

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## Women spikers shake sluggish start to down Texas Lutheran

by Scott Griffin

**Battalion Staff**  
After a shaky start in the first game, the Texas A&M women's volleyball team came back in convincing fashion to defeat Texas Lutheran College Wednesday night by scores of 15-6, 15-7 and 15-3.

But that was the only lead the Bulldogs had for the rest of the night. Trailing 5-6, A&M reeled off 10 straight points on the serving of freshman Angie Smith to win the game.

In the second game, last year's All-SWC middle blocker Sherri Brinkman led the attack with some savage blocking and spiking. "We really flowed well together," Brinkman said.

"We weren't really sure of ourselves at first, but we slowly

got better and we could feel we were just gonna win. When we get going, there's no stopping us," she said.

Indeed, there didn't seem to be, as Brinkman excited the small but vocal crowd with some incredible spikes.

With the exception of hitter Denise Dornak, who had several good shots of her own, the entire TLC squad had blocking and passing troubles all evening.

A&M's front line dominated

play for the entire match, and in the third game, freshman Margaret Spence led a blocking attack which crushed the TLC offense.

"I was nervous out there," Spence said. "But we got the flow going pulled it all together. I'd been sitting on the bench and wanted to get in the game — I was just hungry for the court."

Head coach Terry Condon was also pleased with the showing.

"We were little uptight 'cause it was our first home game," Condon

said. "But we got the adrenalin flowing and came back."

"We had a lot of movement on defense," Condon said. "That caused a lot of good ups and gave us a lot of points and side-outs. Our overall performance was excellent."

Texas A&M now stands 6-4 on the year, with their next match scheduled for this weekend at Southern Illinois University.



photo by John Makely

Texas A&M senior Linda Clausen goes up for a spike during the Aggies' 15-6, 15-7, 15-3 win over Texas Lutheran Wednesday.

## Alborn, Rice to face LSU amid negative atmosphere

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — With a 14-game losing streak on its side, Rice coach Ray Alborn admits it is not too difficult for the team to start looking on the negative side of things.

And facing a team that last year defeated the Owls 56-13 and this year is favored to beat them by 20 points does not make it any easier.

In an effort to turn around a 0-2 season, Alborn is taking the Owls through hard workouts this week and then the sole aim is to prepare for Saturday's game against Louisiana State.

But he still faces the problem of keeping his players from thinking negatively during a game.

"It's not too difficult to start looking on the negative side of things," said Alborn, whose team holds the second-longest current losing streak in college football at 14 games.

"I'm trying hard not too. But you have to wonder sometimes what is going on. You've got to guard yourself, your coaches and your players against that aw-hell syndrome. You know where you say, 'Aw hell, what bad is going to happen next.'"

Alborn said, however, he did not think his team had forgotten how to win.

"I don't think remembering or forgetting how to win — that's something you would forget. But maybe sometimes in the back of their minds there is the thing about when is it going to turn, when are the bad things going to stop happening."

He said media references to the losing streak stretching back to the 1981 season do not help.

"The world's full of negative people," he said. "It's a whole lot easier to be negative than it is to

be positive. But I think all my players realize that."

Alborn said it would take "an extreme effort out of everybody" to beat the LSU Tigers. However, he said he would not revert to the psychological tricks predecessor Al Conover used before games with LSU.

Conover had a manager light a string of firecrackers in the locker room at the moment Conover reached the end of his pre-game speech. But the smoke created by the firecrackers drove the team outside, gasping for air, and into the emerging Tiger team.

"It made quite an impression. I don't know but that Charlie Mac (McClendon) thought we were breathing fire. In fact, we were," Alborn said.

Rice beat LSU 17-7 the last time they played in Rice Stadium in 1980, but has lost the two subsequent contests at Baton Rouge. The rivalry is Rice's oldest in non-conference play.

## Auburn's Dye says UT tough

**United Press International**  
AUBURN, Ala. — Auburn Coach Pat Dye said Tuesday he is uncertain if his fourth-ranked Tigers are physically capable of beating back the offensive and defensive lines of third-ranked Texas.

