

Volleyball team at LSU tourney

by John Wagner

Battalion Staff
Texas A&M volleyball coach Terry Condon says this weekend could be the turning point of what's been an otherwise disappointing season.

If so, credit Condon with a touch of psychological genius.

A grueling, four-hour practice/gripe session, held after the team's loss to Texas in Austin Monday night, seems to have turned the Aggies around. "I think everything's back on track," Condon says. "We're ready to go."

'Losing was all in our heads. It's not a lack of skills, because we have the talent to play with anybody. We just keep making mental mistakes that kill us.' — Volleyball coach Terry Condon

The Aggies get a chance to prove that readiness during the LSU Aspri Volleyball Showcase, which runs today through Sunday in Baton Rouge, La.

The six-team tournament, which Condon says "is one of the toughest in the nation," includes two nationally-ranked teams, No. 10 Texas and No. 13 Ten-

nessee. Illinois, Penn State and host LSU round out the field.

The first hints of A&M's turn-around were evident in Wednesday's 15-13, 15-13, 15-8 defeat of the Houston Cougars. The Cougs took a 9-1 lead in the first game before the Aggies came together to put them away. That, Condon says, was a very positive sign.

"A practice like the one we had will make you either fight or give up, and it can go both ways," she said. "Fortunately, it worked for us. It got the players to realize what they need to do to win."

"It was nice to see the team come back, and do what we wanted them to do."

Monday's loss to Texas gave the Aggies something else they can shoot for this weekend — revenge. The Longhorns tore A&M apart in Austin, winning in three games, 15-4, 15-8 and 15-8. It may be a different story in Baton Rouge, however.

"The players want to do what we did for last time (against Texas)," Condon said. "They know they played bad. Once you play somebody, you get over your jitters and realize they're not as good as you thought they were."

"Losing was all in our heads. It's not a lack of skills, because we have the talent to play with anybody. We just keep making mental mistakes that kill us."

A&M opened their tournament play today at 12 p.m. against Tennessee.



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Rifle team receives varsity status

by Kay Mallett

Battalion Staff
The Texas A&M rifle team may be able to recruit more shooters soon.

After being on temporary status for the last two years, the team received permanent varsity status this fall, and coach Major Rick Pitts says the new status should help the team in many ways.

"The main thing varsity status will do for us is enable me to

go out and recruit more shooters," Pitts said.

In past years, people on the rifle team were voluntary members.

"What I'd like to do is be able to go out and offer scholarships to really good shooters so they'll come to A&M," Pitts said.

Before this year, the team had been operating on a "bookstore account," Pitts said the account, which was about \$7,500, paid for the team's expenses to shoot in competitions. Pitts said he hopes the permanent status will give them more funds for equipment.

"Right now, we're one of the best air rifle teams in the nation," he said. "The team members have to wait in line to practice because we don't have enough air rifles to go around. I just wish we had the money to buy three more air rifles. I'd be happy with that. At least it's a start."

Varsity status also allows the team to compete in the NCAA championships.

"We have a good chance to take our whole team this year," Pitts said. "With two, possibly three shooters making the All-American team."

Pitts said the team is better over-all this year than in pre-

vious years. He also said there were some outstanding shooters that may receive individual honors.

Senior Glenn Park has done well this semester and it looks like he may make the All-American team. "My main goal — at least this year — is to qualify as an All-American and shoot in the NCAA."

Park, who made the All-Southwest Conference team last year, has a good chance of reaching his goals. He is presently shooting 377 out of a possible score of 400. The cut-off point to compete in the NCAA's is a minimum score of 375.

Park already received one honor this fall when he and three other team members qualified to shoot in the International Team tryouts.

Park, Ben Potter, Kevin Schabaker, and John Berry shot high enough scores in a championship tournament two weeks ago to qualify for the tryouts, which will be next July in Phoenix.

The International Team competes in the Pan American games and Pitts said more team members should qualify for the tryouts with scores from competitions throughout the year.

The team got off to a good start at the Texas State Air Rifle Championship Sept. 24-25 where approximately 50 individuals and 12 teams, including Texas A&M, competed.

A shooter may compete in one of four classifications: marksman, sharpshooter, expert, and masters. Five Aggie shooters placed at the championships, and the squad, divided into three teams, captured first, second and third in the team division.

The rifle team travels to Houston this weekend for the Smallbore Rifle Prone Championships where they won the title last year.

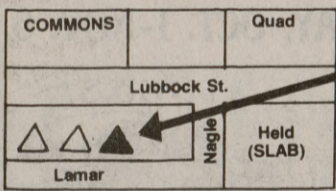
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Court postpones ruling Tulane QB free to play

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — A state appeals court Thursday decided it would not rule on the eligibility of Tulane quarterback Jon English before the weekend, allowing the senior passer to play for the Green Wave against Memphis State.

The 4th Circuit Court of Appeal took the case under submission and said it would render a decision early next week, officials said.

That delay means the temporary restraining order under which English played against Vanderbilt last Saturday will remain in effect for this weekend's game at Memphis State, said Tulane attorney Wiley Las-trapes.

The state appeals court last Friday granted English a last-minute reprieve, saying he could suffer irreparable harm unless he was allowed to participate in the Vanderbilt game.

The court's decision came one day after a district judge had removed the restraining order under which English had performed all season. Civil District Judge Revis Ortique ruled it was unlikely English would succeed in his case against the NCAA.

English has played in the five Green Wave games fall under a court order that prevents Tulane from carrying out the mandate of the NCAA.

The NCAA declared English ineligible because he did not meet the requirements of the NCAA's amateurism rule when he transferred from Iowa State to Tulane, where his father is head coach.

English has claimed that he should be eligible because he transferred from Tulane to Iowa State before the mandate of the NCAA was issued.

Tulane initially denied English's attempt to be declared eligible, but later changed its position when the NCAA threatened to sue the school if it refused to play English.

If English ultimately is declared ineligible, Tulane faces NCAA sanctions, including a fine and forfeiture of wins over State and Mississippi.

Tulane also could be forced to sacrifice the \$340,000 in television revenues it earned last season. Civil District Judge Revis Ortique ruled it was unlikely English would succeed in his case against the NCAA.

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