

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Wednesday, September 29, 2004

PAGE BY JORDAN MESEROLE AND NIKKI KNIGHT

Zero chance

Texas A&M soccer heftily defeats Sam Houston State 10-0

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION

Coming into Tuesday night's game against the Sam Houston State Bearkats, the Texas A&M soccer team was ranked ninth in the nation with a 7-3 record. On the other side, the Bearkats, in only their second year, had lost nine of their first 10 games. The result, a 10-0 Aggie victory, reflected those facts.

The Aggies controlled the ball early and often, but did not get on the board until nearly 22 minutes into the game, when freshman forward Marissa Sarkesian scored with a header for her first collegiate goal.

"It was awesome," said Sarkesian about her first goal. "To come in and score a goal is like nothing else."

Fellow freshman Ashlee Pistorius scored a goal just five minutes later and the onslaught began. Sarkesian and Pistorius each scored one more before half-time, as the Aggie lead swelled to 6-0 before the intermission.

"The biggest difference right now between our team this year and our team last year, which showed tonight, is our depth," said A&M head coach G. Guerrieri. "After I made substitutions tonight is when the team really took off. We're a team that's much deeper than 11 or 12 players, and that's really going to help us as we go through our Big 12 schedule."

The Aggies even scored on multiple goalies. After the first five goals, Sam Houston State coach Marcia Oliveira had seen enough and rotated freshman Sara Beecroft in for sophomore Ashley Zendt. Zendt then allowed a goal on a penalty kick from Aggie sophomore forward Madison Klovstad.

While the Aggies were scoring almost at will, the Bearkats were hardly getting

any chances. They finished the half with just one shot at goal and just two shots overall.

Unlike the first half, the Aggies wasted little time getting things going after the break. Sophomore middle fielder Lauren Pfister scored a goal just seven minutes into the second half, as the Aggies quickly dispelled the Bearkats' hopes of a Jekyll-and-Hyde performance.

A&M would then add goals by senior midfielder Christina Echavarry, sophomore forward Suzzette Devloo and freshman midfielder Jessica Green to secure the double-digit victory.

"Unfortunately, they have a very young team that hasn't been around all that long," Guerrieri said. "But (coach Marcia Oliveira) gets some good spirit out of them. They just ran into a bit of a bad spot tonight."

Despite the loss, Oliveira still found the experience to be a positive one for her team.

"My team never gave up. We held them scoreless for the first 22 minutes of the game," Oliveira said. "We are coming out with our heads up, we learned a lot of things, and now we'll just move on."



Texas A&M freshman midfielder **Ashlee Pistorius** battles against Sam Houston State freshman **Jamie Beckwith** for possession of the ball Tuesday night at the Aggie Soccer Complex. A&M won the game 10-0.

SHARON AESCHBACH - THE BATTALION

The Aggies hope the game will give them added confidence, as they head into a key game Friday night against the defending Big 12 champion Oklahoma State Cowgirls.

"That's a big game. They come into the game undefeated in conference and undefeated on the year," Guerrieri said. "Talk about a team that's going to come in with confidence; that would be OSU."

SIDELINES

ON PG. 9

The Texas A&M football team had its weekly team update and this week presents no surprises from last week.



The Texas Rangers lost 8-3 to the Anaheim Angels on Tuesday. The Rangers dropped to 3.5 games behind the AL West leading Oakland A's.

COMING THURSDAY

No matter where a sport fan's loyalties lie, there's bound to be a rivalry involved. Just say the word "Longhorn" around College Station, and see the reaction it draws. Ryan Irby explores the impact of rivalries on sports.

Baylor comes into town to take on the A&M volleyball team Wednesday night in a mid-week matchup. Look for a complete wrap-up of the match.

Look for the weekly edition of the Big 12 notebook, which focuses on Texas, Texas Tech and Colorado games.

BRIEFLY



A&M freshman Ashlee Pistorius, a forward on the soccer team, was named the Big 12 Newcomer of the Week. Pistorius led the Aggies in goals (2) and shots on goal (8) in two games over the weekend.

The Texas A&M equestrian team is holding an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. this Friday at N. W. "Dick" Freeman arena. All those over the age of 7 are welcomed to ride the horses that the team uses for practices and shows.

Former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Chad Hutchinson was signed by the Chicago Bears to help replace the void left by Rex Grossman, who was lost to a knee injury.

