

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Aggie Ladies' volleyball team excited about '82

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff
When most coaches lead a team to a 40-16 record, a second-place finish in conference action and a ninth-place tie in the NCAA tournament, they're content to have an "off" year to rebuild.

But not Aggie volleyball coach Terry Condon.

"We'll be a lot better this year," she said. "Our main goal is to reach the final four of the national tournament. And I think that if we play like I know we can, reaching the tournament is a realistic goal."

Assistant volleyball coach Linzy Vivas agreed with Condon, saying the Aggie Ladies should be 100 percent better. She cited several reasons for the improvement.

"One reason is because the people that are returning have often better talent-wise over the summer," she said. "A lot of the players played on teams during the summer and some stayed here and worked out with Dave Williams, who is the strength coach. Also, we have more experience coming back. Most of the returning players are juniors and seniors."

The Aggies should also be improved, she said, because they



Jennifer Giese



Susan Wetzel

"Their improvement has been dramatic," she said. "Cathy is just a good steady setter and Lisa has gotten physically stronger which has made her a better overall player. She's hitting the ball a lot harder."

Other returning starters include junior Jennifer Giese and senior Sue Wetzel.

The Aggie Ladies, Condon said, are all anxious to start play and prove just how much they have improved since last year.

"We've looked real good in practice, but practice and the games are a lot different from each other," she said. "Attitude is our biggest asset this year. Everybody's working harder, concentrating more, they're backing each other up and they're just real gung ho about the upcoming season."

The only aspect of the Aggie Ladies' game that worries Condon is their blocking ability.

"We have the personnel for blocking," she said, "but we still need to work on it a little more. Chemine Doty was going to start for us as a blocker but she messed up a knee at the national sports festival this summer. That really hurt us."

The Aggie Ladies open the season tonight when they face Illinois State at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

have acquired several talented recruits and transfers.

"Joey Vrazel and Sherri Brinkman are two new people with a lot of talent," she said. "For her size, Brinkman is probably the most agile player I've ever seen. And Vrazel is very, very good."

How good is Vrazel?
"We call her 'Razzle Dazzle Vrazel,'" she said.

Condon said Vrazel is exactly the type of player the volleyball team needs.

"Joey is probably our best," she said. "She played on the national championship team at Utah State and on the Olympic team in 1980. She'll be our captain because she's a motivator and a real good leader, which is one thing this team hasn't had in a while. Having a leader should help because every team needs someone to lead them."

Condon said two other players that have improved over the summer are Cathy Frederick and Lisa Johnson.

Pitt, Marino face challenge

United Press International

Those expecting a one-quarterback show when they tune in to tonight's nationally televised Pittsburgh-North Carolina game may be in for a slight surprise.

For months before the season, talk has been centered around Pitt quarterback Dan Marino as a genuine Heisman Trophy candidate. But the sixth-ranked Tar Heels have pretty fair quarterback of their own in

