

Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

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Showdown

Aggie volleyball team tries for SWC championship tonight against Horns

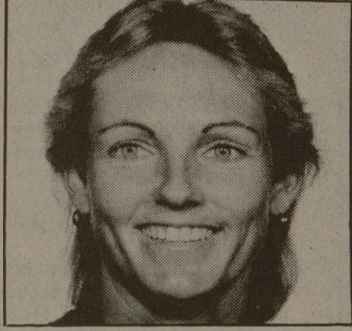
by Bob Caster
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M volleyball team has been in the shadow of the Texas Longhorns ever since the Aggies lost their first conference game to the Horns Oct. 3.

Since then, the Aggies have been flawless in Southwest Conference play as Texas A&M has posted eight, count 'em, eight wins and zero losses. The only problem for the Aggies is that the Longhorns have also gone undefeated in conference play.

The result? Horns no.1, Aggies no.2.

But the season's not over yet. The two teams will duel again tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. If the Aggies win, they will share the SWC crown with the Longhorns and a play-off match will have to be set up to determine which team will get the conference's automatic bid



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"We just have to work hard and concentrate," Condon said about this week's practice sessions. "I really haven't talked to them about Texas this week. I

don't want us to think about whether we win or lose but to concentrate on practice."

But beating the Horns is all that the players have had on their minds for weeks. They leave you with the impression that an Aggie win is preordained. It may not be preordained but that doesn't mean it's not possible. In fact the match

may bring together two teams that are somewhat comparable, despite the big difference in overall records.

The Longhorns are 29-6 for the season while the Aggies tote a 23-20 record into the match. That's a big difference in the loss column but it's also a difference in the number of total matches. Condon says there's also a difference in opponent quality.

"Our schedule is different from theirs," she said. "We played a lot of teams in the top 20."

But records and past opponents and all the other things one can interpret into a season won't mean a thing tonight when the two teams face each other across the net. Whichever team plays best will walk out the winner — something either team can do, Condon said.

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don't have anything to lose, they do."

The situation was similar last year when the two teams met in Austin at the end of the 1982 season. Both the Aggies and the Horns had identical 8-1 conference records going into the match. The Aggies only loss was from the Houston Cougars and Texas' only defeat coming from A&M earlier in the season. After the match, the Longhorns had another digit in the win column.

The Longhorns lead the conference in offense with a .280 hitting percentage. But the Aggies are the top defensive team allowing only a .085 hitting percentage. A hitting percentage is similar to a batting percentage in baseball.

The Aggies also have Sherri Brinkman, the top hitter in the conference and Chris Zogata, the leading server.



Sherri Brinkman will lead A&M against UT tonight.

"Eric Dickerson show" brings down the house

United Press International

ATLANTA — Monday night NFL football for this week had been billed as a confrontation between the top two runners in the league — rookie Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams and veteran William Andrews of the Atlanta Falcons.

It turned out to be the Eric Dickerson show. Andrews, who has been battling Chicago's Walter Payton for the title of top rusher-receiver over the past five years, outgained Dickerson by 18 yards, 82-64, when the Rams came from behind to nip the Falcons, 27-21, last month.

But Dickerson had a nearly 3-to-1 edge Monday night while the Rams were crushing the Falcons, 36-13.

When Andrews went out just before halftime with a shoulder injury, he had rushed for 52 yards on 14 carries and caught one pass for six yards. Before Dickerson sat out the final quarter of the rain-drenched mismatch, the former SMU star had rushed for 146 yards and two touchdowns on 21 carries and caught six passes for 40 yards.

In the process, Dickerson, with five games yet to go in his first pro campaign, raised his season's rushing total to 1,369 yards — 131 more than the previous Rams' record set by Lawrence McCutcheon in all of 1977, and raised his touchdown total to 19 — two more than the former Rams record shared by Elroy Hirsch and Wendell Tyler.

After having his worst pro outing in that first game against the Falcons, Dickerson was determined to have a good one the second time around.

