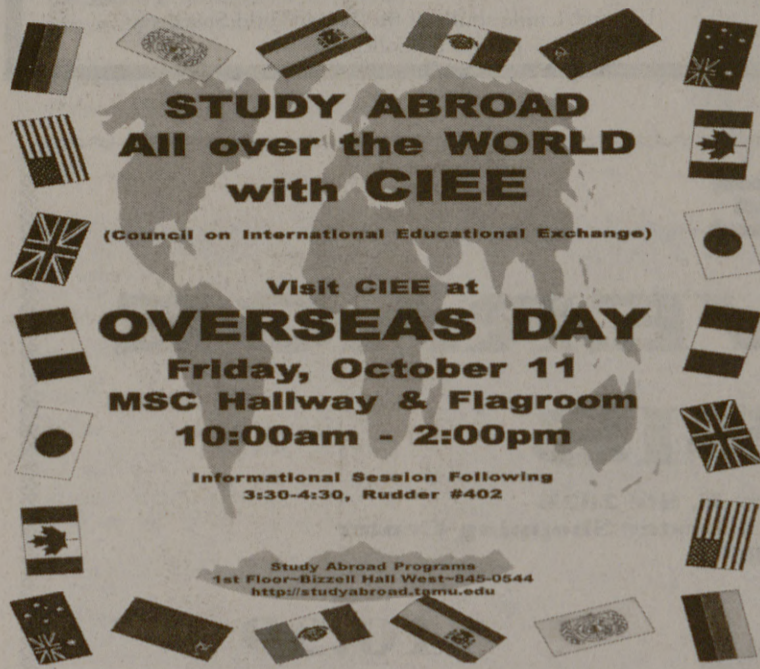


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Ags square off against Baylor & Tech

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

The No. 6 Texas A&M women's soccer team (9-3, 3-0) will head to Baylor University (7-5, 1-3) Friday night with a seven-game win streak to uphold. Baylor may not look like a very strong opponent on paper compared to the Aggies, but Waco has been a less than friendly environment for A&M over the past few seasons.

"We're trying to stay positive and take it game by game," said junior midfielder Kristen Strutz. "We haven't won at Baylor I don't think in the past three years at their complex."

Baylor leads the all-time series 4-3, and has won four of the last five contests with the Aggies. A&M has not won in Waco in three tries, the last try in the 2000 season.

"Now we go into a place that we've had some bad luck," said A&M head coach G. Guerrieri. "It really has been more of an issue where Baylor has wanted to beat us more than I think we wanted to beat them. Now we've got to continue this winning streak and road success and do it (in Waco)."

The Aggies succeeded on the road this weekend by beating

Colorado, 2-0 and No. 16 Nebraska, 3-2. The win over Nebraska exorcised one demon as it marked the first time an Aggie team has ever beaten Nebraska in Lincoln.

Sophomore Linsey Woodard scored the game-winning goal in the 67th minute to top Nebraska. It was Woodard's team-leading 10th goal of the season.

"We played so well," said senior defender Jessica Martin. "We had to come back a couple of times (against Nebraska). That's kind of a relief to get that weekend over with and now we can focus on the rest of the conference and take it game by game."

Baylor is coming off a hard-fought 4-3 loss to the University of Missouri. The Bears have lost five of their last seven after starting the season 5-0.

They are led by sophomore Kristin Ruef who has scored six goals on the season and redshirt freshman Tiffany Boshers who has scored four goals. Senior Tamara Crawley anchors a defense that has given up 20 goals this season. The Bears have outshot opponents 201-103.

"Physically they're very good at getting teams away from the things that (teams) like to do," Guerrieri said. "Our big issue is



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M forward Heather Ragsdale dribbles past her defender as she moves towards the goal against the University of Washington.

not letting them take us away from our strengths and getting our forwards good looks at goal. I think we can play better defensively than we played against Nebraska."

The Aggies return Sunday to College Station to take on the Texas Tech Red Raiders (2-10, 0-

4). Texas Tech currently owns a nine-game losing streak, the last come-from-behind 2-1 defeat to Kansas.

"We have such a good team now," Martin said. "I think we're on the right track especially with the confidence after (Colorado and Nebraska)."

Cross country newcomers see their first action

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

The futures of the Texas A&M men's and women's cross country teams will be on display Saturday at the Texas A&M Invitational. This year's lone home meet will feature young, unfamiliar faces for the Aggies.

"We are probably going to run the 'B' squad this weekend," said cross country head coach Dave Hartman. "This will give them a great opportunity to step it up, and some of the young athletes will have a chance to shine before the hometown crowd."

The Aggies are taking no chances with their top runners by not running them this weekend as one of the most important races

of the year is looming next Saturday.

"Typically we always run the 'A' squad, but this year, the way things broke down, it was crucial that we go to the Pre-Nationals with a good performance. They (the NCAA) base a lot of the criteria for the (national) selection, if we don't qualify automatically, for the NCAA on the pre-meet. It's important we go up there and do well if we're going to qualify on an at large basis," Hartman said.

For the Aggies to qualify for nationals automatically they would have to finish second in the regional meet later this year.


That does not, however, mean that this weekend's meet will be overlooked by the Aggies. Many of the runners competing will soon be lining up with the 'A' squad and run-

ning against some of the best in the nation.

"These guys are getting a great opportunity to race and get that competition in, so that in the future they can develop in the 'A' squad ... almost all the guys we took to Maine red-shirted and were running on the 'B' squad a couple years ago," Hartman said.

"The meet poses an opportunity for some runners to compete against a level of competition that normally they would not get at this point in their careers," he said.

"I'm very excited," said redshirt freshman Michelle Fuchs. "I'm looking forward to running something longer (than the usual 5 kilometer), the competition will push us and show us what we really have. It will show our potential."



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