

THE BATTALION

Thursday, November 6, 2003

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Volleyball

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much as we can, and we feel she's one of the top middles in the country. In all the matches that we've played well, she dominates, and she did a great job of that tonight.

Munsch's eight kills was her lowest in a three-game match since being held to seven against Marquette on Aug. 29.

"When I went up to hit I had at least two and sometimes three blockers on me at all times," Munsch said. "It's very challenging to put the ball away when you have four huge arms up in front of you. Sometimes you can't see the court as well, and it's very difficult."

Wednesday was a far cry from A&M's match in Nebraska on Sept. 17, when the Aggies took the Huskers to five games before Nebraska prevailed. Munsch and Jones combined for 36 kills in the match, and A&M held a 2-1 lead before falling.

"We helped their whole game," said A&M coach Laurie Corbelli. "I don't feel like our block ever got going. They were in their system all night. They could do no wrong almost. We were out of our system. Our first touch would have our setter pulled off the net a lot."

The loss drops the Aggies three and a half games behind league-leading Kansas State in the Big 12 title race. Nebraska's win kept the Cornhuskers one game behind the Wildcats, who have won 11 straight matches. Nebraska plays at K-State Nov. 15.

"I thought this was a big match tonight for either us or A&M to stay in the race," Cook said. "A&M had to win tonight to stay in the race, and we certainly had to stay in there. That was a very big match in the Big 12."

The Aggies return to action Saturday against Oklahoma. First serve is set for 7 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Soccer

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weekends ago," Smith said. "It's a good time to get a win."

The road to a Big 12 Championship goes through the No. 5 Colorado Buffaloes, who won their first-ever Big 12 regular season championship this season. Colorado will face eighth-seeded Missouri with the winner facing the A&M-Nebraska winner.

Colorado swept the postseason Big 12 awards boasting Big 12 Player of the Year Fran Munnely, Coach of the Year Bill Hempen and Freshman of the Year Katie Griffin.

"The individual honors are great for our program," Hempen said. "The fact that we had only one player named to the first team shows that this season is not based around one player, but it's truly a team that plays well together."

Texas is the No. 2 seed by virtue of its double overtime victory over the Aggies, and will have the upper hand in its side of the bracket. The Longhorns begin by playing Oklahoma State, with the winner taking on the winner of a Kansas-Oklahoma match-up.

"I think we're a different team now," said Texas coach Chris Petrucelli. "We were really struggling as a team (earlier in the season), but we're just playing better right now."

With this Big 12 Tournament having so many possible champions, for the first time maybe in history, every game will be a fight. The Aggies know they have a team that can run the gauntlet and survive.

"We know that we can win the Big 12," said A&M coach G. Guerrieri. "Now we have a second shot at a couple of teams that knocked us off. We just have to go and get it done."

Bonn

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Festival in Cary, N.C., Bonn finished third overall, just nine seconds off the lead, in a highly contested race featuring some of the nation's top runners.

"My success at the Great American Festival really did surprise me," Bonn said. "I didn't think I was ready to do that well yet."

So what has been the difference this season? Bonn attributes it to his training.

"In the past I concentrated more on the 1,500, but last spring I really started focusing on the 5K. I think it has really given me an edge for this cross country season," Bonn said.

He also notes that team unity has given him a real boost. The cross country team has come together as a family, and Bonn believes this has motivated all of them to run stronger.

A&M cross country coach Dave Hartman agrees. "The fifth year seniors like Tommy have really brought this team even closer," Hartman said. "I think it has helped the team as a whole as well as the individual runners. They have become more goal-oriented, and ultimately better."

Whatever it is, it has worked. The men's cross country team is currently No. 20 in the nation, its highest ranking ever, and Bonn is on his way to becoming an All-American.

As for life after A&M, Bonn has Olympic aspirations.

"There is not much of cross country after college, but I plan to train for the trials next year in either the 1,500 or the 5K," Bonn said.

But before he tries for the Olympics, Bonn said he still has some things to accomplish at A&M.

"I want to put the standard up there, where A&M distance running is recognized out of state," Bonn said. "I want us to be mentioned up there with schools like Arkansas and those boys from Stanford."

SENIORS.

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