

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 1B • Friday, September 17, 2004

## SIDELINES

### ON 3B



A total of 14 men's and women's cross country collegiate teams descend on College Station this weekend for the A&M Invitational. Turn to page 3B for a brief preview.

### COMING MONDAY

Look for a sports page full of the weekend's action, including game coverage and wrap up of the football, volleyball and soccer games.

### BRIEFLY

The Oakland Athletics ended Texas Rangers pitcher Kenny Rogers' streak of 18 consecutive victories at Oakland Coliseum with a 5-4 win. The win kept the A's 2.5 games ahead of the Anaheim Angels.

The Houston Astros pummeled the St. Louis Cardinals in an 8-3 win to stay only 2.5 games behind NL Wild Card leader San Francisco.

Curt Schilling became the first 20-game winner in MLB this season, leading the Boston Red Sox to an 11-4 victory over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The Chicago Cubs kept pace in the playoff race by rallying to beat the Cincinnati Reds 5-4 on Thursday night.

## Big ticket weekend Clemson prepped to face off against A&M at Kyle Field

By Kyle Davoust  
THE BATTALION

The University of Clemson and Texas A&M head into Saturday's match-up at Kyle Field with something in common besides their identical 1-1 records. Both are teams struggling to find consistency and, more importantly, an identity.

After wrapping up its 2003 campaign with four straight victories, including a 27-14 win over Tennessee in the Peach Bowl, Clemson headed into this season with heavy acclaim from fans and media outlets. Many national magazines picked Clemson to finish as one of the top 10 or 15 teams in the nation, citing the Tigers' tough ACC schedule as its only deterrent.

So far, however, Clemson has struggled out of the gate. It took late game heroics in week one to escape lowly conference foe Wake Forest, 37-30, in double overtime. Against Georgia Tech last week, Clemson couldn't find the same last-second magic, falling 28-24 at home.

The Tigers are struggling to find the fire that propelled them late last season. The struggles haven't been limited to the offense or the defense, but junior quarterback Charlie Whitehurst knows that his unit could be a lot better.

"I think there are some opportunities there that we've missed. I think that there is a possibility for us to score a bunch of points, especially in these first couple of games," Whitehurst said. "If we put it together, I think we'll be a dangerous offense. As of now we're still trying to find ourselves a little bit, but I think we're on the right track."

While the Tigers are looking to get their offense back on track, the Aggies' defense is trying to prove that last week's shutout against Wyoming was no fluke. The Tigers run the



Texas A&M defensive back **Jonte Buhl** (26) attempts to knock down a pass to Wyoming receiver **Jovon Bouknight** on Saturday. Bouknight dropped the pass, and the Aggies shut out the Cowboys 31-0 at Kyle Field.

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## Women's soccer team to host UC-Irvine and UCLA

By Jon Gilbert  
THE BATTALION



Aggie freshman soccer player **Sara Albrecht** takes on Army's sophomore **Kate Venable** at the Aggies' 6-1 win Sunday afternoon.

Texas A&M senior defender Amanda Burke said intensity has been the key ingredient in the Aggies' current three-game win streak. Not many are likely to argue with her in regards to the way A&M has been playing recently.

The Texas A&M women's soccer team returns to the field tonight as it hosts a pair of weekend games against West Coast schools.

The UC-Irvine Anteaters visit the Aggie Soccer Complex Friday for an 8 p.m. game, followed by UCLA at

1 p.m. on Sunday. The Aggies will be shooting for their fourth and fifth consecutive wins this weekend as they attempt to stay hot with Big 12 play drawing closer.

"We have been playing with more intensity," Burke said. "We're starting to play together as a team. The pieces are coming together. Last week we had such intense practices, and we knew (we) were going to play well."

Playing well might be an understatement. In front of a school-record crowd of 5,384 fans Friday, A&M rallied past No. 6 Texas, 3-1. The momentum carried over Sunday

as the Aggies easily took care of Army, 6-1. Burke and the rest of her teammates believe practice is where it all starts.

"It was so awesome to beat Texas," Burke said. "We had been working hard in practice, and it all came together in the game."

The UC-Irvine Anteaters are known for having a traditionally strong program and are coached by Marine Cano, the 11th winnings coach in NCAA history. The Anteaters are 3-2-1 on the season and are looking forward to the challenges that playing Texas

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