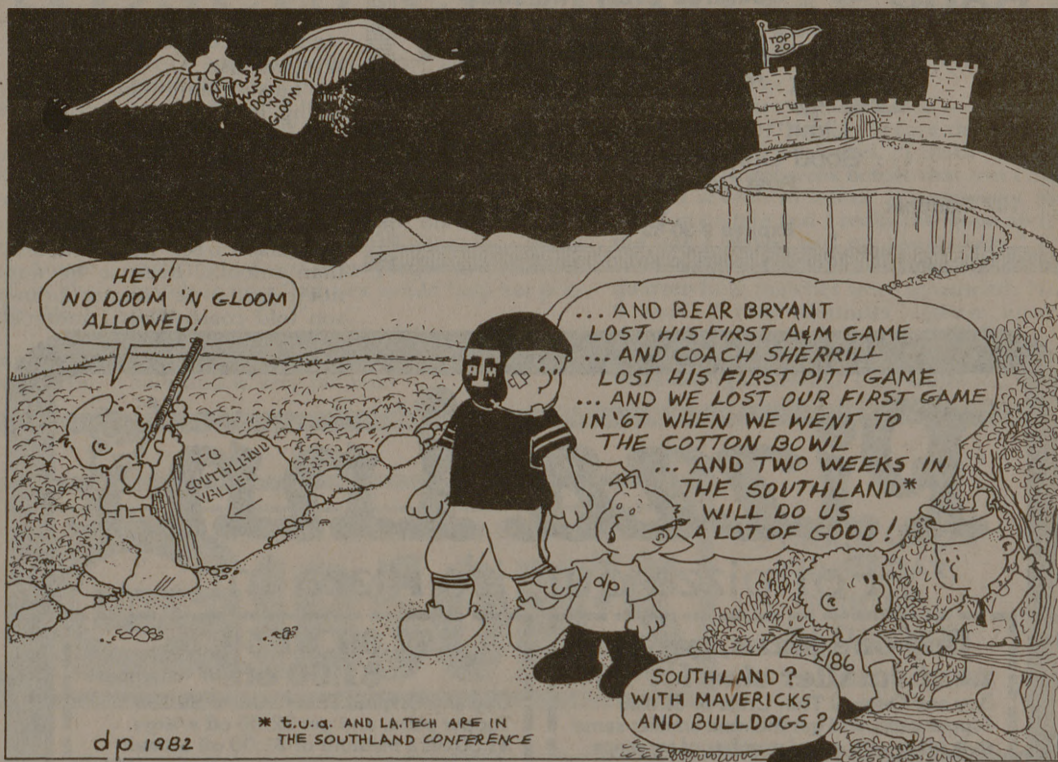
senior Rod Elkins.

"I'm expecting a big year from Rod," North Carolina Coach Denny Crum said. "He's the kind of competitor who always thinks he can do better."

Crum expects Elkins' senior year to resemble his sophomore season, when he led the Atlantic Coast Conference in passing. But the top-rated Panthers have more to

worry about than just Elkins — they have tailback Kelvin Bryant, the nation's third leading rusher last year, to contend with as well.

Marino, already the Panthers' all-time leading passer, will have a dynamic receiving trio of flanker Dwight Collins, split end Julius Dawkins and tight end John Brown to pick from.



Cowboy receiver opportunistic

Johnson plays key role

United Press International
DALLAS — Even Butch Johnson feels his personality is one for study in some psychology class.

Off the field he's a basically gentle soul who is quick with a one-liner and is neck-deep in civic enterprise. He is, for instance, on the board of directors of the Dallas child abuse center.

On the field, however, he relishes the opportunity to take out his frustrations on his fellow man and admits to gaining revenge on one particular foe by blocking him at knee level on a kick return, an incident which put that player out for the season.

"I guess I'm a schizophrenic," said Johnson. "Off the field I'm

Dr. Jekyll. But on the field I'm Mr. Hyde."

Well, maybe. But what Butch Johnson really seems to be is opportunistic. And he has parlayed that opportunism into a reputation as one of the best-known non-starting players in the National Football League.

Once again he will be on the bench when the Dallas Cowboys open their season against the Pittsburgh Steelers Monday night. Drew Pearson and Tony Hill will be the Cowboys' starting wide receivers. But because the game will come in for quite a bit of attention, there is every chance that Johnson will play a key role in it.

All five of Johnson's touchdown catches in 1981 came in

games that were televised coast to coast. His spectacular touchdown catch in Super Bowl XII against Denver ranks as one of the highlights in the history of the Cowboys. When a network beams a Cowboys' game nationwide, Johnson just seems to naturally show up on the screen.

"I crave the big game," said Johnson. "I can't wait until they (the Steelers) get to town. It's my natural expression, I guess. I like to make things happen."

