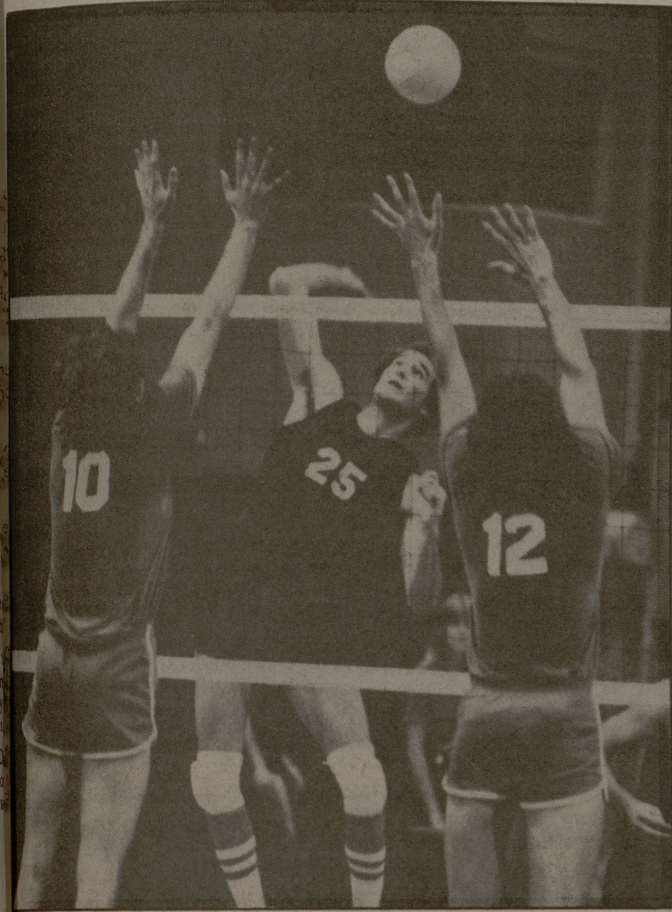


Sports



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Joe Thornton leaps high for a slam shot for the A&M men's volleyball team during their weekend game with Texas. A&M won four straight from the Longhorns.

Aggie men take impressive wins

By JON HEIDTKE
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M men's volleyball team started its fall season in a glorious manner Friday, sweeping the University of Texas in four straight games Friday before a crowd of 500 fans.

The Aggies used a variety of lineups in the evening contest and dominated play in all four matches. "I was disappointed in their (Longhorns) play since there was no suspense," said coach Dave Schakel. "They didn't play like they could."

Last spring, Texas went into the regional tournament seeded first, but the Aggies knocked off the Longhorns en route to the championship.

A&M returns the entire team from last year, and Schakel says the Aggies would be the team to beat in Texas this year. Though the Aggies are strong, they could use another two or three big men.

"What we really need are a couple guys who are 6-4 who can jump,"

said Schakel. "Basketball forwards would be ideal. We can teach them to play the game and develop them into middle blockers."

Men's volleyball is an extramural sport at Texas A&M and is sponsored by the intramural department which gives the team some money for travel. The team raised over \$500 on Friday night and will use the money to buy new uniforms.

Local merchants donated prizes and everyone in attendance was offered a chance to win. All they had to do was serve a volleyball over the net into large laundry baskets on the other side and claim their prize.

At least 400 people took a turn serving before all the prizes were gone.

During the fall the team plays a school-oriented schedule and then during the spring participates in pool play with other teams throughout the state, usually sponsored by other schools, and sanctioned by the United States Volleyball Association.

Wilson: "Looking for leadership"

By KURT ALLEN
Battalion Staff

"Yes, we need leadership on the team; somebody among the older players has got to step forward." — Texas A&M Head Coach Tom Wilson.

It doesn't take much brainpower to realize that something deep-down is wrong with the Texas Aggie football team. But trying to pin-point the source of the problem is becoming increasingly difficult.

Wilson himself is hard-put to figure out just what is responsible for his team's lackluster play, although he admitted to reporters Monday that a lack of leadership among the players is part of the problem.

"They're a young team, and I would hope with the leadership of the coaching staff they'll come on and continue to improve," said Wilson. "At the same time, we can't provide guidance for them around the clock. There's got to be some help from the more experienced players."

Another contributing factor touched on by Wilson in the team's difficulties is a lack of continuity. Since early on, Texas A&M has been plagued by inconsistent play and injuries which have forced Wilson to continually shuffle his starting lineup and use many inexperienced players.

"Yes, it is difficult to maintain continuity," said Wilson. "We're only playing with three experienced starters on offense and really only four on defense."

The offensive picture has been particularly disappointing for the Aggies this year. So far, Texas A&M is averaging only 15.5 points per game through the first six contests. If the 41 points scored against Texas Tech is left out, the Aggies are only averaging 10.4 points per game.

One thing hurting the Aggies has been the lack of a dominant offensive back. Wilson said Monday he had hoped by now one of his tailbacks

would take that role, but so far it hasn't panned out.

"I think it's unfortunate we haven't been able to establish a dominant back," said Wilson. "Johnny Hector with his endurance problem hasn't been able to do it. His main problem is he gets winded quickly."

"Earnest Jackson's been consistent but he also has been hurt. We just haven't been able to keep anybody on the field long enough."

At the same time, Wilson gave credit to his fullbacks for their efforts. Wilson said junior David Hill is an excellent blocker who "really does good." He also said sophomore Ronnie James did well when he got in against Baylor and now appears fully recovered from an injury and ready to play.

The quarterback situation, however, is still a bit muddled, although the status of senior David Beal's wrist has finally been decided, and it's the good news Wilson has been waiting for.

X-rays taken by a radiologist Monday show Beal's injured right wrist has a slight fracture which doctors feel should heal quickly. Wilson said he expected Beal would return to play in time for the Aggies' last three games against Arkansas, TCU and Texas.

In the meantime, sophomore Gary Kubiak's role will increase. He played most of the second half against Baylor in relief of senior Mike Mosley and put on a credible performance considering the circumstances.

"I'm very well pleased with Gary's performance," analyzed Wilson. "He came into the game at a difficult time and did a good job. Yes, I think we'll see a lot of Gary Kubiak against Rice."

Wilson also seemed to indicate that Kubiak would probably get the starting nod against the Owls, although that decision would not be final until later in the week.

Looking ahead to Rice, Wilson said he thought the Owls had been competitive with everyone they've played this year, as indicated by their wins over LSU and TCU, not to mention scoring 21 points against Texas in one quarter.

"They have a lot of seniors on their starting squads and a great attitude to go with it," said Wilson. "They're

playing two quarterbacks in two different formations. (Junior Robert) Hoffman does a great job with the Veer and (senior Randy) Hertel is doing well with the passing attack."

The Owls also have two large backs in senior tailback Cal Fance (6-1, 202) and senior fullback Frank Wilson (6-2, 226). Wilson noted both players have been doing a very good job and the Owls in general "have

been playing pretty solid football."

In a final look at his own team, Wilson said the Aggies have got to get their attitude right and quit making mistakes, especially turnovers.

"The interesting thing about the Baylor game is that we both had the same number of turnovers. The difference was they capitalized on our errors and we didn't on theirs. That's got to change."

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