

Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Volleyball team whips Baylor

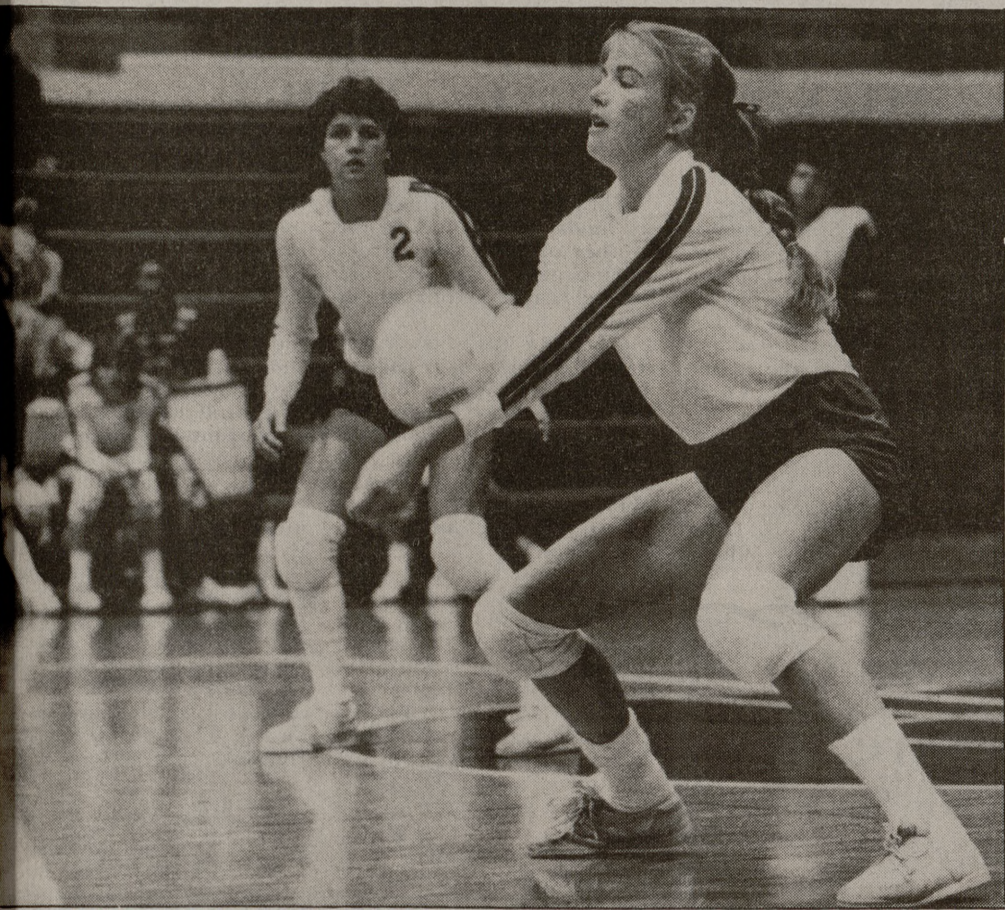


photo by Donn Friedman

Texas A&M's Linda Clausen returns a shot. The Aggies improved their record to 5-1 in during the Aggies win over Baylor Monday. conference play to remain in second place.

by Bob Caster

Battalion Staff

The Baylor volleyball team never knew what hit it Monday night as a strong Texas A&M team dealt the Bears a stunning defeat in three-straight games.

The Aggies won the match 15-11, 15-2 and 15-1, moving Texas A&M to 5-1 in Southwest Conference action while the Bears' conference record falls to 0-6.

The match was never really close — despite the four-point margin in the first game. Aggie coach Terry Condon said the team was a little overconfident in the first game and didn't concentrate.

"We weren't passing real well in the first game," freshman starter Chris Zogata said. "We made one mistake and continued to make five or six more, but we knew that we were going to win."

To remedy the Aggies' first-game slump, Condon changed defenses in the second game.

"Switching the defense forced them to concentrate more and get their minds in the game," she said.

It worked, too. The Aggies allowed only three points in the last two games.

"Switching the defense was easier against that team," Zogata said, "because they were getting us deep in the corner."

Despite the overconfidence and lack of concentration in the first game, Condon said she is

pleased with the way the team is coming along this season.

"They seem to be getting better and better as the season goes along," she said. "Our setting has gotten a lot better but we're still a little rusty in areas. We'll have a lot of practice time this week."

Condon said one of the brightest spots on the young Aggie team is sophomore stand-out Sherri Brinkman — currently the Aggies' top hitter.

"Sherri has improved a hundred percent in her mental game this season," Condon said.

"It was a fun game," Brinkman said. "We felt like we were all playing together and everything was flowing out there. If one person had a bad play, we all were in there giving support."

The Aggies will have the week off before returning to action Monday night against the Rice Owls at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

After Rice, the Aggies remaining home schedule includes a game against Texas Tech on Nov. 7 and a rematch against conference-leading Texas Nov. 16.

Last year, Texas A&M was leading the conference race until the Horns bumped A&M from the top in the final game of the season. This year, the Aggies hope to return the favor after falling to Texas during the first round of conference action. The Aggies are undefeated in conference games except for the loss to the Longhorns.

