

Turco wants to improve; not another record year

By Stephen Hawkins
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DALLAS — Marty Turco always knew he'd be ready when his turn came to be the No. 1 goalie for the Dallas Stars. He responded with an incredible record season.

So how does Turco plan to live up to the standard he set last season with a modern-day NHL record 1.72 goals against average?

He doesn't. "That's something I'll never forget. It was a magical season," Turco said. "I won't be breaking any records, but that doesn't mean I can't be a better goaltender. That's what I'm starting to accomplish right now."

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— Marty Turco
Stars goaltender

shutouts and his first All-Star game appearance. His postseason numbers were a 1.88 GAA and .919 save percentage.

"I know I can become a lot better than I have been ... more consistent, a little stronger," Turco said. "That's the focus right now for me, to get better and not to really worry about expectations."

It's only fitting that Turco and Giguere face each other to start the new season. Both have new contracts and are considered two of the league's best up-and-coming goalies.

Giguere went from making \$900,000 last season to a new four-year deal worth nearly \$20 million. Turco missed the first week of training camp before signing a new \$12 million, three-year contract, up from \$850,000 last season.

Before getting his chance as the starter, Turco spent two seasons behind Eddie Belfour, the often reclusive and quirky goaltender who led the Stars to two Stanley Cup finals. Knowing he had to bide his time, Turco focused on his practice habits and attention to detail.

Stars coach Dave Tippett doesn't expect any letdown from Turco, and the only number that matters to the coach are wins.

"Marty is a very driven guy. I expect our team to play well in front of Marty, and I expect that he'll rebound with another great year," Tippett said.

While home during the summer, Turco finally had a chance to enjoy his record a little bit.

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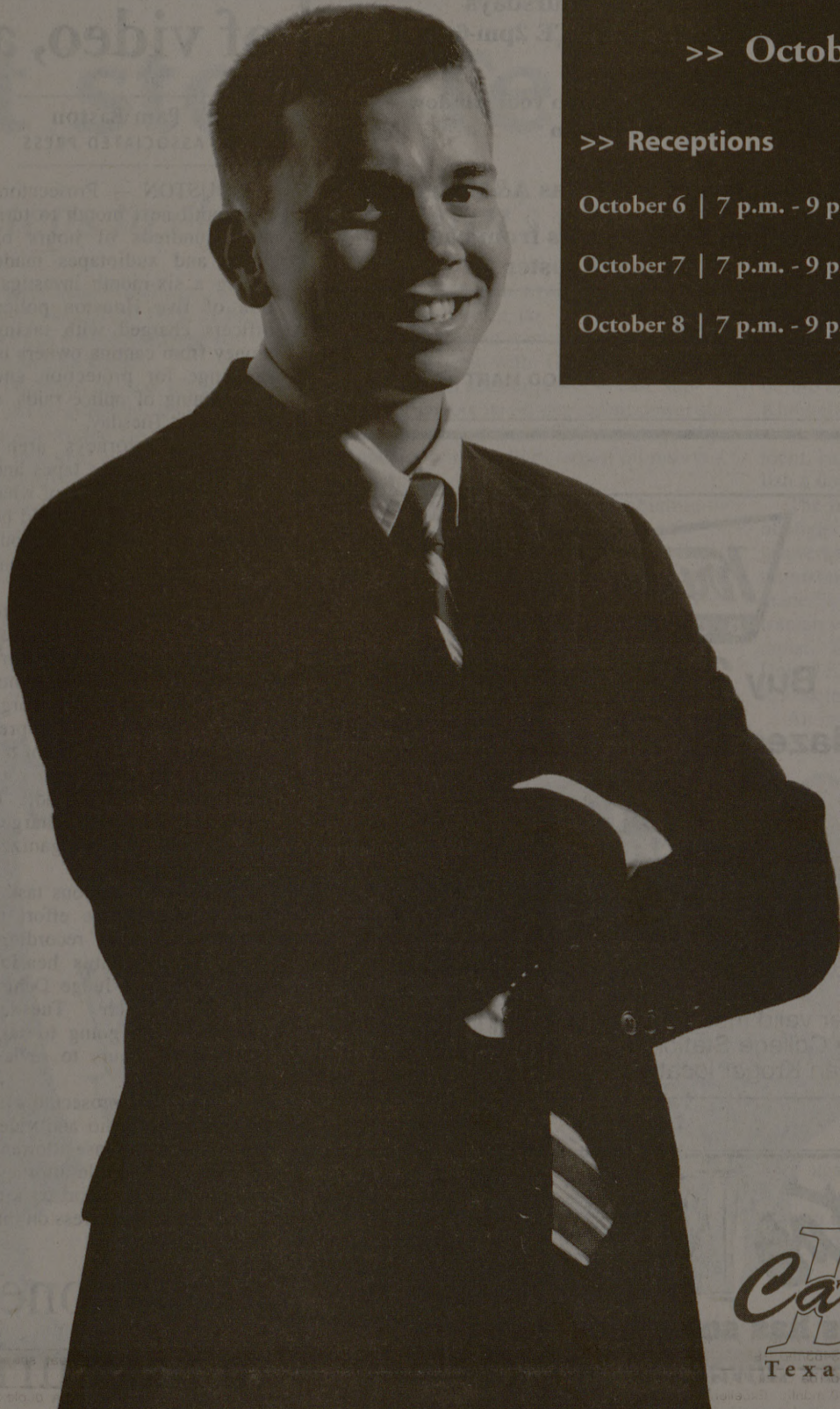
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