"I was not mentally prepared for the first game and was disappointed in my play," he said. "I started thinking about this game a little then and

concentrated hard on it this week. I don't like to get shut down by any team and I certainly wasn't going to let it happen again."

Andrews, who insists he'll be ready to play Sunday when the Falcons host San Francisco, which shares the NFC West lead with the Rams, had a couple of consolation prizes. He raised his season rushing total to 1,007 yards to give him his fourth 1,000-yard season in his five-year career (missing only in last year's strike-shortened season) and he raised his career rushing total to 5,202 yards to move into 34th place on the all-time NFL list.

"I'm afraid that doesn't mean very much under the circumstances," said Andrews, referring to the fact that, in losing, the Falcons fell three games off the NFC West lead with only five to play.

Andrews indicated he didn't feel some of his teammates want to win as badly as he does.

"You practice hard and you play hard and they say association rubs off," said Andrews. "Honestly, I doubt it sometimes. You are dealing with individuals. Some play with more enthusiasm than others."

Falcons coach Dan Henning, who admits "the playoffs are out of the question for us now," apparently agreed with Andrews when he chewed out his offensive unit during a sidelines meeting late in the third quarter of Monday's game.

The Rams, who host Washington Sunday, are convinced they can beat out San Francisco for the division title.

"We have a championship team," said long-time defensive end Jack Youngblood. "We're the darkhorse in the race, but we've got what it takes to win and we're going to win it."

All-time rusher Jim Brown considering NFL comeback

United Press International

CLEVELAND — Jim Brown, pro football's all-time leading rusher although he has been retired for 18 years, said Tuesday that he will consider a comeback if his career-rushing record is broken.

Brown, now 47, gained 12,312 yards while with the Cleveland Browns from 1957 to 1965 and already has been inducted into the Hall of Fame. However, Pittsburgh's Franco Harris and Chicago's Walter Payton are closing in on the career-rushing record.

In a telephone interview from his home in Los Angeles, Brown said, "Well, I never thought about it until you (reporters) started asking me about the record."

"I figure when they do break it, I'll talk to Al Davis (owner of the Los Angeles Raiders)."

Brown said Harris should break the record this year, he'll contact Davis about playing for the Raiders next season.

"I think it is better to die with your boots on like an old soldier," he said.

Asked if the Raiders would give Brown a tryout, club executive assistant Al LoCasale said, "Jim Brown is a great football player and we're glad to see he thinks so highly of the Raiders." He declined further comment.

The former fullback repeatedly mentioned that his record was set in nine seasons when teams played 12 games and then 14 games, rather than the cur-

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Nets romp past Rockets

United Press International

HOUSTON — Otis Birdsong scored 34 points and Buck Williams collected 18 rebounds to lead the New Jersey Nets to a 104-86 victory over the Houston Rockets Tuesday.

Williams and Darwin Cook also added 14 points each for the winners while rookie Ralph Sampson scored a career-high 32 points and nabbed 20 rebounds to lead the Rockets.

Also in the game, Rocket veteran Elvin Hayes had one

field goal attempt to become the all-time NBA leader in career field goal attempts. Hayes, who missed the field goal try, now has 23,931 attempts to 23,930 for former Boston Celtic great John Havlicek.

The Rockets led by one, 54-53, at halftime after trailing by seven points at the end of the first period. Early in the fourth quarter the Nets outscored the Rockets 10-2 to grab a lead they never relinquished.

The Nets' defense held the

Rockets to 32 points in the second half.

The win gave the Atlantic Division Nets a 6-3 record while the Midwest Division Rockets fell to 3-6.

With the loss the Rockets failed to pick up ground on division-leading Dallas. The Mavericks had Tuesday off.

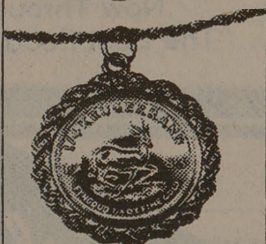
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