

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Wednesday, September 17, 2003

Ags face tough test in Lincoln

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

Georgia Tech pulled off a minor miracle last week. The Yellow Jackets went into Nebraska Coliseum on the University of Nebraska campus and won a volleyball match.

The Cornhuskers have been virtually unbeatable at home over the past three decades, accumulating hundreds of wins against single digit losses, at one point winning 101 straight games on their native hardwood.

A&M plays at Nebraska tonight at 7 p.m.

"There's no secret to it," said Nebraska coach John Cook. "It's hard work, and recruiting great athletes who believe in the system."

There may not be a secret to the success of the No. 8 Huskers (8-1) on their home court, but their string of winning seasons is nonetheless impressive. The team has not lost more than one game in an entire season at the 4,000-seat arena since 1989.

Today the Aggies (7-2) will be trying to duplicate Georgia Tech's feat except, for the Aggies, the odds get a little bit stiffer. Nebraska has dominated the Big 12 since its inception in 1996, and the Huskers' all-time home conference record, including Big 8 and Big 12 play, is staggering: a nearly unimaginable 171-2.

The match stands as the conference opener for both clubs, which is motivation enough for each school. The Aggies are looking to accomplish the feat for the first time. The highest

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Aggies, Fran gearing up for Va. Tech

Replacing Morris a tall order for A&M

By Michael A. Lutz
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scott Stickane is adjusting to his new nickname of "Meathead" and at the same time absorbing the plays he'll call as Texas A&M's middle linebacker Thursday night against No. 8 Virginia Tech.

Stickane stepped in when senior Jared Morris was lost for the season with a knee injury suffered during the Sept. 6 game against Utah. The pressure has been on for Stickane during an off-week to get ready for the run-oriented Hokies.

Defensive coordinator Carl Torbush said Tuesday that Stickane, who made the team as a walk-on four seasons ago, will make his first collegiate start against the Hokies, who rank No. 16 nationally in rushing.

"Coach Torbush is pressuring us to get it done..."

— Scott Stickane
A&M middle linebacker

Outside linebacker Archie McDaniel has been moved inside and will share the middle linebacker spot with Stickane. True freshman Ta Ta Thompson could possibly get some playing time.

Stickane said he knows there's going to be pressure on him to perform as well as Morris.

"Coach Torbush is pressuring us to get it done, and I understand that he's doing it because we all want to win," Stickane said.

"He's got a couple of words that he likes to throw out like 'Meathead,'" he said. "Meathead's our favorite, it's the most common. That's basically for everyone, kind of a word he falls back on."

By any name, the Aggies know they will face their toughest challenge after season opening victories over Arkansas State and Utah. The Hokies rank

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JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Coach Dennis Franchione and the Texas A&M football team play Virginia Tech at 6:30 p.m. Thursday. The game is on ESPN.

Hokies need to be wary of Hurricane Fran

As Virginia Tech and Texas A&M officials watch the events of Hurricane Isabel in the Atlantic Ocean, the Hokies and Aggies are still preparing for their nationally televised football game Thursday night in Blacksburg, Va.



TROY MILLER

With landfall predicted for either late Thursday night or early Friday morning, the two teams are hoping for the latter. In A&M's case, a Friday morning landfall would allow a second coming of sorts.

The last major hurricane to hit Virginia, Hurricane Fran, was in 1996. A&M coach Dennis Franchione is hoping his team can

bring another pounding to the Virginia landscape in the form of raining touchdowns and thundering hits.

For those who think the Aggies are fighting a hopeless battle, think again. Even though A&M has looked suspect in its first two outings, this team is steadily improving and 12 days of practice and rest can only help its

cause. Franchione is the intangible in this game. At Alabama in 2002, Franchione led a large underdog into Norman, Okla., and almost pulled off the upset, losing 37-27 to the No. 1 Sooners.

Franchione is a master of moti-

vation, and his gameday genius has yet to be seen in the maroon and white but, against Virginia Tech, the Aggies have nothing to lose. And that could be the downfall of the Hokies.

Motivation No. 1: a dismal performance by the Aggie offense one year ago when Virginia Tech stole a victory at Kyle Field, 13-3.

"We only made 156 yards, you think I'd use that?" Franchione said. "You betcha I will. Looking at Virginia Tech I admire their defense, but offensively they've been reminded that they didn't play very well."

Motivation No. 2: the Aggie defense was abused by the Utah

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KATE BECKINSALE SCOTT SPEEDMAN

UNDERWORLD

SCREEN GEMS AND LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A LAKESHORE ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION KATE BECKINSALE SCOTT SPEEDMAN "UNDERWORLD" MICHAEL SHEEN SHANE BROLLY ERWIN LEDER AND BILL NICHY WRITTEN BY PAUL HASLINGER DIRECTED BY SKIP WILLIAMSON PRODUCED BY HENRY WINTERSTERN TERRY A. MCKAY JAMES McQUADE ROBERT BERNACCHI PRODUCED BY TOM ROSENBERG GARY LUCCHESI RICHARD WRIGHT EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN GREVILLOX AND LEN WISEMAN SCREENPLAY BY DANNY MCBRIDE DIRECTED BY LEN WISEMAN

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