

Ags drown Mustangs

A&M tops SMU in rain, stays unbeaten

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

Tropical Depression Grace poured down at the Aggie Soccer Complex Sunday night just as the Aggies doused the hopes of visiting Southern Methodist University 3-1.

SMU's annual visit has turned into a cross-state rivalry in the past few years. After three consecutive overtime games between the teams — two of which were in the NCAA Tournament second round — the No. 6 Aggies (2-0) were excited about putting away the Mustangs in regular time.

"We always try to play the toughest opponents we can early in the year," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "Tonight we were able to see what Top 25 competition is going to be like."

No. 22 SMU (1-1) could not get much going offensively in the downpour. Much of the half was played in the midfield or in the Mustang zone as the Aggie defensive line held firm.

"SMU is always a physical team," said sophomore midfielder Carrie Berend. "By beating them, and not having to go to overtime, it will do a lot for us because we stepped up as a team."

Guerrieri brought Berend off the bench in the 19th minute

and Berend paid immediate dividends.

Within seconds Berend shot inches wide of the upper corner, but struck 20 minutes later when junior Emma Smith dropped a pass to Berend. Berend struck a bending shot from 25 yards out that found the upper left corner of the goal to put the Aggies up 1-0.

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— G. Guerrieri
A&M soccer coach

"I was trying to cross it," Berend said. "I crossed it, and it was a goal."

One minute later, as the rain lightened, the Aggies found themselves in the offensive zone again when freshman midfielder Madison Klovstad crossed the ball into the penalty box looking for Smith. Smith beat SMU goalkeeper Amanda Clark to the ball and deflected Klovstad's pass past Clark to give the Aggies a 2-0 lead.

Chances ceased for both teams until the last 15 minutes of the match when the Aggies

had numerous chances to widen the lead. But it was the Mustangs who struck first in the waning minutes.

"We were upset about not getting the shutout," Smith said. "There were two-and-a-half minutes left in the game, and we should've held them for that long." In the 87th minute, SMU sophomore Morgan Field deflected a cross into the net as Aggie sophomore goalkeeper Kati Jo Spisak was trying to play the cross.

"You could tell (the goal) really irritated our players," Guerrieri said. "We talked at halftime that we wanted to get the shutout, which we came two minutes from doing."

With the score at 2-1, new life breathed into the Mustangs as they pressed the Aggie defense in the final three minutes. After a save in the 89th minute, Spisak punted the ball over the SMU defense to Smith who was streaking towards the SMU net. Smith put the ball home with four seconds on the clock to deflate SMU's comeback hopes.

"It's a game at the beginning of the season," Smith said. "You look for a lot of those games to show different runs that we can make or different combinations we would like to do. That's what all of these (pre-conference) games are for."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Defense leads way as OU routs UNT

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Oklahoma's defense was every bit as good as promised.

Oklahoma's defense limited North Texas to just 154 yards of offense and Jason White threw three touchdown passes as the Sooners rolled to a season-opening 37-3 victory Saturday night.

The Sooners limited North Texas to 50 yards through three quarters before the Mean Green's only scoring drive, which began against the second-stringers. Midway through the second quarter, North Texas had more penalty yards (29) than offensive yards (18) and didn't cross midfield until just before halftime.

The two-time defending Sun Belt champions' frustration showed early after quarterback Scott Hall narrowly avoided a sack in the end zone by lofting the ball to unsuspecting right guard Nick Zuniga.

North Texas wasn't totally overwhelmed, however, limit-

ing the Sooners to just 108 yards rushing.

Texas dominates New Mexico State

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Selvin Young returned two kicks for touchdowns and Derrick Johnson and Michael Huff returned interceptions for

two more Sunday night as No. 5 Texas overwhelmed New Mexico State 66-7 in the opener for both teams.

Chance Mock passed for two touchdowns in his first career start. Both went to Roy Williams.

Mock's backup, Vince Young, got into the act too, adding a pair of rushing touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

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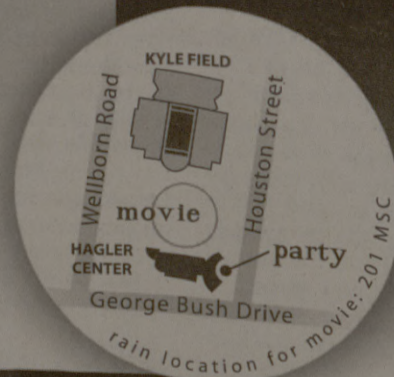
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