

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Friday, September 24, 2004

Page by: Nikki Knight & Jordan Meserole

## Road trip!

### Soccer heads north to take on Texas opponents Baylor and Tech

By Jordan Meserole  
THE BATTALION

The No. 14 Texas A&M soccer team will play two games this weekend against Baylor University and Texas Tech University, but the Aggies might just as well be playing one team.

Baylor and Texas Tech are so similar in appearance that it's almost like something out of the Twilight Zone.

"Both of these teams are real similar," said A&M head coach G. Guerrieri. "They're both really gritty, and they've got a lot of fight in them."

The Aggies (5-3, 1-0 Big 12) will make their first stop in Waco on Friday to take on the Bears (3-3-1). Baylor has won two of its last three games, including a come-from-behind, 2-1 win against UC-Irvine on Saturday.

Baylor is led by two young players: sophomore forward Anna Schuch, who has three goals along with four assists, and freshman midfielder Margaret Kaderli, who also has three goals.

"We're a very young team, so we play like freshmen some-

times," said Baylor head coach George Van Linder. "But we also have some young leaders too that really help drive this team. You just have to see what team shows up and hope it's the one that's going to win."

After completion of the night game in Waco, the Aggies will load their bus and head farther north to Lubbock for a Sunday afternoon game against the Red Raiders (3-5). Texas Tech is on a bit of a slide, having lost its last three games. The Red Raiders are led by freshman forward Priscilla Esquivel who has six goals, which puts her in a tie for second in the Big 12.

"You always like to see young kids scoring goals like that," said Texas Tech head coach Felix Oskam. "We hope that as we enter the Big 12 part of our schedule, she'll continue to do the same."

So what are the similarities? Both Baylor and Texas Tech have scored 14 goals; the Bears have accumulated 40 total points, the Red Raiders have 36; and Baylor has allowed 16 goals with Texas Tech allowing 17. Both of the teams' leading scorers are freshmen, and both draw on average

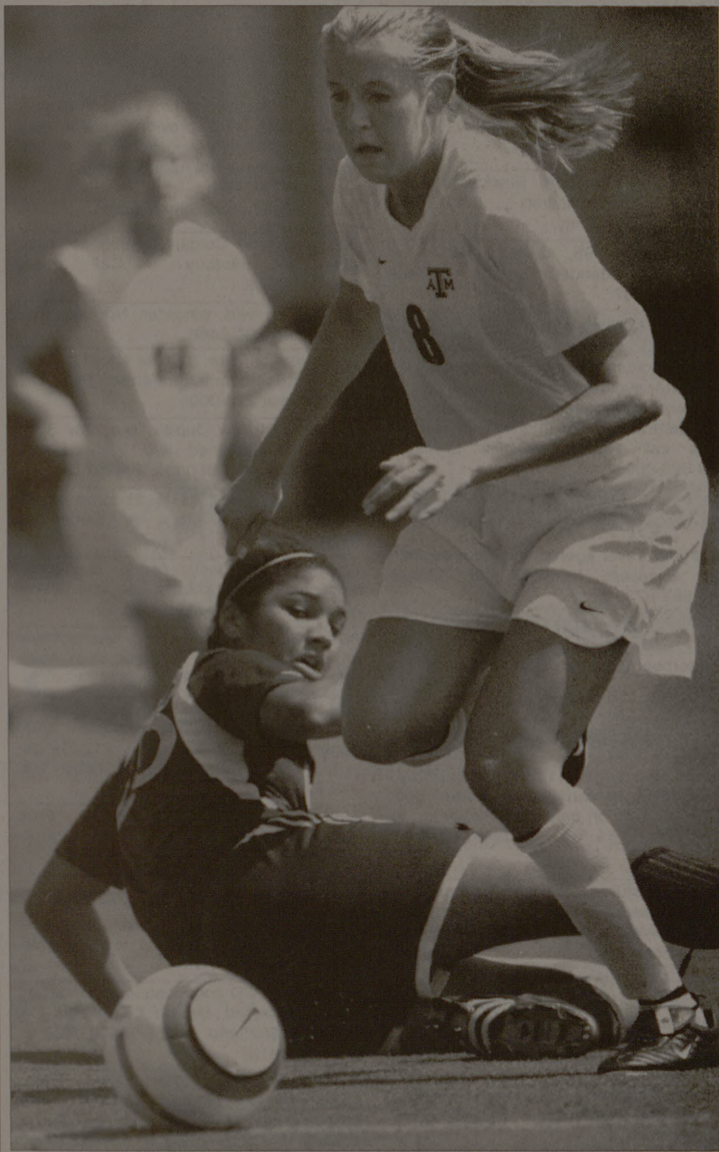
400-500 fans, while setting near attendance records the last time they played A&M at their home field. And the kicker — both have to face No. 20 University of Texas this weekend.

"Isn't that something? But that's how the Big 12 is," Oskam said. "There's a lot of quality teams in this conference, and we have two of the best coming in the same weekend."

Van Linder, who was 350 miles away from Lubbock, almost echoed Oskam's statements. "It's without a question the most difficult weekend of the year for us," Van Linder said. "To my knowledge, only two teams have beat A&M and Texas in the same weekend. We certainly have our hands full."

