

THE BATTALION

Big weekend on tap for Aggies

A&M bringing new attitude to field against Nebraska

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

Looking for motivation after its 5-4 overtime loss to Missouri, the Texas A&M women's soccer team has turned to a Nebraska tradition in preparation for its upcoming match with the Cornhuskers.

This week, the No. 7 Aggies are wearing black jerseys in practice, much like the Nebraska defense does in football.

"The black shirts during Nebraska week is we want to be tougher," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "We want to be meaner. We want to be a little more working class, and we want to be the baddest we can."

The No. 22 Cornhuskers are historically a physical team, and the rivalry between Nebraska and A&M (11-2-2, 4-1-2 Big 12) has taken physical turns in the past, reaching a peak in 1999 when A&M goalkeeper Melanie Wilson received a red card, which was followed by a bench-clearing brawl.

Now, with the Big 12 regular season championship up for grabs, the Aggies must match the physical play of Nebraska (10-4-1, 5-2) to have a chance of defending its 2002 championship.

"Playing against Nebraska is always a tough game," said junior forward Emma Smith. "They come out and they're hard, and they're physical, and the only way we're going to be able to beat them is if we match



Texas A&M forward Emma Smith goes up for a header against Iowa State's Lindsey Lees last Friday. The No. 7 Aggies host two ranked opponents this weekend: No. 22 Nebraska tonight and No. 12 Colorado on Sunday.

that energy."

The Aggies are hoping a practice schedule this week focused on intensity, hustle and intimidation will prepare them for the Huskers and their last two games with Big 12 leading Colorado and archrival Texas.

"We're just getting our mind right," said A&M sophomore goalkeeper Kati Jo Spisak. "We're running all over the place, getting knocked down, getting back up and getting hit."

The coaching staff and the team were not happy with their performance at Missouri where

the Aggies gave up as many goals as they had in their previous 14 matches.

Now that the Aggies must win out in their last three games, and hope Colorado ties or loses in addition to losing to the Aggies, A&M cannot afford to have a breakdown like it did at Missouri.

"When you play against teams like Nebraska, or North Carolina, or anyone else that is very physical you better be ready to compete and play your hardest every second," Guerrieri said. "Every second of every training session we're going to

get something out of it."

In practice, the Aggies are sprinting to water breaks, team huddles, drills and everywhere else in preparation for the tough road ahead. And their black jerseys are helping remind them that skill doesn't always win games, a little bit of intimidation helps too.

"We're not going to wear maroon until we bleed maroon," Guerrieri said. "I think sometimes people just think that we put on the jersey and the magic is going to come out. The magic comes from working hard together."

Armstrong says he took this year's Tour win for granted

By Jerome Pugmire
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — Lance Armstrong admits he's made one huge mistake in his illustrious career — taking this year's Tour de France for granted.

Although he won the 2003 Tour, the Texan was pushed to near breaking point. As he prepares for his bid to win a record six Tours, he says he'll never underestimate the punishing 100-year-old race again.

"I was angry with my performance," Armstrong told The Associated Press on Thursday. "I had never been on the limit like that and quite frankly it was an experience I would not like to repeat. I took the race for granted."

Armstrong's problems started before the Tour, with stomach flu that nearly stopped him from making the flight to France.

He crashed twice in the race, struggled in the Alps, lost 11 pounds through dehydration, swerved across a bumpy field to avoid a fallen rider, suffered foot cramps, technical difficulties and moments of self-doubt.

But he hung on, recovering to withstand and beat German Jan Ullrich by just 61 seconds — by far the shortest margin of Armstrong's five wins.

"It was too close, too difficult, too stressful, too emotional," Armstrong recalled Thursday, after attending the presentation Thursday of the 2004 Tour route. "We were all worried every night that the Tour would be lost."

Tour Director Jean-Marie Leblanc said the

2,101-mile counterclockwise trek around France July 3-25 would feature the first ever time trial on the notorious L'Alpe d'Huez mountain — a climb Armstrong won in 2001.

As is typical of Armstrong, who recovered from cancer to win his first Tour in 1999, he can find a positive side of this year's brush with defeat.