The Tigers, 1-0 after last week's 24-3 win over Southern Mississippi, will play host Saturday to the Longhorns in a regionally-televised contest. Kickoff is set for 11:30 a.m. CDT.

"The biggest challenge will be how we match up with them on the offensive line and across the defensive front," said Dye. "I am not sure we are physically capable of doing that. We have got to better ourselves."

The coach said the Longhorns have "big and strong" linemen and a quick defensive secondary. On offense, he said, the running backs rank among the country's best.

"Texas is without a doubt one of the strongest teams in America," Dye said.

The coach said he expects junior Rob Moerschell to start at quarterback for Texas instead of Rick McIvor. Todd Dodge, who apparently was favored for the starter position, separated a shoulder during a recent scrimmage.

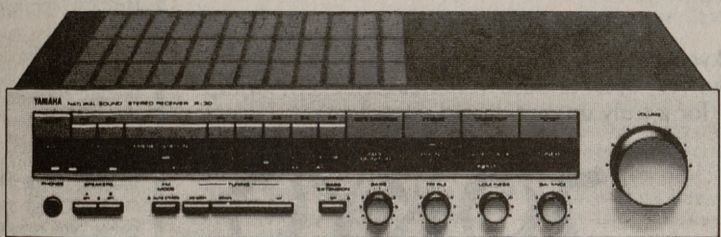
"Moerschell is the better runner of the two," said Dye. "McIvor will also play and when he is in the game, we anticipate them throwing the ball more."

Looking back at the Southern Mississippi game, Dye said he was pleased at the Tigers' overall performance except for mistakes that kept them from scoring more points.

"There is no question that we play a different kind of football team in Texas," he said. "When you look at Texas, they have everything you need to have a good program."

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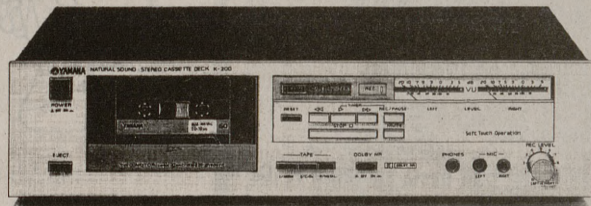
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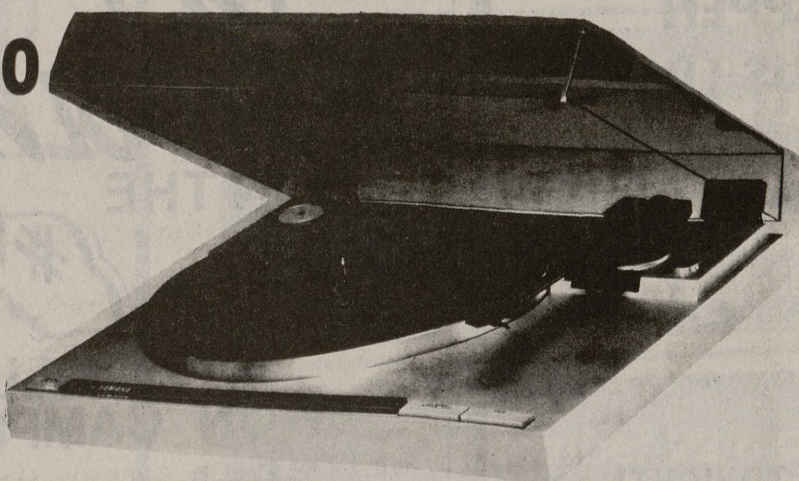
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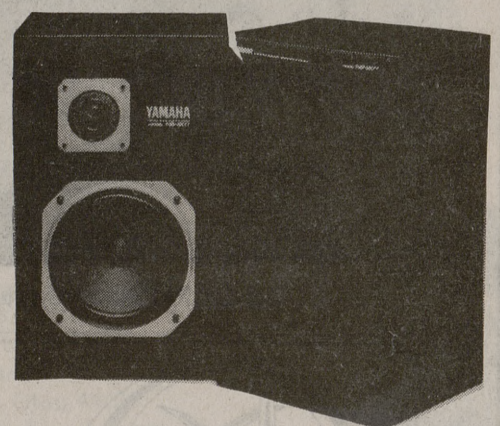
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