"It's been that way all through my career. I've never shied away from the big game. When people are afraid of getting hit, I want to be in there. Games like that send me to a different level. I forget about ev-

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The Student Aggie Club Organizational Meeting with Guest Speaker

MEETING WITH

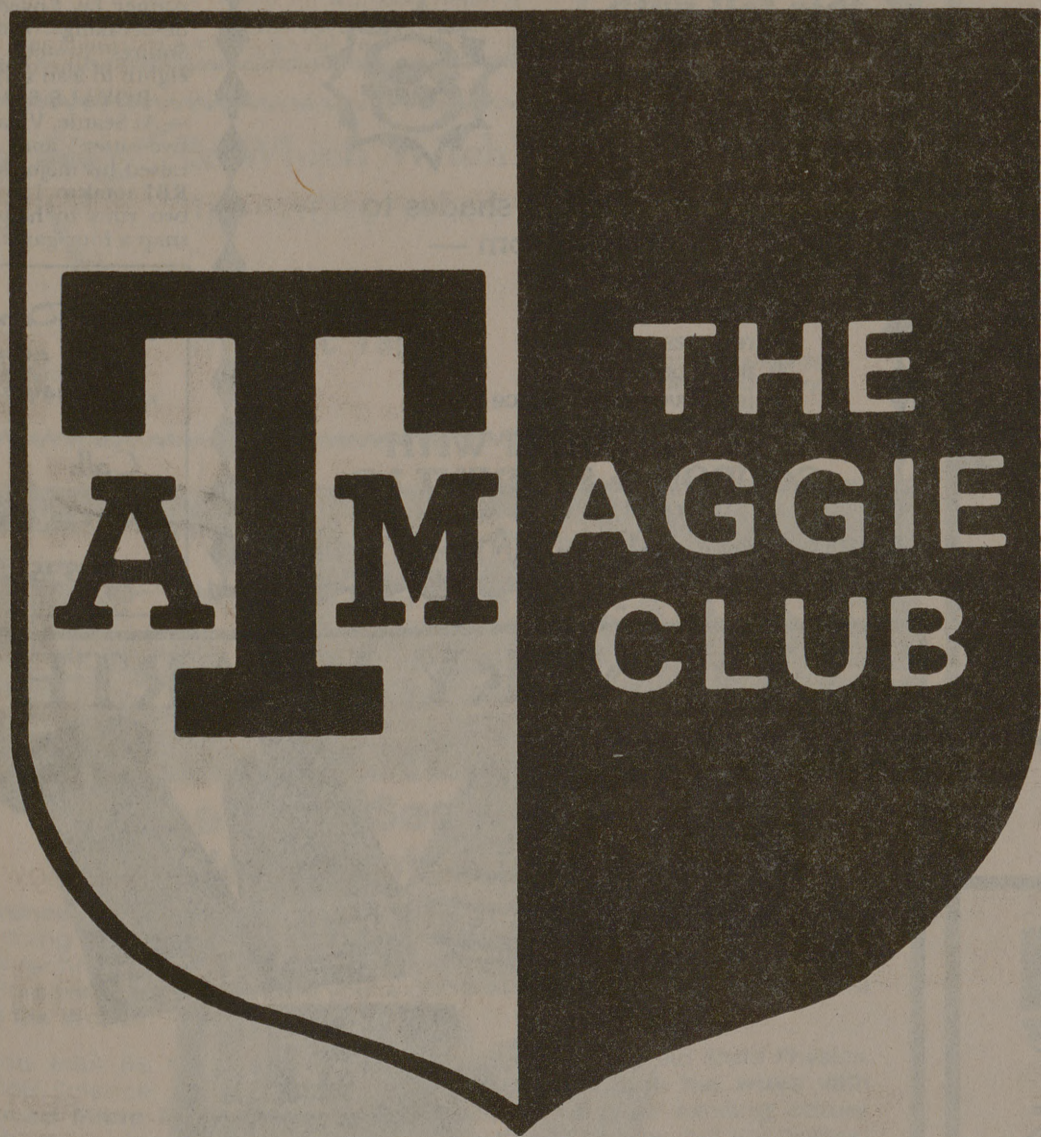
COACH SHERRILL

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7 p.m.

Cain Hall Film Room

— Everyone Welcome! —



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