"I dodged a bullet and still won," he said. "But I gained the perspective that it can all be gone in an instant. I'm cautiously confident now."

Armstrong's strength is as much cerebral as physical. He admits his 32-year-old body is not as resistant as it was — or as strong as 29-year-old Ullrich's.

"I have to face the realization that I'm not the same rider I was three years ago. I know that after the close call I have to be prepared to lose," he said. "But at the same time I'm more motivated than I've ever been."

He needs to be. Besides Ullrich, Kazhakstan's Alexander Vinokourov — third this year — Italy's Ivan Basso and Spain's Joseba Beloki could all pose threats.

Ullrich came into the 2003 Tour after two knee operations, a ban for using recreational drugs, and the collapse of his Team Coast — and still pushed Armstrong all the way.

Ullrich, who recently switched from Team Bianchi to the T-Mobile team (formerly Team Telekom), told French sports daily L'Equipe that he is "fearless" going into 2004.

"Jan will be super strong next year," Armstrong said. "He is going into his prime whereas I'm probably at half my prime."

But his love of cycling burns bright.

"I'm still the kid on the bike," he said. "I'm still passionate about the training and the races. All that kind of stuff makes me excited and happy."



ARMSTRONG

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Basketball tickets on sale Saturday

Single-game tickets for Texas A&M men's and women's basketball games go on sale Saturday at 10 a.m. at Reed Arena. Tickets can be purchased in person at the Reed Arena Box Office or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

The A&M men play 16 home games this season, including two exhibition games. The home schedule is highlighted by games against NCAA Tournament teams Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Colorado, along with Texas Tech. Texas and Kansas went to the Final Four, with Kansas playing in the national championship game.

Volleyball hosting Texas tonight

The Texas A&M volleyball team will play archrival the University of Texas tonight at 6 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M (15-5, 7-3 Big 12) is currently in fourth place in the Big 12 and is riding a five match winning streak. UT (10-9, 5-5) beat the Aggies earlier this season in Austin.

Junior middle blocker Kendra Felder leads the Aggies and the Big 12 with a .372 hitting percentage.

The teams have split the season series the last two years.

SERVICES

Typing Service

Defensive Driving

Agency Test

Housecleaning

Travel

Wanted

Battalion Classified Advertising

Real Estate

Roommates

Real Estate

Roommates

Real Estate

Roommates

Real Estate

Roommates

Real Estate

Roommates

Real Estate

Roommates

Real Estate

Roommates

Real Estate

Roommates

EVER WANTED TO SEE THE HEISMAN TROPHY?

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE!

We're Touring The Country With

★ THE ★ HEISMAN TOUR

PRESENTED BY SUZUKI & ESPN THE MAGAZINE

Don't get left on the sidelines, head to the stadium early to vote for your favorite Heisman candidate, play games, collect free stuff and sneak a peak at the Heisman.

HOME	AWAY
09/13 Ohio State	vs NC State
09/20 NC State	vs Texas Tech
09/27 Ole Miss	vs Texas Tech
10/04 Texas	vs Kansas State
10/11 Pitt	vs Notre Dame
10/18 Iowa State	vs Texas
10/25 Texas A&M	vs Oklahoma State
11/01 Stanford	vs UCLA
11/08 Oregon	vs California
11/15 Wash State	vs Arizona State



Study Abroad to Double Your Employment Opportunities. To get a FREE info kit, e-mail us: info@AbroadInRussia.com or call Toll Free: 1-866-889-9880

WISE MOVE THE BATTALION Classified Advertising. To place an ad, phone 845-0569

Krispy Kreme DOUGHNUTS Buy 2 Dozen Original Glazed Doughnuts for \$8.99. Offer valid thru 1/1/04 at any College Station or Bryan Kroger location.

Gig Em' & Ags Bracelets. You spell it, we'll make it! Great Gift Ideas for that Special Aggie! NOW AVAILABLE Maroon & White Gig Em' Lady Lanell's Swarovski Crystal Flip Flops. Bring this ad in and get \$10.00 off the Gig Em' Flip Flops.

WE'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER 2003-04 Texas A&M University Campus Directory. Listing of departments, administrators, faculty, staff, students, and other information about A&M, plus yellow pages.