The weekend series marks the beginning of a long stretch of Big 12 games for the Aggies, with only two non-conference games remaining. While the Aggies have played many formidable opponents this far, including a narrow 1-0 loss to No. 12 UCLA on Sunday, A&M has

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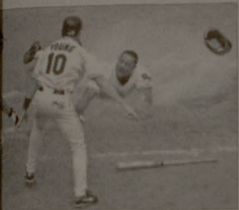


SHARON AESCHBACH - THE BATTALION

Junior midfielder **Laura Probst** steals the ball from University of California-Los Angeles sophomore **Jessica Harris** on Sunday afternoon. The Aggies lost to UCLA, 1-0.

#### SIDELINES

On page 7



The Texas Rangers come from behind in the bottom of the ninth inning to beat the division-leading Oakland Athletics, 5-4.

#### BRIEFLY

Olympic cycling gold medalist Tyler Hamilton will be allowed to keep his gold medal after the International Olympic Committee dropped its investigation of alleged blood sample tampering.

Greg Maddux reached 15 wins for a record 17 consecutive seasons as the Chicago Cubs defeated the Pittsburgh Pirates 6-3.

The New York Yankees clinched their 10th consecutive playoff berth trouncing the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 7-3.

#### ON THIS DATE

1998 - The NBA, through its 86th day of the lockout, announces the cancellation of 24 exhibition games and indefinite postponement of the start of training camps.

### NU hosts Aggie volleyball in Lincoln

By Shawn C. Millender  
THE BATTALION

The Texas Aggie volleyball team will travel to Lincoln, Neb. Friday, hoping to shake off the effects of an uncharacteristically sloppy performance after being swept in three matches by Kansas State Wednesday night in Manhattan, Kan.

The Aggies were outblocked for the first time

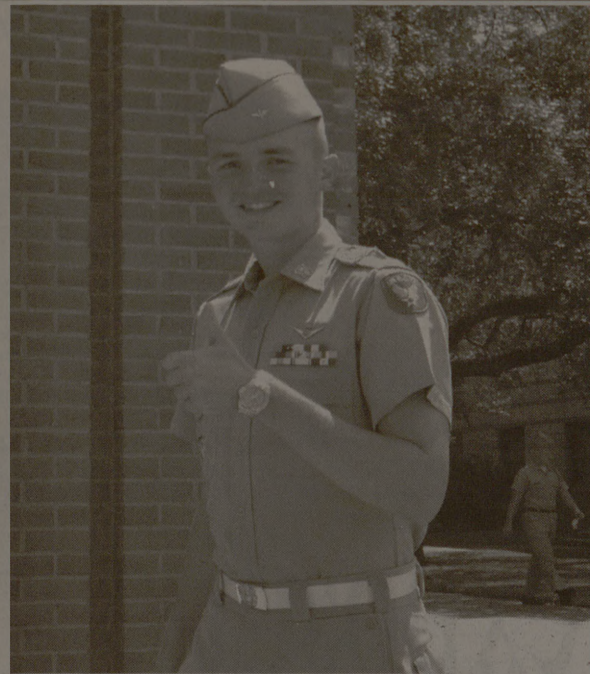
this season 7-6 by KSU. They allowed the Wildcats a .387 hitting percentage (a season high for Aggie opponents) while mustering only .147 themselves.

The road will only get tougher for the Aggies, who face a talented 7th-ranked Cornhusker team coming off an impressive showing in sweeping the 25th-ranked Colorado Buffaloes.

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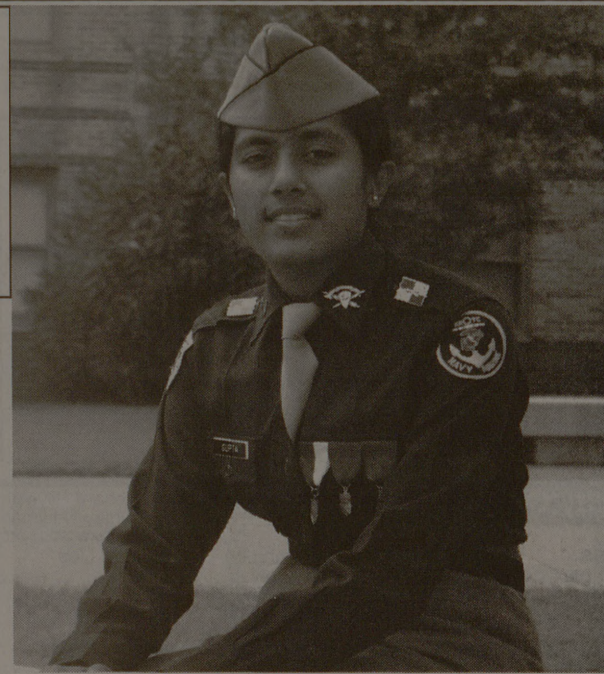


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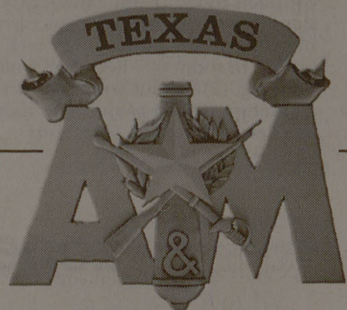
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