

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Tuesday, September 28, 2004

PAGE BY NIKKI KNIGHT

Non-conference showdown

Aggie soccer hosts Sam State in a break from conference play

By Jonathan Wall
THE BATTALION

Sandwiched between conference matches, the Aggie soccer team plays a rare Tuesday night match against non-conference opponent Sam Houston State at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

The Aggies are coming off an outstanding conference road trip that saw them earn back-to-back shutouts against Texas Tech and Baylor. The Aggies have now posted three shutouts in the past four matches they've played.

Aggie head coach G. Guerrieri said he is impressed with his team's ability to put defensive clamps on opposing teams.

"We've simplified the defensive scheme so our defenders don't have to 'check-off' as often as they used to," Guerrieri said. "I think it's made it easier overall on our girls."

The team hopes to use the game against Sam Houston as a tune-up before going

into Big 12 conference play this weekend against Oklahoma and Oklahoma State.

"We need to have the ability to play hard whether it's a conference or a non-conference game," Guerrieri said.

Sam Houston comes into Tuesday's matchup with a 1-9 record and has been outscored 41-34 in its first 10 matches.

"We have had trouble starting games," said Bearkats head coach Marcia Oliveira. "We have an extremely young squad, and I think it's been a learning experience for the team this season."

Sam Houston is looking for consistency on a team that fields 15 returning players and 12 true freshmen.

Sam Houston will rely heavily on three players Tuesday night: Sophomore Tynice Friday, junior Jo Fairclough and freshman Yoanna Garcia will be called upon to be the catalysts for the Bearkats' scoring attack.

While the game against Sam Houston doesn't have any conference implications, this shouldn't stop the Aggies from taking the Bearkats seriously.

In its first game of the season, Sam Houston pounded 23 goals on Texas Southern in a 23-2 rout.

"We are 40 percent done with our Big 12 road games and we are undefeated. That is a really good thing," said Guerrieri after his team's recent win against Texas Tech. "We just need to keep bringing the same intensity every night."



SHARON AESCHBACH - THE BATTALION

Aggie freshman **Jordan Falcusan** battles against Baylor Bear defender **Ginny Rosario-Tull** during the Texas A&M women's soccer game against Baylor Friday night in Waco. The Aggies won 1-0.

SIDELINES

On Page 10



Holly Clay is a quirky leader on a strong A&M volleyball team. She constantly makes her teammates laugh and has even gone to senior proms where she didn't know anyone.

COMING WEDNESDAY

Catch what happened in the Aggie soccer team's non-conference matchup with Sam Houston State University.

The Texas A&M volleyball team attempts to rebound from a tough loss to Nebraska as it prepares to take on Baylor at G. Rollie. Look for a complete preview of the matchup.

BRIEFLY

Anaheim trumped Texas 5-3 in Monday night's opener of the key series between the Angels and the Rangers. Bartolo Colon (17-12) allowed just four hits in eight-plus innings, becoming the first pitcher to beat Texas six times in a season.

Carlos Zambrano won his fourth straight decision and the Chicago Cubs extended their lead in the NL wild-card race with a 12-5 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Monday.

Boston clinched its second straight trip to the postseason Monday night, beating the Tampa Bay Devil Rays 7-3 behind Manny Ramirez's AL-leading 43rd home run and Johnny Damon's go-ahead, three-run shot.

A&M SOCCER

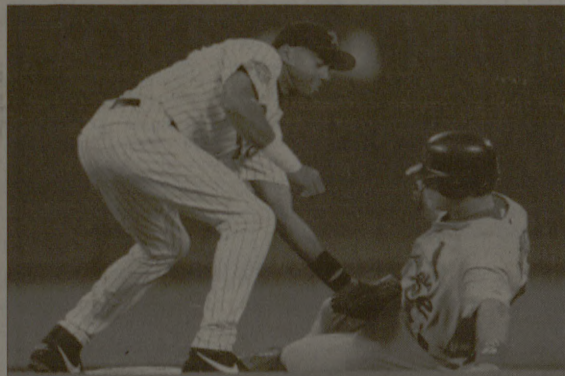
TM vs SH

Texas A&M (7-3) Sam Houston State (1-9)

7 p.m. - Aggie Soccer Complex

Houston hammers St. Louis for 10 runs in win

By Joel Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



DAVID J. PHILLIP - THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

St. Louis' **Mike Matheny** is tagged out by the Astros' **Jose Vizcaino** in the fifth inning of Monday's game.

Roy Oswalt became the NL's first 19-game winner, and the Houston Astros stayed close in the wild-card race with a 10-3 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals Monday night.

The Astros began the day 1 1/2 games behind the Chicago Cubs, who lead the wild-card standings. San Francisco is a half-game ahead of Houston.

Pinch-hitter Jason Lane homered and Craig Biggio hit a two-run double to end his longest hitless streak of the season. Carlos Beltran added a two-run triple, Ensberg had a two-run double, and Jeff Bagwell and Raul Chavez singled in runs to send the Astros to their fourth win in five games.

The victory snapped St. Louis' five-game winning

streak. The Cardinals already clinched the NL Central title and the best record in the league — but their leadoff hitter went down with an injury Monday night.

Speedy second baseman Tony Womack left in the seventh inning after being hit on the left arm by a pitch from Oswalt. Womack writhed in pain on the ground before coming out moments later. He was gingerly clutching his arm at his side as he was escorted back to the dugout.

Oswalt (19-10) pitched six scoreless innings before allowing a couple of runs in the seventh. He gave up nine hits, striking out six and walking one as he inched closer to his first 20-win season.

The right-hander is 6-1 in his last eight starts.

The Astros continued to emerge from an offensive funk after beating Milwaukee 11-7 on Sunday. Before that, Houston scored more than two runs only once in six games.

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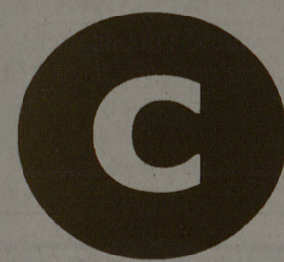
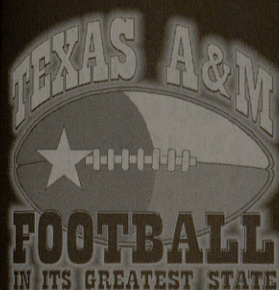
for Kansas State Game (Oct. 2)

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