

The Battalion Sports

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Slow-starting Aggies drop Southwestern

by Scott Griffin

Battalion Staff
Texas A&M volleyball coach Terry Condon hasn't been pleased with her team's past two performances, even though the Aggies beat Southwestern University here Tuesday night.

A&M won by scores of 10-15, 15-10, 15-8 and 15-9, but Condon wasn't happy.

"I think our performance carried over from the weekend," Condon said after the game. She was referring to last weekend's massacre at the University of Nebraska tournament, where the Aggies won only five out of 22 games.

"We've been suffering from a lack of intensity," Condon said. "And I don't think we're in good enough shape. We've been getting tired lately and we've made some stupid mistakes."

A&M looked tired in their match against Southwestern.

"They (Southwestern) really slowed the match down," Condon said. "And then we started doing it — we lost our pace."

Good performances from hitters Linda Clausen and Margaret Spence and middle blocker Chemine Doty helped the Aggies overcome the slower Southwestern squad.

Clausen finished the evening with 12 spikes on 28 attempts, and Spence had 15 spikes on 30 tries. Both Clausen and Spence helped carry a weary-looking Aggie team.

Doty was impressive also. "I just relaxed and decided to play," said Doty, who finished with 10 spikes on 16 attempts for a .500 hitting percentage. Most of those shots came in the last game.

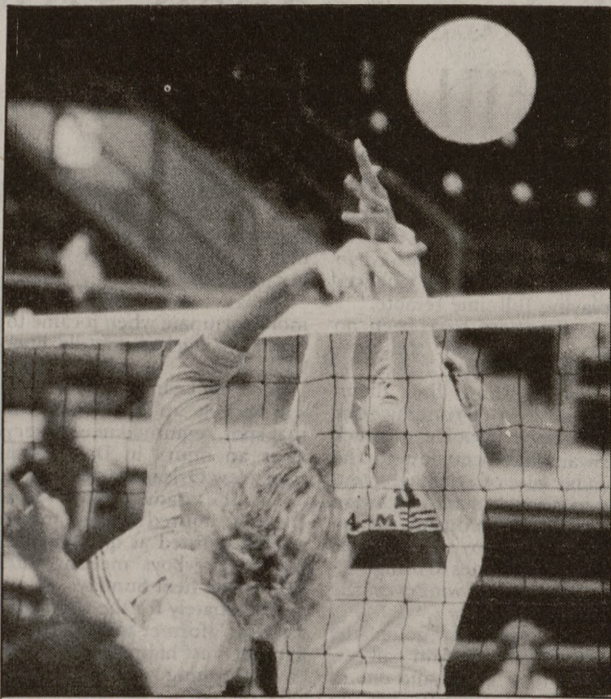


photo by John Wagner

Texas A&M's Sherri Brinkman (11) blocks a shot during the match against Southwestern

Doty also led a 10-3 surge in the second game that helped the Ags put that one away.

And she came back in the final game to almost single-handedly defeat a stubborn Southwestern defensive unit. After being down 9-6, the Pirates came back to tie the score, 9-9, after three straight net serves by the Aggies.

But Doty led the attack with several savage spikes to put the game out of reach with a 13-9 surge.

The Aggies were lucky Doty was hot — because the rest of the team wasn't.

"Our overall game has been pretty good," Condon said. "We've been playing well in

practice, but we've been making mental mistakes in our games.

"We need to get our intensity back," Condon said.

And they'll need to do it quickly — they play the University of Texas Monday. UT has a 10-1 season record — A&M is 9-9.

And UT is just now coming off a big win at California. "They won second at Cal," Condon said, "and there were five of the top 10 teams in the country at that tournament." UT's only loss was in the final — they lost 16-14 to Stanford.

The match is set for 7:30 p.m. Monday.

Rich man

Celtics, Bird agree on \$15 million contract

United Press International

BOSTON — The Boston Celtics and Larry Bird put the finishing touches on a deal Tuesday making the consensus All-Pro forward one of the highest paid athletes in history at more than \$2 million a year.

While the Celtics and Bird's attorney, Bob Woolf, were closing the deal over the telephone, the team also was trying to appease Robert Parish, who is unhappy with his \$650,000-a-year deal and is threatening to stay out of training camp, which begins Friday.

Bird's deal is a seven-year pact in excess of \$15 million and contains no incentives. For that reason, it may be even more lucrative than Moses Malone's \$13 million pact over six years, which includes some \$300,000 per year in incentives.

The Celtics reportedly were planning a news conference Wednesday to announce Bird's signing. They also have a training camp media day scheduled Thursday.

Woolf and Bird had set Oct. 1 as the deadline to complete the deal.

Bird is entering the fifth year of his original \$3.25 million contract and did not want the contract to be an issue this season. Had he not agreed by then, he was prepared to become a free agent.

The negotiations between Woolf and General Manager Red Auerbach, who met six times, were stalled until the team's new owners received NBA approval last Friday. The owners, Woolf, Auerbach and Bird all met and the deal was completed.

"We've made a great deal of progress," Woolf said. "I don't want to say anything more than that."

Celtics vice president and team counsel Jan Volk would only say that the two sides are still talking.

With Bird in hand, the Celtics also were working to keep Parish from holding out for more money. The 7-foot-center, who has three years remaining on his contract, wants his salary upgraded to the \$1 million-a-year mark or go elsewhere.

"They have a choice in this," Parish was quoted in Tuesday's Boston Globe. "They can discuss it with me or they can trade me. If nothing is done, I will stay out of camp. Period."

Parish's new agent, Wayne Traynham, met with Volk for about 30 minutes Tuesday and

was informed the Celtics do not intend to renegotiate Parish's contract.

"Our position is very clear and will remain unaltered. We intend to honor our end of Robert's contract and we hope he will do the same," Volk said.

Traynham, who has been Parish's agent for only three days, was not immediately available for comment.

Parish signed his new deal two years ago and in so doing elected to avoid free agency and a possibly more lucrative deal. He said at that time he did so because he enjoyed being with the Celtics and with a winner.

Parish was upset that teammate Kevin McHale, who has three years in the league, recently signed a four-year, \$4 million deal, asking, "How can you pay a non-starter more than a starter?"

CBS plans regional airing

Hogs, Frogs move for television

United Press International

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas and Texas Christian University have agreed to start Saturday's football game at 11 a.m. to allow CBS to televise it on a regional basis.

University of Arkansas officials were notified Monday night that the network had picked the Southwest Conference opener for the Hogs as one of its regional telecasts for Saturday.

Arkansas head coach Lou Holtz said the change of starting times — the game originally was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. — could have an effect on how his team will play.

"The game will be a lot hotter in the afternoon than it would be at night," Holtz said after Tues-

day's practice. "Conditioning could be a factor."

Holtz also said the practice had produced hope that his offense had improved significantly since its pitiful showing in last Saturday's 13-10 loss to Ole Miss. The Hogs got just 56 yards on 36 running plays.

"Marcus Elliot and Phillip Boren have really come along on the offensive line the past two days," the head coach said. "Billy Warren had a good day at tailback and (linebacker) Mike Castleberry made some good tackles on defense."

The Hogs still are looking for a dependable running back. Warren averaged 5.6 yards two weeks ago in a win over New

Mexico, but did not play last week. Holtz said he was expected to see a lot of action Saturday in Fort Worth.

"It was a good work day,"

Holtz said of Tuesday's practice. "I'm very pleased with the way the players are responding." He added "There was real intensity today."

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