THE SCOREBOARD

Boston Red Sox	10
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	8
Cincinnati Reds	8
Chicago Cubs	3
Chicago White Sox	4
Detroit Tigers	6

ON THIS DATE

1954 - Willie Mays makes his famous over-the-shoulder catch of Vic Wertz's long drive to center field.

1977 - Muhammad Ali wins a unanimous 15-round decision over Earnie Shavers to retain his heavyweight title.

1985 - Houston Oilers quarterback Warren Moon is sacked 12 times in 17-10 loss to the Dallas Cowboys.

Astros win 2-1

By Joel Anderson
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jeff Bagwell drove in two runs, and Brandon Backe pitched five solid innings to help the Houston Astros gain ground in the NL wild-card race with a 2-1 win over the St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday night.

The Astros moved within a half-game of the Chicago Cubs, who lost to Cincinnati 8-3 at Wrigley Field. San Francisco (87-69) was also a half-game back, percentage points ahead of Houston (88-70). The Giants played at San Diego later.

St. Louis third baseman Scott Rolen went 0-for-3 in his return after missing 16 games with a strained upper left calf and bruised left shin.

Houston has won five of its last six and tied a franchise record with its 14th-straight home win, equaling a mark set in 1980.

Bagwell drove in Backe with a third-inning single, then gave

the Astros the lead with a fifth-inning sacrifice fly that scored Carlos Beltran.

Backe (4-3), used primarily as a reliever this season, gave up a homer to Larry Walker in the second. He allowed five hits, struck out three and walked three and also singled in the third, raising his batting average to .286.

Chad Qualls pitched two scoreless innings, Dan Miceli got two outs in the eighth, and Brad Lidge got four outs for his 26th save in 30 chances.

The Astros missed a chance to add more runs with the bases loaded and no outs in the eighth. Morgan Ensberg grounded into a double play, and Jose Vizcaino flied out to center.

Beltran prevented the Cardinals from taking the lead in the fifth, catching pitcher Dan Haren's drive, then throwing out Reggie Sanders at the plate for a double play. Sanders and Cardinals manager Tony La Russa protested the call to no avail.

Volleyball faces Baylor

By Luke Hamilton
THE BATTALION

The No. 11 Texas A&M volleyball team (6-4) returns to G. Rollie White Coliseum Wednesday to host Baylor University for the first of two home games this week against Big 12 opponents.

After coming off two tough road losses to Kansas State and Nebraska, A&M head coach Laurie Corbelli said the players are eager to return home.

"We've been on the road so much over the last two and half weeks that being home will be such a nice relief," Corbelli said.

Baylor (7-6) comes into Wednesday's game having lost three of its last four, including a 3-0 loss to No. 25 University of Colorado Saturday. The Bears are under the direction of Jim Barnes, who is in his first year at the reins of the team. Barnes came from the University of Wyoming where he went 35-27 in two seasons as head coach and won Conference Coach of the Year honors twice. Barnes has not faced off against the Aggies yet, but said he has seen them for many years.

"A&M has been a consistent program, and Corbelli has done a good job with the team, keeping them in the top 25," Barnes said.

Barnes is taking over a team that finished 12-22 last year and won four conference games, but said the team is improving.

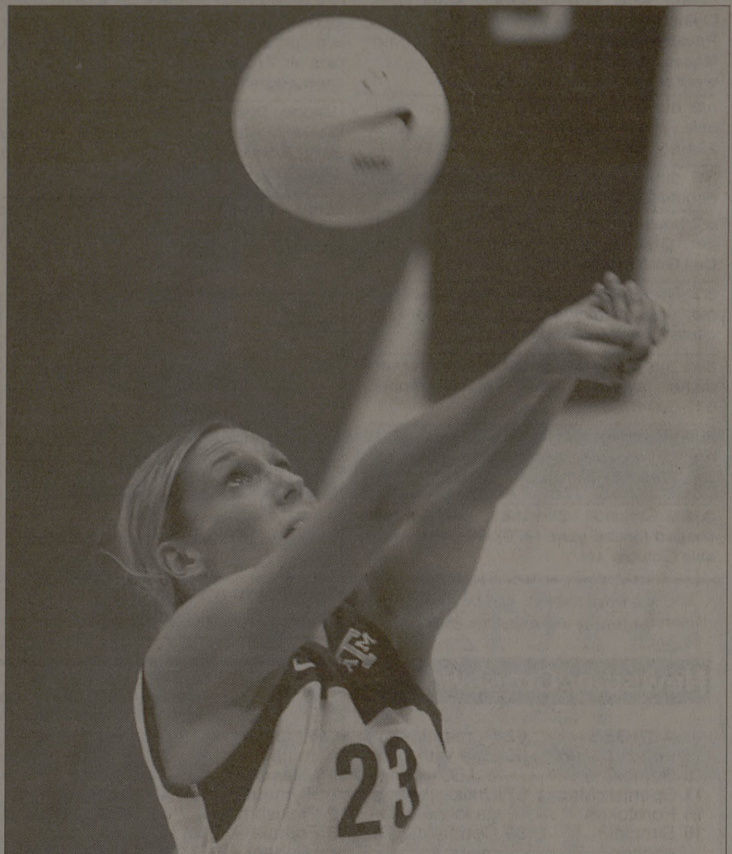
"I think we're on the verge of being one of the top six in the Big 12," Barnes said. "The entire team feels like we're about to break through."