Aggie QB Murray will be full speed for SMU Saturday

by Melissa Adair

Battalion Staff

Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray should be at full speed for SMU on Saturday, coach Jackie Sherrill said Monday at his weekly press conference.

Murray injured his right knee late in the fourth quarter against Rice Saturday when he tackled Owl defensive back Troy Cates. Cates had picked off a Murray pass near the goal line and was returning it when Murray made the tackle.

"Kevin suffered no mechanical damage to his right knee, but it will be sore," Sherrill said. "We may hold him out for two days, but I expect him to be 100 percent by gametime Saturday."

Sherrill said he was disappointed in the way his young club let down after jumping ahead of Rice 14-0 in the first quarter.

"We just lost our enthusiasm," he said. "It's evident we didn't play well after that. Defensively we weren't splattering people and moving like we have. But we still held them to just 81 yards."

That 81 yards was the Owls' lowest offensive output of the year.

Sherrill said several Aggies are suffering from injuries. Full-back George Smith was held out of the Rice game with a bad ankle. However, Smith practiced Thursday and should be back to normal Saturday. His replacement, freshman Roger Vick, ran 18 times for 79 yards against the Owls, including an 11-yard touchdown run.

Back-up left offensive tackle Bruce Lawson will be lost for the year after suffering a knee injury, Sherrill said. Doctors will determine this week what type of surgery Lawson will need. Lawson was hurt in the first quarter of the Rice game on an extra point attempt.

Sherrill commended defensive end Ray Childress and line-backer Greg Berry on defense, and tight end Rich Siler on offense. Siler caught seven passes for 75 yards.

Sherrill said this weekend's match against SMU won't be easy.

"SMU's defense is very experienced," he said. "Overall, I would say that their defense is better this year than last year. Offensively, they lost (Eric) Dickerson and (Craig) James, but they've got some game breakers in those freshmen wide receivers (Marquis Pleasant and Ron Morris). They go deep on every play, and it keeps you from letting your secondary play run support."

The Mustangs lost to Texas 15-12 Saturday in Irving. They are currently 5-1 overall, 2-1 in Southwest Conference play. The Aggies are 3-3-1, 2-1-1 in the SWC.

Cardinals slug out tie with Giants

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — Neil O'Donoghue of St. Louis, whose 22-yard field goal with 54 seconds remaining in regulation forced an extra period, missed attempts of 45, 20 and 43 yards in overtime Monday night, enabling the New York Giants to salvage a 20-20 tie against the Cardinals.

A rare 34-yard punt by Giants' All-Pro Dave Jennings gave the Cardinals possession at the New York 34, but O'Donoghue was short and wide left on a 45-yard attempt at 6:10 of the extra period.

A 32-yard pass from Neil Lomax to Roy Green later gave the Cardinals a first down at the New York 2-yard line and after an incomplete pass, St. Louis coach Jim Hanifan elected to go for the field goal on second down.

O'Donoghue, however, was wide right on a 20-yard attempt. Rookie cornerback Lionel Washington gave O'Donoghue a third chance when he picked off

a Jeff Rutledge pass and returned the ball 25 yards to the New York 25 in the final minute of overtime. Again on second down, Hanifan sent in O'Donoghue, whose 43-yard attempt was wide right with 22 seconds left, leaving both clubs tied for the NFC east basement at 2-5.

The Giants' deepest penetration in overtime was to the St. Louis 44, but New York took a 5-yard delay of game penalty and punted.

O'Donoghue's 22-yarder with 54 seconds remaining in regulation was set up when Giants' rookie safety Terry Kinard, making just his second professional start, was called for pass interference against Pat Tilley, giving the Cardinals a first down at the New York 4.

Lomax then passed to a wide-open Roy Green in the end zone, but the Cardinals' top receiver dropped the ball. On second down, Lomax flipped a short pass to Willard Harrell, open in

the right flat, but the ball also fell through the running back's hands. A third-down incomplete brought on O'Donoghue, who tied the score 20-20.

Giants' rookie Ali Haji-Sheikh, who earlier in the game had set a club record with his 13th straight field goal, attempted a 66-yard field goal in the closing seconds of regulation, but his try at an NFL record fell well short.

Haji-Sheikh gave the Giants a 20-17 advantage at 5:40 of the fourth period when he capped a penalty-aided 63-yard drive with a 29-yard field goal. The Cardinals had stopped New York at its own 22, but Dave Ahrens was flagged with a 15-yard unnecessary roughness penalty on a punt to give the Giants an automatic first down.

Four plays later, St. Louis cornerback Wayne Smith was called for a 19-yard pass interference penalty to give the Giants another first down. A 23-yard pass from Jeff Rutledge, playing in his first regular-season game since 1981, to rookie Malcolm Scott moved the ball to the St. Louis 5-yard line before the Cardinal defense stiffened and

Haji-Sheikh came on for his 14th consecutive field goal.

Rutledge, who started only the second game of his 5-year career, missed seven consecutive pass attempts in the first half before warming up. He finished the game 21-of-46 for 208 yards while Rob Carpenter gained 79 yards on 24 carries for New York.

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