

Sports

Thursday, September 6, 1984/The Battalion/Page 13

Women's soccer
team hits stride

See page 15

Condon's Aggs improve to 3-1

A&M whips Sam Houston

By TONY CORNETT
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M women's volleyball team opened their home season before a crowd of 219 in G. Rollie White Coliseum Wednesday night with a convincing win over Sam Houston State University.

The Aggies took the best three-out-of-five match in straight games 15-6, 15-9, 15-10 while raising their overall match record to 3-1.

A&M Head Coach Terry Condon was pleased with the way the team played.

"I thought they did real well," said Condon. "We were trying a lot of new plays and we were running our offense a little bit different. They really ran some nice offensive plays. I was really pleased to see some of the things we've been doing in practice come through in this match. Because this is where we got to do it against teams like this. All in all, I was very pleased with their performance."

Sam Houston State Head Coach Brenda Gray said that her team was "scared to death," out on the court against the Aggies.

The Bearcats had three new players on the floor after a recruiting year that brought in a lot of freshman talent.

Coach Condon gave the Bearcats credit for their aggressive style of play.

"They've always been a scrappy team," Condon said. "Every time we've played them there have been times during the match when we've had problems. They were a little bit stronger offensively. They hit the ball a little bit better than they have in the past."

Coach Condon didn't substitute as

many of her players in and out of the game as she's been accustomed to, but she had a valid reason.

Condon is looking for continuity. "I'm trying to let them play more all-around at the beginning of the year so maybe I won't get stuck in positions that I don't want to be later on," Condon said. "They gell a little better together and play better defense, hopefully. It may not work, but we'll see."

The next game for the Aggies will be Monday night against the University of Georgia in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7:30 p.m.

