

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 1B • Thursday, November 7, 2002

Soccer team begins run in Big 12 Tournament

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

The No. 3 Texas A&M women's soccer team (15-3-1, 9-0-1) is looking to defend its 2001 Tournament title and its 2002 regular season championship this week in San Antonio at the Big 12 Championship Tournament. The last time the Aggies won a regular season title was in 1997, when they went on to win their first-ever tournament crown. The 2002 season has been full of ups and downs. The Aggies have a 14-game unbeaten streak, which is a team record for consecutive games without a loss. The streak started after dropping three matches in a row, which is the team record for most consecutive losses. With the Aggies 2-1 win against No. 5 Texas Friday, giving them the regular season title, the Aggies secured the first end of the Big 12 Championship double-dip. Now that the first goal has been met, the Aggies are moving on to the next step in their quest. "We're reassessing our goals for the rest of the way," said head coach G. Guerrieri. "We consider (the Big 12 Tournament) to be a season unto itself." The Aggies enter the tournament as

the number one seed by virtue of their first place finish in the regular season. They begin by facing off against the eighth-seeded Oklahoma State Cowgirls who are making their program's first Big 12 Tournament appearance. The Cowgirls are coming off a 3-2 win against archrival Oklahoma. OSU sophomore Jeni Jackson scored a hat trick, or three goals, in the last six minutes to overcome a 2-0 deficit and give the Cowgirls their first Big 12 Tournament birth. "OSU is going to be a hungry team," said Big 12 Offensive Player of the Week Emma Smith. "It's going to be a good game for us to go in and play first. It'll be a good hard game." Smith has picked up her game as she has scored six goals in the last six games and is on a current six-game point streak. Coupled with sophomore Linsey Woodard, whose 13 goals lead the Big 12, the Aggie offense is running on all cylinders. "Our midfielders have been unbelievable at getting behind people and sending in crosses," Smith said. Freshman Kati Jo Spisak, the Big 12 Newcomer of the Week and First-Team All-Big 12 selection, has continued to

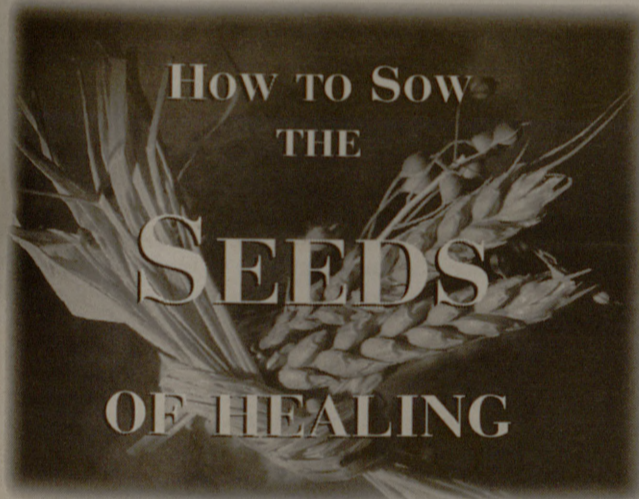
improve her aggressiveness in the net. Spisak made six saves against Texas, including a save on a penalty shot. The rest of the defense, anchored by First-Team All-Big 12 selection Jessica Martin, has forced opponents away from their strategies. "All over the field everybody, throughout the season, has stepped up," said senior midfielder Heather Ragsdale. "As a team we have started to play a lot better overall." The competition in the Big 12 Tournament should be fierce. Texas, the No. 2 seed, did not lose a game until it faced the Aggies. No. 3 Nebraska won the Big 12 Tournament in 1996, 1998, 1999, and 2000 and No. 4 Missouri has netted 13.9 percent of its shots. "We should be nothing but confident," Guerrieri said. "The players should have experienced the satisfaction of what hard work brings, and they've worked hard." The Aggies begin play at 11 a.m. on Thursday against Oklahoma State at Blossom Field in San Antonio. The winner of that game will take on the winner of Missouri vs. Colorado in Friday's semifinal.



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A&M sophomore Linsey Woodard battles for the ball against Texas last week.

Texas baseball team given probation for coach's violations

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HOW TO HELP OTHERS

DO

- Do listen patiently. They are trying to sort out their feelings. Verbalizing them with someone who will listen helps. Expect and allow them to repeat themselves and to bring the subject up again later. Listen for clues to their deeper feelings to which you can respond later.
- Do reassure them that we all make mistakes, and all religions teach that our mistakes/sins can be forgiven. God wants to forgive us. All we have to do is to admit that we need and desire it.
- Do reassure them that their feelings are normal. Others have experienced the same thing and found healing. Build up a sense of hope that they can be healed and reconciled with God and their child in heaven.
- Do allow them to vent their anger toward others. Remind them that it is a sign of an even deeper hurt that lies beneath the anger. Encourage them to get in touch with both the anger and the hurt, which they need to do before they can "let go" of their anger and approach forgiveness. Encourage them to see that the people they blame were also confused, scared, or just looking for the fastest way out of a hard situation.
- Do allow them to regret their choice. Remind them that we all learn from our mistakes. Women and men who have found healing after an abortion often become more humble, compassionate, and sensitive. Even a negative experience can be used to help others.
- Do encourage them to entrust their child completely to the care of God. Reassure them that, on a spiritual level, their loss is only temporary. Someday they can be with their child in heaven, and they will be able to ask for, and receive, their child's forgiveness.
- Do give them a copy of this publication, an 800 number to a post-abortion hotline, or some other referral information. If you don't have it on hand, promise to get it to them within the week. Then keep your promise.
- Do show that you care by keeping in touch and continuing to be a sounding board for them. Make at least one follow up call to see how they are doing.

DON'T

- Don't shut them off by changing the subject.
- Don't condemn them for making a bad or immoral choice.
- Don't deny that they lost a child.
- Don't encourage them to blame others for the abortion. But don't push them to forgive others either, especially when they are in the initial stages of venting their anger and rage.
- Don't insist that they did the "right thing" or the "best thing" at the time.
- Don't suggest that having another child "someday" can make up for the one that was lost. Future children are a blessing and comfort, but they can never replace the child who was lost.
- Don't leave them without encouraging them, over and over again, to find and accept the help of post-abortion counselors or peer support groups.
- Don't be afraid to follow up.

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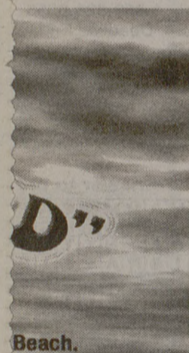


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