

A&M on road against Texas

Ags want to keep winning streak alive

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

The Texas women's soccer team has had 14 tries to beat archrival Texas A&M since the Aggies began playing Division I soccer in 1993, and 14 times the Longhorns have wound up on the losing end.

This time the No. 6 Aggies are gunning for a 15-0 mark all-time against the No. 24 Longhorns. "Texas has always been a team that's been talented," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "It's been an issue of our players have always come into the game focused, I mean laser focused, about getting things done."

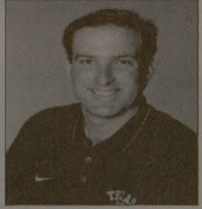
Despite this being the first season in recent memory where neither team was in position to claim a Big 12 Championship, the match usually brings the best out of the two rivals. For many of the Aggies' young players this will either be their first match against Texas, or their first match on an unfriendly field at Meyer Park in Austin.

But for the Aggies' lone senior, midfielder Kristen Strutz, this marks her final match with her rival in the regular season.

"It's kind of hard to put into words," Strutz said. "We've had so many ups and downs this season, and it would be really good to end the regular season with

another win."

The Aggies (12-3-2, 5-2-2 Big 12) have definitely experienced ups and downs this season after coming out of the gate roaring. After losing just once in the non-conference part of the schedule to No. 1 North Carolina in a heartbreaking 1-0 overtime loss, the Aggies looked poised to run through the Big 12.



GUERRIERI

Then two road ties to Kansas and Oklahoma State brought the Aggies down to earth. It seemed as if the Aggies were back on track after scoring three straight shutouts in their next games, but bad luck struck the team. Missouri beat the Aggies 5-4 in overtime, and then A&M was downed 2-1 by Nebraska despite dominating play the entire match. The Aggies rebounded by defeating Colorado 2-0, giving the Buffaloes their first loss of the Big 12 season.

Now that the Aggies seem to be over the hump, they can set their sights firmly on Texas, the Big 12 Tournament, and their ultimate goal of a national championship run through the NCAA Championship Tournament.

"Every team we've played this season, we've outplayed

them," Guerrieri said. "We feel like we've outperformed those 17 opponents, but we're a little miffed at ourselves that we haven't won 17 games."

After beginning the season ranked No. 9 in the nation, Texas (11-7, 6-3) lost six of its first 14 games, sending them out of the polls. The Longhorns have come back, though, by winning five of their last six, bringing them into the game with the Aggies.

Texas is also loaded with star power.

"They're very talented," Guerrieri said. "They've got three big-time forwards. Texas coach Chris Petrucelli coaches the (United States) U-21 team, and he took two of his players with him on the U-21 team, Kelly McDonald and Kelly Wilson, and then Amy Burlingham is a great winger. Any of those three would be the best player on most teams in the nation."

Even without Big 12 title implications, the game should be another classic between the rivals. Texas is dying to break into the win column against the Aggies, and A&M has no plans to allow Texas the elusive inaugural victory.

"I think both teams will play very well," said Texas coach Chris Petrucelli. "I think both teams will be excited to play, and I think you'll see one of the great games in college soccer this year."

Aggies running for Big 12 title

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's cross country team gained some of the recognition it desired last week as it finally moved into the top 25 for the first time in school history — a place the Aggies felt snubbed from for most of the season.

The real season, however, begins Friday as the men's and women's teams travel to Barton Creek Lakeside Country Club in Spicewood, Texas, to compete in the 2003 Big 12 Championships.

"This will be our first real pressure race of the season," said coach Dave Hartman. "I'm interested to see how both teams are going to step up to the pressure."

Historically, the Big 12 has been dominated by one team — the Colorado Buffaloes.

Once again, No. 4 Colorado looks to be the favorite on the men's side. The Buffaloes dominance is almost laughable: Since the inception of the Big 12, Colorado is the only team that has won the Big 12 Championship. This year looks to be no different as it returns top runners Dathan Ritzenhein and Billy Nelson.

Oklahoma State will also be strong with the return of top runner Jason Woolhouse who finished third overall in last year's competition and eighth in 2001. In all, the Big 12 Championship will host four of last year's top-10 finishers and seven runners who have finished in the top 10 before.

To compete with teams such as Colorado and Oklahoma State, A&M will look to draw from its biggest strength — depth.

"At this point of the season depth becomes real important," Hartman said. "I'm having to leave four guys at home that I really think could com-

pete in this race."

