

# Sports

THE BATTALION

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## A&M aims for struggling KSU

### Aggies, Wildcats in need of rebound to stay alive

By BRIAN RUFF  
THE BATTALION

Playing on the road in the Big 12 conference is never easy. For the Texas A&M football team, anything will be easier than swallowing their 31-21 loss to the Colorado Buffaloes.

The Aggies will face another tough road matchup Saturday, when they travel to Manhattan, Kan., to take on the Kansas State Wildcats.

"This week is a new week," said A&M football head coach C. Slocum. "We have got another great challenge ahead of us."

The Aggies (5-1, 2-1) come into the game after last Saturday's last minute setback to the Colorado Buffaloes. The Buffs returned a fumble for a touchdown with under a minute left to seal the victory in Boulder.

"You can't control what is in the past, so you might as well put it behind you," said junior quarterback Mark Farris. "But at the same time you have to move on. We have five games left in the regular season, and we are going to take it one week at a time."

Just three weeks ago, the Wildcats (2-3, 0-3) were No. 11 in the country and contending for the Big 12 North title when they went into Norman to take on the Sooners, which was the start to the three-game losing streak.

"Even on paper and on film, they have got a lot of talent," said A&M junior linebacker Brian Gamble. "All it takes is one week of practice for them to get their act together, and then they are dangerous again."

The Wildcats are coming off a 38-19 loss to the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Lubbock. Raider quarterback Kliff Kingsbury lit up the Wildcat secondary for 409 yards and four touchdowns to lead Tech to victory.

Farris, who racked up 334 yards in the Aggies' loss to the Buffaloes, will look to continue his aerial assault against the Wildcats Saturday. Kansas State ranks last in passing defense in the Big 12, giving up an average of 215 yards per game.

The Wildcats came into the season with sophomore Ell Roberson taking the snaps, but due to a sprained ankle, junior Marc Dunn got the start for Kansas State against the Red Raiders.

"He [Roberson] adds another dimension to their running game — being able to run the option," said A&M junior linebacker Brian Gamble. "He really makes their offense tick."

Dunn passed for 197 yards on 16 completions and was also sacked five times by the Raider defensive unit.

Sophomore Jamaar Taylor



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

A&M wide receiver Terrence Murphy escapes the arms of Colorado's Tyler Brayton last Saturday. The Aggies face off with KSU tomorrow.

and freshman Terrence Murphy come into the game leading the Aggie receiving squad with solid performances against Colorado.

Both receivers combined for 298 yards and three touchdowns against Colorado.

Wildcat senior running back Josh Scobey has had success on the ground this season. Scobey

has had three 100-yard rushing performances this season, and has 466 yards in 2001.

On the defensive side of the ball, the Aggies will start junior linebacker Jarrod Penright, who is leading the Big 12 in sacks with nine on the season. Penright,

See REBOUND on page 8.

## Ag soccer faces 'Hawks, Tigers

By JEREMY BROWN  
THE BATTALION

After a disappointing loss to Nebraska, the No. 19 Texas A&M soccer team will go on the road against Kansas and Missouri this weekend fighting to get back into the Big 12 race.

Soccer head coach G. Guerrieri said that A&M's practices this week have been intense and that intensity should carry over into Friday's game against Kansas.

"They are a collective mad, not mad at each other, but mad at the circumstances that let it get away," Guerrieri said.

Despite the Aggie's 9-0 all-time record against the Jayhawks and Tigers, the road will not be easy. Both teams already have nine wins this season and are ahead of A&M (6-3-1, 3-1-1) in the Big 12 standings.

Kansas (9-3, 5-1) is in the midst of its best season ever, setting team records for wins and conference wins.

However, the Jayhawks have never beat a ranked team, and all three of their losses this season have been to ranked teams, including a 2-0 loss to Nebraska.

"Kansas' defense has improved a lot," Guerrieri said. "Their weapons and attack are more fit and are more dangerous."

Senior forwards Hilla Rantala and Natalie Hoogveld are part of the improved attack

that has contributed to the team's turn around.

Hoogveld scored a hat trick against Colorado last week, only the second in school history, and has seven goals this season.

Rantala is tied with Texas' freshman forward Kelly Wilson and Missouri's sophomore forward Adriene Davis as the top point-scorers in the Big 12. Rantala has eight goals and nine assists, totaling 25 points.

A&M's closest point scorer is freshman forward Linsey Johnson who has 19 points with seven goals and five assists.

Missouri's Davis is part of the reason that the Tigers are on pace to improve on last year's 10-10 record. Like Rantala, Davis has eight goals and nine assists.

Missouri (9-4, 4-2), despite two Big 12 losses, are ahead of A&M in the Big 12 race because the rankings are based on a system that assigns points for wins and ties and not on winning percentage.

Megan Duncan, the Tiger's sophomore goalkeeper, was named the Big 12 defensive player of the week last week after earning her fourth shutout of the season against Colorado and holding Texas Tech to one goal. Duncan has 62 saves and a 1.66 goals-against-average.

"They are both really good teams at home," Guerrieri said. "This is a big weekend for us, made more difficult by having

See TIGERS on page 8.

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