Despite coming off two consecutive losses, the A&M team still has strong players on the court. A&M senior middle blocker/outside hitter Melissa Munsch has 113 kills (ranking her 10th in the Big 12) and 75 digs. Also on the front line, junior setter Kari Kelley has 43 assists and 70 digs on the year, and junior outsider hitter Laura Jones leads the team with 136 kills.

Despite Baylor's appearance as a seemingly weak team, Munsch said the Aggies need to be ready for anything.

"They're a pretty feisty team at times," Munsch said. "Baylor should be a team we can beat, but they've also stolen some games from some pretty good teams."

Kelley has played against Baylor a few times and said she knows a little of what can be expected.



A&M senior outside hitter **Carrie Moreira** successfully hits a ball after chasing it down against Kansas on Sept. 17. A&M won the meet 3-1.

JP BEATO III - THE BATTALION

"Baylor is really good at off-speed shots, and they have a good defense," Kelley said. "I'm sure they'll be ready to play, and I know we will too." Barnes seemed to echo the A&M player's statements of what the keys to the game would be. "We'll need to pass well and play good defense," Barnes said. "But it's tough to know which team will show up for them — they seem to be erratic sometimes this season. It could be a different team than we thought."

A&M VOLLEYBALL

ATM vs BU

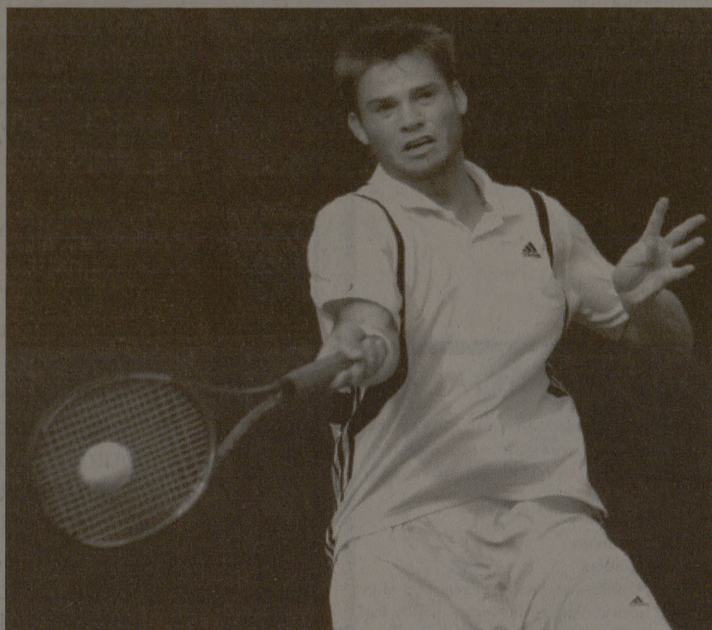
Texas A&M (6-4) Baylor (7-6)

7 p.m. - G. Rollie White Coliseum

Last Meeting: October 22, 2003 (at Baylor)
A&M won 3-1

ANDREW BURLESON - THE BATTALION

Stroke!



EVAN O'CONNELL - THE BATTALION

Former A&M tennis athlete **Ryan Newport** returns a forehand against **K. Weiss** Tuesday afternoon in the Garyln Shelton BMW-Pebble Creek ATP Challenger event. **Newport** defeated **Weiss** 6-0, 6-1.