When asked about the prospect of facing a team like Colorado, Hartman said, "We're going to look to mix it up with them. We realize how strong they are, but at the same time, we can't be a doormat."

After having to run sick during the NCAA Pre-Nationals two weeks ago, senior and team leader Tommy Bonn feels strong about the Aggies' chances.

"If our fifth runner runs well, then I think our top four is enough to give Colorado a scare," Bonn said. "Individually, I'd obviously like to win the thing but I'm shooting for a top three finish."

Like the men's squad, the Colorado women have dominated the Big 12, winning this event every year besides 1998. They, too, will be the favorites once again as they have been nationally ranked in the top 10 all season. They will have to compete, however, without two-time Big 12 champion Molly Austin, who graduated last year.

The women's race will feature six of last year's top ten 10 finishers. More intriguing is the fact that these six runners are spread among five schools. Colorado is the only school to boast two top 10 finishers.

"With our injury troubles, we are a very young team," Hartman said. "The last two weeks of practice have been really good and I'm excited to see how they'll react."

This will be the first Big 12 Championship for many of the Aggies, including freshman standout Jaime Geissler.

"We want to place as high as we can," Geissler said. "We just need to make sure we are running for each other in order to be successful as a team."

The men's 8,000-meter race will begin Friday at 9 a.m., and women's 6,000-meter race starts at 10 a.m.

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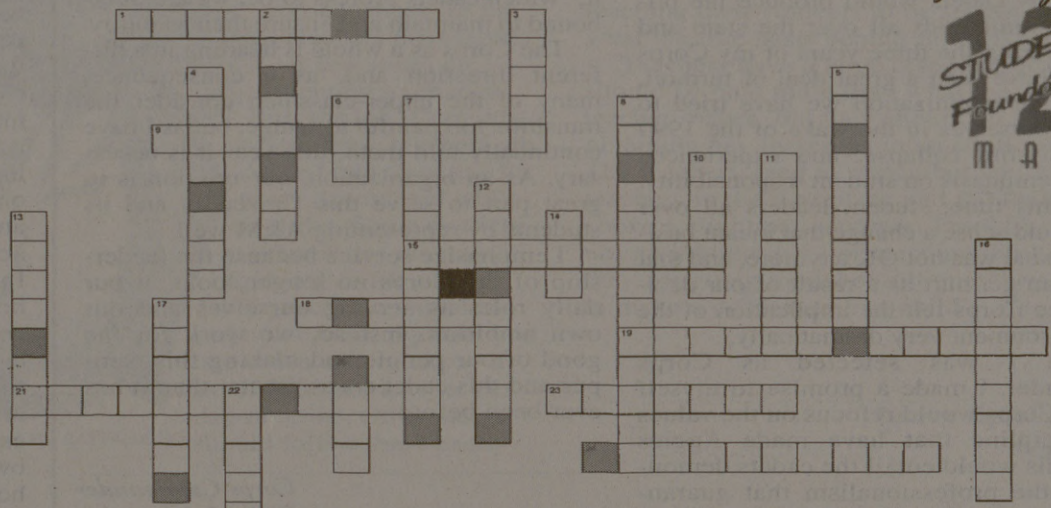
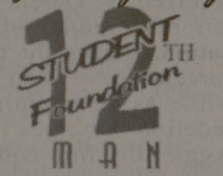
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- Mascot major
- other name for BCS
- April 21st
- First Aggie Bowl Game (FB)
- Pre-game trial run
- Aggie Fight Song
- E. King Gill

DOWN

- Post game yell place
- Penny Place
- Aggie idea for away games
- Bowl game invited to most # times
- Memorial Student Center
- Animal death march
- Aggie Heisman winner
- Aggie Greeting
- 90 year tradition
- Perfect end to nat'l champ season
- #1 and lost at Kyle Field
- A&M Colleges
- 95 hour Present
- Aggie Mascot
- Burn (aggie for BBQ)
- Canec! Canec!

Whoop!

For the answers check out our website—
<http://dsa-stuorg.tamu.edu/studentfoundation>

MSC Aggie Nights

Friday, Oct. 31: **Boogie Night**
8:00 pm - 11:30 pm

- * **Costume Karaoke at 9:00 pm in MSC Flagroom**
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- * **Darkside of Oz at 7:00 & 9:45 pm in Rudder - Free w/ TAMU ID**
In collaboration w/ MSC Film Society
- * **Battle of the Bands at the Zone Plaza**
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