

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.

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Like Theresa, thousands of women and men are now sharing the joy, healing, and personal growth they have experienced with others. They are reaching out to help those women and men who continue to struggle with negative feelings about past abortions.

In these pages you will meet other people like Theresa who can teach you how to help your loved ones—even those who haven't told you about their abortions. If you will only take the time to understand just a few basic points,

you will be far better prepared to offer them effective compassion and support.

If you have had an abortion yourself, this publication will help you find the people and resources that can help you overcome any feelings of sadness, anger, guilt, or resentment that may be holding you back from complete healing. They can help you find the hope and joy that you want and deserve.

This publication is for anyone who has ever been directly or indirectly affected by abortion—and that includes nearly all of us. When you read these pages with an open heart and mind, you will learn the secrets of hope and healing that can directly benefit you or your loved ones.

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THE FACTS:

- ✓ Over 50 million women and men in the U.S. have lost a child to abortion.
- ✓ More than half report negative feelings.
- ✓ Most people are uncomfortable talking about abortion.

THE RESULT:

- ✓ Millions suffer in silence from unresolved grief, aching hearts, anger, and fear.
- ✓ As many as one of every five people you know are afraid to tell you about their secret pain.

THE SOLUTION:

- ✓ Take time to learn about post-abortion healing.
- ✓ Learn to listen with compassion.
- ✓ Begin by reading this publication, *Hope and Healing*.

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