

Fems have bad outing in volleyball

By MARY RUSSO
Staff Sports Writer

The A&M women's volleyball team couldn't get it together this weekend at the state meet.

The teamwork came and went like tides but unfortunately the tides were low more often than they were high.

Take the instance of A&M-Lamar. In the first game the women couldn't get the defense volley going. As a result they lost, 15-5.

The tide came rushing in on the second game though and they won 15-5, with Rita Kuntz serving six points. Joanne Nichols served the final four points. The final game was a repeat of the first game with a Lamar win of 51-11.

In play against Howard County College, which provides scholarships for their women athletes, A&M had another hard time. Howard took the first and last games, 15-9 and 13-7.

The women, however played another good game in the middle of the series with Nichols leading a strong drive, serving seven consecutive points. Not to be outdone, Christy Saver, who works as a set, put over four points and Kuntz served another six. The final score on that match was 15-8.

In the final round, A&M lost to the wild card team from Texas Lutheran (TLC). It was the same old story with A&M taking the middle game and losing the first and third. TLC won 12-10 (on time) and 15-13 while A&M won 15-8.

"They each have the individual skill and knowledge but they just didn't get it together as a team last weekend," said Laura Kitzmiller, A&M coach.

Kirkland's efforts get SWC honors

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Mike Kirkland made a stretch run reminiscent of Silky Sullivan.

He spotted Arkansas's other two quarterbacks spring training and a month of fall practice.

Arkansas Coach Frank Broyles calls Kirkland's progress since mid-season "remarkable."

"He never quit working to improve," Broyles said. "He had the attitude that he was going to be the starter before the year was out."

He got his chance in the second half Saturday against Southern Methodist University. Faced with a 17-0 halftime deficit and a steady rain, Broyles turned to Kirkland.

Kirkland responded with a 91-yard run that set up one touchdown, threw a 67-yard scoring pass to Freddie Douglas and scored Arkansas's final touchdown on fourth and goal from the one as the Razorbacks rallied for a 24-24 tie with the Mustangs.

For his performance, Kirkland was named The Associated Press Offensive Player of the Week in the Southwest Conference.

In the second half, Kirkland carried 21 times for 140 yards and completed four of eight passes for 82 yards.

"That performance in just one half under such adversity equals anything I've seen in my 28 years of football," Broyles said. "I've seen a starter have a bad first half and a great second half. But he was trailing 17-0, started with second and 13 on his own three and we had a chance to win the ball game."

Kirkland was strictly a kicker his freshman year. Scott Bull was scheduled to be the starting quarterback last fall, but hurt his knee in August. Mark Miller was still recovering from knee surgery and Kirkland was the only choice. The Razorbacks went 5-5-1.

Miller and Bull continued to alternate this season, until Miller won the No. 1 job at midseason. By then, Kirkland was beginning to improve rapidly.

"Three or four weeks ago, we talked about playing him at least half the time or maybe even as a starter but Mark was doing good and deserved to play," Broyles said.

Broyles said repetition was the reason for Kirkland's improvement.

"When you have to make a decision in one step and then make another decision two steps later, that takes repetition," Broyles said, talking about the mechanics of the option.

Before Saturday Miller had run or passed 121 plays; Bull 74 times and Kirkland 40. Kirkland hopes to add to his total Saturday against Texas Tech, but Broyles refused to say that Kirkland would be the starter.

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