

Sports

Friday, November 16, 2001

THE BATTALION

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A&M-SWT open NCAA

By JEREMY BROWN
THE BATTALION

There will be an all-Texas field this weekend at the Aggie Soccer Complex as the No. 8 Texas A&M Aggies host the first and second rounds of the NCAA 2001 Division I Women's Soccer Championship.

No. 11 University of Texas (14-5), Southern Methodist University (15-3) and Southwest Texas State University (14-6) will travel to College Station this Friday, each representing the top of its conference as the regular season or tournament champion.

"We figured that with the NCAA putting back on a lot of the costs and other issues that they had going on that they would bring the closest teams to whoever won the Big 12 tournament, which luckily was us," said A&M soccer head coach G. Guerrieri.

The Aggies will ride the momentum of an eight-game winning streak and a Big 12 Conference tournament championship into tonight's 7:30 game against the Southland

Conference Champion SWT Bobcats.

The SWT soccer program is in its third year of existence and is making its first appearance in the NCAA tournament. With the NCAA bracket expanded to include 64 teams, the Southland Conference champion received an automatic bid for the first time this year.

For SWT head coach Kat Conner, tonight's game is a homecoming. Conner was an assistant coach at A&M until 1999 when she left for SWT.

"It will be interesting facing her because she knows all of us as players," said senior forward Nicky Thrasher.

Conner left A&M to help SWT build its program, and, while the program is still in its youth, she has led the Bobcats to two Southland Conference championships.

A&M and SWT have never faced each other.

In tonight's other match-up, UT will face SMU at 5 p.m.

The SMU Mustangs won the Western Athletic Conference by sweeping its regular season conference matches and the WAC tourna-

ment. SMU is ranked in the latest Soccer Buzz poll at No. 21 but did not have enough votes to crack the National Soccer Coaches Association of America poll.

SMU has never lost to the Longhorns but UT is in the midst of its best season ever.

UT won its first Big 12 regular season title with a conference record of 9-1 and set a team record for wins in a season with 14. The Longhorns are in the NCAA tournament for the first time, while SMU is making its seventh appearance.

The winners of tonight's games will face each other at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

If A&M and Texas win tonight, they will meet for the third time this season. A&M took the previous two contests 6-0 in Austin and 1-0 in the Big 12 tournament championship in San Antonio.

The winner of this weekend's regional in College Station likely will travel to face the No. 5 seeded Stanford Cardinal next weekend in Palo Alto, Calif. This weekend, Stanford (13-3-2) hosts Denver (16-2-2), California-Berkeley (12-6-2) and



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION
A&M senior midfielder Amber Childers battles Tulane defender Jacque Gruber during A&M's 4-1 win on Oct. 17. A&M hosts Southwest Texas State University tonight in the NCAA tournament.

Swimming continues season in Indiana

By MARK MERRELL
THE BATTALION

This weekend will mark a busy few days of traveling for the Texas A&M men's and women's swimming and diving teams. On Friday, the No. 14 men's squad goes to Indiana to participate in the two-day Indiana Invitational while the women pack their bags for Dallas for a match-up with Southern Methodist University. The women's weekend continues on Saturday as they travel to Fayetteville, Ark., to battle with the Arkansas Razorbacks.

The Aggie men take their undefeated record in Indiana after being off since the Reveille Invitational two weeks ago, where they defeated SMU by more than 150 points. At this weekend's invitational, the Aggies will face Indiana University, the University of Evansville and the Cincinnati Bearcats.

A&M's toughest opponent should come from the hometown Hoosiers, who defeated Evansville earlier this year in a dual meet and hold a 51-4 career mark over the Bearcats. Aggie Patrick Kennedy, who has yet to be defeated in the

100-meter backstroke, will try to continue his perfect 2001 record.

On the women's side, last weekend's two dual meets produced drastically different outcomes. On Friday, the women were defeated 180-120 by No. 4 University of Texas-Austin. The Aggies bounced back with a dominating 173-113 victory over the University of North Texas on Saturday, when the Green Mean won only one of 16 events.

This weekend the Aggies face two quality opponents in No. 11 SMU and the University of Arkansas. Friday's match up with the Mustangs will give the young Aggies another chance to race against some of the best swim-

mers in the nation and prepare for important meets later in the season.

"If (the girls) are going to do something on the national level, they need to be able to step up against tough opponents," said A&M women's coach Steve Bultman. "SMU has some really strong swimmers, so we'll have our work cut out for us."

The work will not end as Aggie women depart Dallas for Arkansas and a match up with the 2-1 Razorbacks.

"Arkansas is going to be a really good, competitive meet," Bultman said. "We're going to have to be ready to swim fast if we're going to win that meet."



STUART VILLANUEVA • THE BATTALION
Swimmer Emily Semrau competes in the 200-meter freestyle last Saturday against North Texas.

GRAND OPENING WEEKEND

THURSDAY
"LIVE" COMEDY NITE
2 Comedy Shows
3 Comedians
8:30 and 11:00
presented by
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TEXAS A&M
Improvisational Comedy Troupe
FREUDIAN SLIP

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from Austins hottest piano bar
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MIKE HOSCH
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SATURDAY
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"Unplugged Acoustic"
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