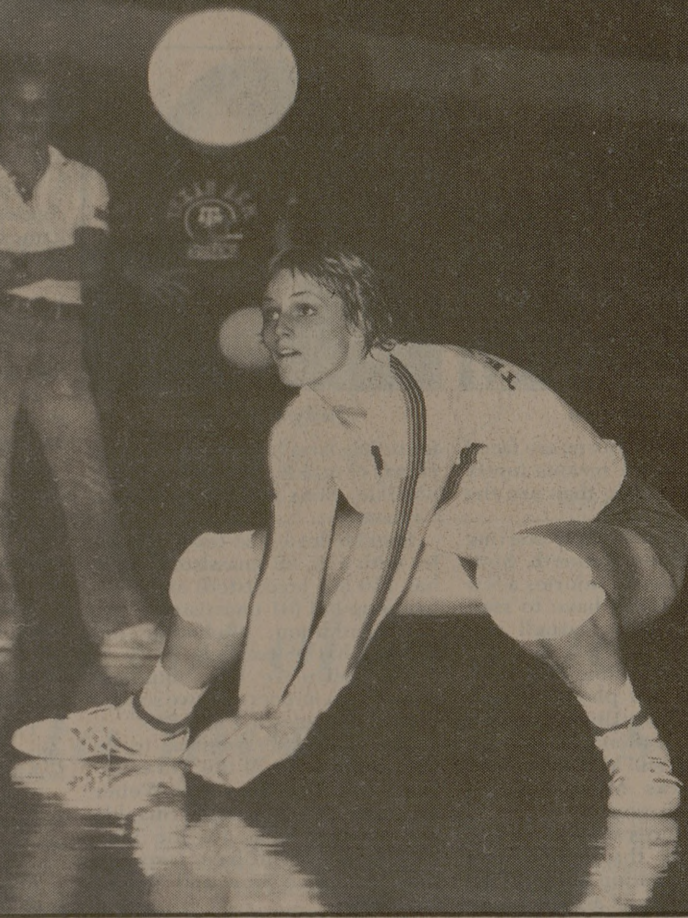


Sports



Concentration

Chemine Doty, of the Texas A&M volleyball team, concentrates on returning the ball. The Aggies played the University of Texas Tuesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Longhorns won the match in four games.

Staff photo by Dave Einsel

Aggie-Longhorn game — one rich with pride, glory and ifs

By RICK STOLLE  
Battalion Staff  
Each year about this time, football becomes a game of ifs and games. This certain back can recover an injury and if that defen- lineman can get over some is and pains, and if the team will win the game... that is, if the coach is telling truth about who he thinks will and who will be definitely

scoring contest. A high powered offense against a nationally ranked and league leading defense would produce a heck of a game. The Aggie offense leads the SWC right now with Kubiak. The Ags have averaged 400 yards a game. If the Ags gain 303 yards against Texas, A&M would win the offensive title outright. SMU has finished it's season with 4,306 yards on the season. A&M had 4,003. But if Kubiak does not play, the game will become a true defensive battle. The final score will probably be decided by a difference of no more than three points. And the Aggie defense has played a "now-you-see-me-now-you-don't" game. After a stellar game, the defense will become invisible giving up huge chunks of yardage to opposing offenses. The defense is definitely an area of ups and downs. But the Texas offense has sputtered all year long. Yet, it is still potent despite the injuries and in- experience. Freshman Robert Brewer, the new Longhorn quar-

terback, has been able to move the ball when Rick Melvor could not. But consistency is still not the name of Texas' offensive game. Yet, even with the injuries and question marks, the Texas-A&M game each year takes on a special significance. It is as if the rest of the season is just a dim memory. Never, in the history of the rival- ry, has there been a true upset. Despite the side that may be out- scored, the fans, alumni and stu- dents all say the same thing, "Just wait 'til next year and we'll get you!" Pride takes on a major role in this game. It is the motivating fac- tor for both sides. For some, as long as they can remember, the only thought they had was to beat the Longhorns or the Aggies. And it is that same pride that turns an annual event into a living tradi- tion. The A&M-Texas rivalry has had a storied and impressive history. Each side has won it's share of surprises and well-played games. In the 87 year history of the longest Southwest Conference

rivalry, Texas has held the total edge (60-22-5) but the game has been in doubt until the final few minutes and final gun in the last few years. While A&M has won four of the last six games, Texas holds a 33-8-1 advantage since 1940. But this Aggie team has a chance to get into the record books. With a win, the Ags will become the first team to ever defeat Texas three times in a row. And the Longhorns will be trying to keep the Aggies from doing just that. It is a matter of pride.

Analysis

teams. The bodies may be tired but which bodies, the ones are not telling. Exactly who is injured and will not play who is only slightly injured will see action will remain a mystery until gametime tom- row. The Texas defense has been slowed while the backfield of A&M is limping. Texas will miss starting defensive tackles as well as two cornerbacks and two punting backs. Tackles Kenneth Williams and Mark Weber will be out after suffering injuries against TCU and Baylor. Texas coach Fred Akers said Mike Hatchett is ailing but could possibly play. Bobby Johnson is definitely out with a broken wrist. Back Rodney Tate also is said to be out due to a deep thigh bruise. And A.J. "Jam" Jones has been ruled out by Akers due to tendonitis in his left knee. Jones had to leave the Baylor game early due to a new injury.

and while Texas is playing physical running backs, the Ag's quarterback situation is once again in the air. Gary Kubiak suffered a slight shoulder separation against TCU and has had trouble throwing the ball. Despite getting knocked around and receiving a concussion, John Elkins will get the starting nod should Kubiak not be able to play. Freshman Marvin Wesley will also see a lot of action if Kubiak does not play. But that is big if and Aggie coach Tom Wil- son is not saying anything about the situation until game time. But whoever the teams line up to play, the game can be counted as one of the best, most hard- fighting games of the year. It is al- ways that type of game. It is a game of pride and emotion that usually rocks the stadium. Now, a journalist's favorite game in the whole world is the if game. Special situations can be created that add a lot of excite- ment to the game but usually do not help decide the outcome. But it is a lot of fun so here goes; With Kubiak out, the Aggie de- fense will have to rise to the occa- sion. The A&M backs are good enough for 10 points without the starting quarterback. With him, the game would probably be a

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