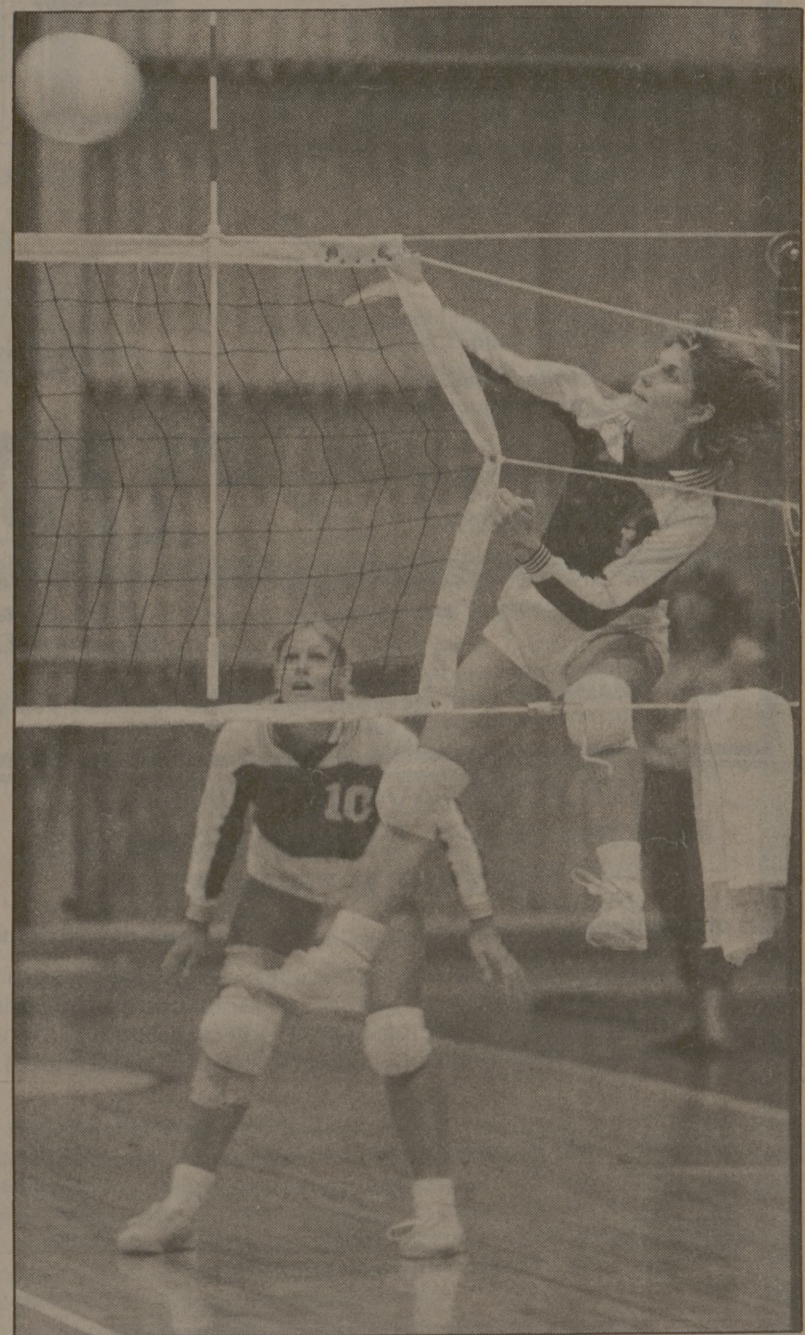


Photo by PETER ROCHA

Texas A&M's Angi Smith (#1) spikes the ball from the corner during the Aggies' home opening three-game sweep of Sam Houston State Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Chemine Doty (#10) awaits a possible return.

Terrible tackling takes the wind out of Hurricanes' No. 1 ranking

United Press International

NEW YORK — You know it's still early in the season when the coach of the No. 1 team in the nation says his players can't tackle.

But that's the reward the defending champion Miami Hurricanes got from Head Coach Jimmy Johnson after knocking off Auburn and Florida within six days to move into the top spot in the United Press International Board of Coaches' ratings.

"Our players don't tackle very well," Johnson said. "It wasn't as much of a problem against Auburn because we were more of a swarming defense, and we were not in a position of having to make too many one-on-one tackles. But against Florida we didn't have that kind of swarming, fanatical tackling, and it almost cost us."

Miami received 30 of a possible 35 first-place votes and 513 points to take a comfortable lead over No. 2 Nebraska (415), No. 3 Texas (337), No. 4 UCLA (330) and No. 5 Clemson (311).

Nebraska received four first-place votes. Teams receive 15 points for

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first-place votes, 14 for second, etc. Miami, ranked fourth in pre-season, jumped to No. 1 after running its nation-leading winning streak to 13 games. The Hurricanes edged pre-season No. 1 Auburn 20-18 and topped Florida, ranked 18th in pre-season, 32-20.

Auburn fell to sixth in the ratings, followed by No. 7 Penn State, No. 8 Ohio State, No. 9 Michigan and No. 10 Oklahoma.

Rounding out the Top 20 are No. 11 Alabama, No. 12 Brigham Young, No. 13 Arizona State, No. 14 Iowa, which received one first-place vote, No. 15 Notre Dame, No. 16

Boston College, No. 17 Southern Methodist, No. 18 Washington, No. 19 Florida State and No. 20 Pittsburgh.

Boston College soared four spots after a 44-24 win over Western Carolina. Miami and Clemson, a 40-7 winner over Appalachian State last Saturday, each jumped three places. BYU, unranked in pre-season, vaulted into 12th after a 20-14 upset over Pittsburgh. Florida State also crashed the ratings this week following a 48-17 blowout of East Carolina.

Pitt took the biggest fall, slipping 13 spots from its No. 7 pre-season rating. Florida dropped out of the

ratings along with Georgia, which was 19th in pre-season and hasn't played a game yet.

In games pitting ranked teams against each other this week, Michigan hosts Miami and Alabama meets Boston College at Birmingham, Ala. Saturday. It will be Miami's third game against a ranked team in 12 days.

Including Michigan and Alabama, 11 Top 20 teams open their seasons this Saturday. Nebraska hosts Wyoming, UCLA visits San Diego State, Penn State hosts Rutgers, Ohio State hosts Oregon State, Oklahoma hosts Stanford, Arizona State hosts Oklahoma State, Iowa hosts Iowa State, Notre Dame plays Purdue at Indianapolis, and Washington hosts Northwestern.

Also, Clemson visits Virginia and Brigham Young hosts Baylor.

The Pac-10 and Big Ten are the most well-represented conferences with three teams each. UCLA, Arizona State and Washington are from the Pac-10; Ohio State, Michigan and Iowa from the Big 10.

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