to kill.

In addition, two of those terrorists were trained to be pilots at Huffman Aviation in Venice, Fla., just a two-and-a-half hour drive down I-75

See POSTPONED on page 7.



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Freshman forward Linsey Johnson and the A&M soccer team will take on Tulane Green Wave Monday night at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

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