

# Soccer team prepares for road trip

By Troy Miller  
THE BATTALION

The No. 6 Texas A&M women's soccer (7-3, 1-0) team takes off to Boulder, Colo. to face what A&M head coach G. Guerrieri believes could be its most grueling road trip of the season.

This trip does not include No. 1 Stanford or No. 2 North Carolina like on previous trips this season, but unranked Big 12 conference rival University of Colorado (4-4-1, 1-0-1) and No. 16 University of Nebraska (5-2-3, 1-0-1).

"Physically, this will be our most demanding weekend so far," Guerrieri said. "Even though with only one nationally ranked team we think that this will have all the same physical demands that we saw against Stanford and Cal last month."

After scoring only seven goals in their first five games of the season, with four of those coming in the first game against Rice University, the Aggies have gone on a tear. In the last five games, the Aggies have scored 19 goals in five straight victories.

Senior Heather Ragsdale and sophomore Linsey Woodard have sparked the increase in offense by scoring 11 of the 26 goals the Aggies have scored this season.

Sophomore Emma Smith has been a force in the offensive zone, scoring the game-winning goal against No. 15 Washington in the Aggies' last match.

"We had a great weekend this past weekend," Smith said. "I think the weekend with Stanford and Cal-Berkeley and then North Carolina really taught us a lot and showed us what we needed to improve on and we stepped up."

Friday night's game in Boulder, Colo. will be a test of adversity for the Aggies. Last year, Colorado climbed out of a 2-0 half time deficit to tie the game 2-2 with the Aggies.

"Colorado we tied last year," said senior defender Jessica Martin. "That gives us some major motivation to beat them this year."

Colorado is coming off a 3-11-2 record in the 2001 season. The Buffaloes only



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION  
Senior midfielder Heather Ragsdale runs past a Washington defender in the Aggies' game against the Huskies on Sunday. The Aggies won the game 2-1 with four seconds left in overtime.

managed to score 17 goals last year while giving up 33. In their first nine games of the 2002 season, the Buffaloes have already matched their 17-goal output of last season and are looking for more.

"They're (Colorado) young and they believe in themselves," Guerrieri said. "Last year they gave us a lot of trouble."

On Saturday, the Aggie soccer team will travel 550 miles from Boulder to Omaha, Neb. for a 1 p.m. kickoff Sunday against the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

The No. 16 Cornhuskers have given fits to the Aggies in the past with their physical style of play. Last season, the Aggies finally knocked off Nebraska 3-2 in the Big 12 Tournament semifinals.

"We go in there knowing that they are a very aggressive team," Martin said. "We have to make sure we play the ball quickly

so we don't get tackled or pushed around.

"We just have to be more aggressive when we go in there and play Sunday."

Nebraska is led by senior Christine Latham who has scored seven goals in her first 10 games of the season. Latham is also the Nebraska career point leader with 147, and tied for most career goals with 53.

The Cornhuskers are coming off a 4-0 win over Missouri and a 1-1 tie with Kansas.

"They're going to come out wanting to kill," Smith said. "They're going to come out ready to battle and we got to be ready to go out there and do the same, but still play our game."

The Aggies take on Colorado in Boulder at 4 p.m. Friday, then head to Omaha to play Nebraska Sunday afternoon at 1 p.m.

## Cowboys and Giants to face off, Smith still seeks record

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Forget actually carrying the football onto those wide, 10-yard patches of turf with the yellow poles looming over them. For the Dallas Cowboys and New York Giants, just getting close to the end zone is an accomplishment.

The Dallas offense has scored just four touchdowns in four games this season. Sound bad? Not to the Giants, who have only three. Woeful Cincinnati is the only team that's done worse.

So when the Cowboys and Giants play Sunday, the winner could be the team that gets to the 10-yard line first.

"They're a lot like us: They have tremendous talent, but a lot of time they make mistakes and shoot themselves in the foot," Dallas linebacker Kevin Hardy said. "When they all get on the same page, you'll see how explosive they can be."

Maybe. But if either team breaks out Sunday, it would certainly be a surprise considering both will be going against good defenses.

Thanks mostly to their defenses, the Cowboys and Giants are 2-2 and tied for second place in the NFC East. Both have beaten winless St. Louis; their other victories have been against 1-3 teams.

The Giants have more first downs and more yards, which translates into holding the ball longer. That in turn keeps their defense on the sideline more,

making them more effective.

"They've kept us fresh for three games," defensive end Michael Strahan said. "We can't be upset as long as they're putting in the effort."

New York's trouble is finishing drives. They've had to settle for nine field goals, with only one longer than 34 yards. That means eight drives have stalled inside the 20-yard line.

"That's what's dangerous about them," Cowboys coach Dave Campo said. "Once you get into that range, you can put points on the board."

Dallas has yet to take a snap within 13 yards of the goal line.

The Cowboys have only broken the 20 five times, kicking three field goals and throwing two 17-yard touchdown passes. Their other two TDs came from long range: a 46-yard run by Michael Wiley and a 38-yard pass to Joey Galloway.

The problem for both teams starts with the offensive line.

Dallas' has been hurt, ruining the development of a new scheme and slowing Emmitt Smith's chase of the NFL career rushing record.

"It's just a matter of time until the running game finds its niche," said Smith, who is 304 yards from passing Walter Payton's mark. "Do I have room for improvement? Yes. Everyone on the offense does."

The game also features the debut of new turf at Texas Stadium. It's the same type of surface Dallas used during training camp in San Antonio.

Prior to kickoff, the Cowboys will have a video tribute and a moment of silence in memory of former star Bob Hayes, who died Sept. 19.



SMITH

## Nebraska

Continued from page 7

Sept. 2. Nebraska has been flawless since, sweeping nine of its last 10 matches. The lone match that wasn't a sweep was a 3-1 decision.

"They bring a lot of experience," Corbelli said. "They have three All-Americans — an outside, a middle and a right side — so every rotation you're haunted by it. They're very talented and very physical. They have some of the best players in the nation."

The Huskers were the last team to beat A&M at G. Rollie, something the Aggies would like to avenge.

A strong home court advantage would go a long way in helping the Aggies do that. It will also likely be A&M's best chance to knock off the Huskers, as the next match will be in Lincoln, Neb., on Oct. 26 where the Huskers regularly average more than 4,000 fans.

"Playing them at home first should give us a lot more confidence going into this match," said junior middle blocker Tara Pulaski. "We already believe that we can beat them. We're setting ourselves up to win right now. We'll have the home court, we'll have the fan base. We're ready."

The Aggies have won their last two matches, something that was badly needed after losing two of their first three conference matches. A&M is hoping the recent wins translate into momentum and confidence heading for the Nebraska match.

"They are beatable," Beers said. "No team does everything perfect. We're going to have to come in with confidence, and if we play our top game that we can do it. We're going to go into this game confident."

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