

A&M cruises past OU, OSU

By JEREMY BROWN
THE BATTALION

The ESPN "Sidelines" crew videotaped senior forward Nicky Thrasher during the No. 15 Texas A&M soccer team's game with Oklahoma State. She gave them something worth watching. In her final regular season game at the Aggie Soccer Complex, Thrasher scored three goals in the first 10 minutes to lead the Aggies to a 5-1 victory over the Cowgirls.

She scored her first goal 11 seconds into the game. Oklahoma State attempted to pass the ball backward, but Thrasher stole the ball and kicked it in from 10-yards out. "It caught me off guard," Thrasher said. "It's fun to get those goals and when you do that your team gets pumped up."

Her second goal came eight minutes later as she took a pass from junior midfielder Andrea Starns, dribbled past a defender and fired a shot to the far corner of the goal.

Thrasher completed her hat trick 1:44 later against Cowgirl goalkeeper Kat Doud. Doud came up to play the ball in the right corner of the goal area but Thrasher beat her to the ball, dribbled it past her and made the shot before Doud recovered. Thrasher's hat trick was her first since 1999 when she scored

three goals against Kansas, bringing her season total for this season up 12.

Oklahoma State was able to get on the board two minutes after Thrasher's third goal. Cowgirl forward Joanne Edwards put in a cross by forward Jolene Schweitzer. A&M senior goalkeeper Angela Barker was there to stop Schweitzer's cross but Edwards was in position to put the ball past Barker at point-blank range.

Barker, in her second start of the season, was largely untested as the Cowgirls managed only three shots.

The Aggies added two goals in the second half to put the game away and soccer head coach G. Guerrieri was able to play every senior in their last regular season home game.

"It's really neat for Nicky to wrap up the home portion of her career with a performance like that," Guerrieri said. "Really, I was pleased for all the seniors today. They really had a good all-around performance today."

Two minutes into the second half, Starns headed in a kick by sophomore midfielder Kristen Strutz to put the Aggies up 4-1.

Freshman forward Linsey Johnson ended the scoring and moved within one goal of tying Jamie Cszmadia's freshman record of 13 goals by putting in a cross from senior defender Jodie Mitchell with less than



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Senior forward Nicky Thrasher leaps past fallen OSU goaltender Kat Doud before scoring her third goal Sunday. The Aggies won, 5-1.

twenty minutes left in the game. Thrasher also scored a goal in the Aggie's 2-0 victory over Oklahoma University on Friday.

The Sooners slowed down the Aggie's attack but were unable to mount a consistent attack of their own. A&M held the Sooners to seven shots and

forced A&M sophomore goalkeeper Esther Thompson to make only two saves.

Junior defender Jessica Martin added the Aggie's other goal against the Sooners by heading in a corner kick from freshman defender Shannon Labhart.

taining him. He's a great passer, which you saw today. He completed a lot of passes and really made their offense tick."

Farmer's run would increase the lead to 24-14 and the Aggies closed out the game against the Cyclones in front of 85,661 fans at Kyle Field. "A&M made a few more plays than we did," said Iowa State head coach Dan McCarney. "I enjoyed coaching in A&M's environment."

"A&M's defense has been real good against the running game, and that's traditional Wrecking Crew. We knew we could pass on them and had some success with that, but their defensive line is as good as you'll see anywhere else in the country."

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum was pleased with the win and pointed out the importance of the two-blocked field goals and the play of Scates in the Aggies win.

"Special teams always play a key role in a football game," Slocum said. "If we don't make our field goal and they do make theirs, then we'd have had a whole different ballgame. We played a tough opponent."

SURVIVE

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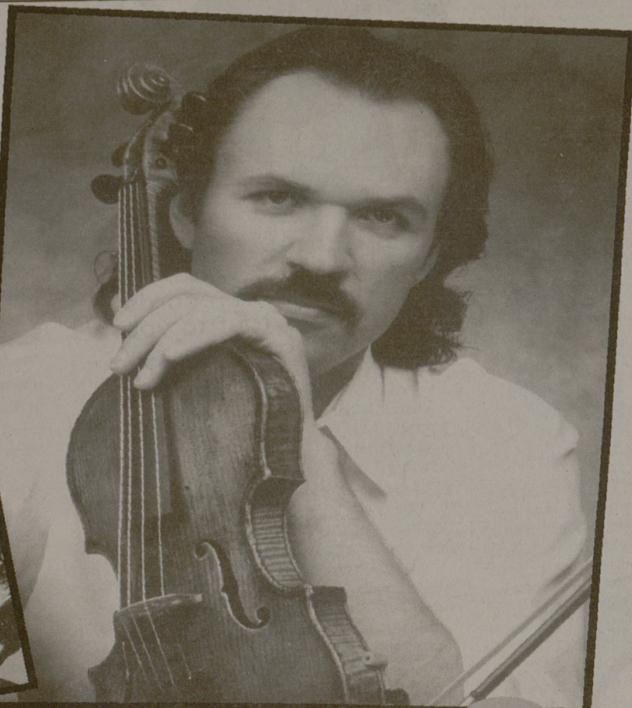
The Cyclones cut the lead on a 20-yard touchdown pass by Wallace to wide receiver Craig Campbell on a fourth-down play with four yards to go.

Behind Wallace and running back Ennis Haywood, the Cyclones converted all three fourth-down plays they attempted for the game.

Wallace passed for a season-high 348 yards on the day against the Aggie defense, but was held to only 15 yards rushing, which was a goal for the Aggie defense this week. Wallace had averaged 62.5 yards per game coming into Saturday's game.

"That guy is a big time player," said A&M junior inside linebacker Brian Gamble. "We knew we were gonna have a hard time bringing him down, but, for the most part, we did a good job con-

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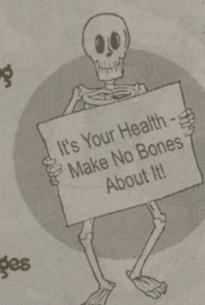
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