

Ags begin tough road with ISU

Injured A&M up against tough ISU running game

By TRUE BROWN
THE BATTALION

After splitting away games against the University of Colorado and Kansas State, the Texas A&M football team is jumping straight from the frying pan into the frier.

Saturday's game against Iowa State will be round one of the Aggies' brutal four game stretch to finish the season.

The Aggies' closing schedule is the toughest in the Big 12, and the remaining teams have a combined 21-5 record.

The Aggies (6-1, 3-1 Big 12) are a team that is battered with injuries on both sides of the ball. At tight end, four players have come and gone, including starter Michael de la Torre. De la Torre was forced to quit football last week after being diagnosed with a herniated disk in his back.

True freshman Thomas Carriger, a converted defensive lineman, has taken over the tight end duties.

The injuries have hampered A&M's abilities to run the ball, and the Aggies have been held to a combined 93 yards in their last two games.

"Coming into this season, we felt two of our better players on offense would be playing at tight end," said A&M football head coach R.C. Slocum. "I can't recall ever having a position like this and we are starting to run

out of options. We have already moved everyone we can."

Fortunately for the Aggies, Iowa State's rushing defense ranks in the bottom-half of the Big 12, allowing 185.2 yards per game.

Unfortunately for A&M, though, the Cyclones (5-1, 3-1) own one of the top offenses in the country. ISU is second only to Nebraska in the Big 12 in total offense, piling up 409.5 yards per game.

Quarterback Seneca Wallace and running back Ennis Haywood are keys to Iowa State's offense. Haywood, the Big 12's leading rusher, was named the conference's offensive player of the week last week after running for 196 yards and three touchdowns against Oklahoma State. Wallace, meanwhile, completed 16-of-19 passes for 150 yards and rushed for 67 yards.

On the season, Wallace earns 62.5 ground yards per game and averages over six yards per carry.

"The presence of Seneca has really helped us," said ISU football head coach Dan McCarney. "He is off to a great start. There is no question he is a threat running and passing the ball, and that helps keep opposing defenses honest."

A dominating rushing performance is exactly what the Cyclones want against A&M as the Aggies have struggled this season against opponents who



GUY ROGERS • THE BATTALION

Sean Weston and Terrence Kiel (48) bring down Saturday. A&M hosts the Iowa State Cyclones tomorrow at Kyle Field. Kickoff is at 1 p.m.

run the ball effectively.

Last week, Kansas State plowed through A&M's defense for 258 rushing yards, while Colorado racked up 170 the week before.

KSU quarterback Eli Roberson gained 77 yards,

mostly on option plays.

"We'll be seeing the same type of quarterback this week," said junior linebacker Jarrod Penright. "We opened up too many holes for Roberson to go through last week, so that is something we really need to stop this week."

The Cyclones' football program is in the midst of a tremendous turnaround under McCarney, who joined ISU in 1994. McCarney was named the Big 12 coach of the year in 2000

See TURNAROUND on page 10.

Aggies head to Norman

By MAYA THOMAS
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M cross country team will compete at the Big 12 Cross Country Championships, Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Jimmie Austin Golf Course in Norman, Okla. The University of Oklahoma will host the meet.

The Aggies compete for the first time since their title-clinching run at the A&M Invitational on Oct. 13. Both the men's and women's teams took first place honors at the Invitational.

At the Big 12 Championships, the A&M women's squad looks to regain ranking in the FinishLynx Women's Cross Country poll after dropping from the No. 18 spot earlier this month.

Neither the women's nor the men's team is ranked nationally, but the women are ranked third and the men fourth regionally.

In 2000 the Aggies made a strong showing at the Big 12 Championships. The women's team finished fourth overall, the best A&M performance at the Big 12.

In 2000, Melissa Gulli finished 13th in the 6,000-meter layout and Andrea

"I expect the guys to be very strong this year."

— Dave Hartman
A&M cross country coach

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Men's tennis team in Fort Worth

The Texas A&M men's tennis team will be competing this weekend in the 2001 Omni Hotels Region VI Championships starting this morning.

The indoor championship is the second of three national championship events of the season and will include a 128-man singles competition and a 64-team doubles field.

The singles finalists and doubles champions will receive automatic berths in the November 8-11 Omni Hotels National Collegiate Indoor Championships.

The A&M women's team has withdrawn from this weekend's Tyler Collegiate Invitational and will resume action Nov. 8-11 at the ITA Rolex National Indoor Championships.

A&M-Tech game to be on PPV

The Texas A&M-Texas Tech football game on Nov. 3, originally not scheduled to be on television, will be shown on a pay-per-view basis.

The game became available for pay-per-view distribution because it was not selected for over-the-air broadcast, syndication or cable coverage.

According to conference rules, games not picked up for regular television can only be broadcast with pay-per-view.

Improved A&M hosts OU, OSU

By JEREMY BROWN
THE BATTALION

Last weekend, the No. 15 Texas A&M soccer team went on the road against two improved Big 12 teams and came away with two impressive wins. This weekend, the Aggies will try to repeat that performance at home against Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

Kansas and Missouri were riding high with nine wins each until A&M cut them down 4-0 and 5-2 respectively. With those wins, A&M (8-3-1, 5-1-1) passed both schools to move into third place in the Big 12.

"We are playing better and better every week," said A&M soccer head coach G. Guerrieri. "You never know when you are peaking until you get there, but we have been creating a lot of positive momentum."

This weekend A&M will again face two teams on the way up. Oklahoma had its first winning season ever last year with a 10-9-1 record. This season, the Sooners already have nine wins and are ranked No. 8 in the Soccer Buzz Central Region standings.

"Oklahoma is an interesting team because they play with a different tactic than the rest of the Big 12," Guerrieri said. "First, they are always looking to counterattack because of their fast forwards, but when they have the ball they slow it down. It takes some real discipline to keep the game at our pace."

Oklahoma's style of play has limited opponents to .63 goals a game and the Sooners (9-4-1, 3-3-1) have had shutouts in three of their last five games.

Freshman goalkeeper Catherine Wade played a big part in those shutouts and was named as the Big 12 defensive player of the week on Oct. 9.

In Oklahoma's loss to Baylor, Wade shutout the Bears for 61 minutes until she went out with an injury. After she left the game, the Bears promptly scored three goals to take the 3-1 win.

Sophomore forward Logan Womack leads the Sooners' "counterattack" with 11 goals.

Oklahoma State has already won seven games this season after only winning four last season. The Cowgirls (7-7-1, 2-4-1) are trying to qualify for their first Big 12 tournament.

"Oklahoma State is very organized defensively and are really good at getting behind the ball," Guerrieri said. "We can't let up our concentration because they have scored off of some really good individual efforts."

A&M is 5-0 all-time against both the Sooners and Cowgirls. With only three games left, A&M will need help to win the

Big 12 regular season title.

No. 10 Texas (9-3, 7-0) has won nine straight games and is the only undefeated team in Big 12 play. If Texas wins both of its games this weekend it will claim the regular season title even if it loses to A&M on Nov. 2.

No. 9 Nebraska can only claim the regular season title if it wins out and Texas loses two games.

A&M's freshman forward Linsey Johnson was named the Big 12 offensive player of the week after scoring four goals against Kansas and Missouri. Against Missouri, she scored the Aggies' first hat trick since 1999.

A&M will face Oklahoma at 7 p.m. tonight and Oklahoma State at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Aggie Soccer Complex.



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Senior forward Nicky Thrasher charges past a Nebraska defender Oct. 14. The Aggies will host Oklahoma and Oklahoma State this weekend.

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