

Ags first to blemish TLC's perfect mark

By ED CASSAVOY
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M Women's Volleyball team won again. Monday night the Aggies pounced on the Texas Lutheran Lady Bulldogs and swept them 15-2, 15-12 and 15-3.

Aggie Head Coach Terry Condon substituted throughout the three games, as she tried to give the Aggie subs more playing time.

"I wanted to run a lot of subs into the game," Condon said, "but every time we did, we got in trouble, so I just went back to my starting six. I decided to just win the thing and get it over with."

TLC seemed cautious and tentative throughout the first match, making numerous unforced errors. Twice TLC Head Coach Susan Duke called time-outs to calm down the flustered Lady Bulldogs.

Texas A&M was not in peak form during the first game, but A&M took what little was thrown their way and spiked back into the Lady Dog's faces.

Chalk the first game up to TLC game jitters. Trouble began to brew for the Aggies late in the second match as they led 13-8.

TLC won a long rally and seemed to get their second wind.

A&M substituted eight times during the match, and it nearly cost them the match.

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— A&M Volleyball Coach Terry Condon

instinct)," Condon said. "The last five points in volleyball from 11 to 15 are the hardest of any points. You have to be extra strong, to have that killer quality behind you or you're not going to win. Because no team is going to give you those points. You've got to work for them."

The Aggies ran into trouble for the next four points, as TLC trailed by only three points — 14-11. Condon seemed to sense the A&M players sagging and called a critical time-out.

"I told the team that I put the subs in to do a job and they should be doing that job and were not. Pass the ball, play your defense positions and just get a side-out. I'm still trying to figure out what happened. I'm still fuming."

But Condon was smiling as she made that comment, and for good reason.

Outside attacker Stacey Smith, who had been used for only spot duty played an excellent game, amassing six kills for a .400 percentage.

Smith also gets the award for the best spike of the night. She hammered the ball into the face of a stunned TLC player in the second match.

Margaret Spence, junior outside attacker played a smooth, confident game at the net. Spence stood tall on her way to tallying nine kills for a .500 percentage.

Condon said one reason for the large number of A&M substitutions was she was trying to make an important roster decision.

"There's three people vying for that sixth (starting) spot and it's just that I'm trying to give them each equal playing time to see who is playing best."

Depth could be a critical factor in deciding whether the Aggies stay a good team or develop into a powerhouse squad.

"The starting six to seven players are playing really well," Condon said. "I would like to have a little more depth — like about eight or nine players — and that is why I want to play a lot of subs. But then my subs are not playing so I can't play them."

A&M buckled down and won the

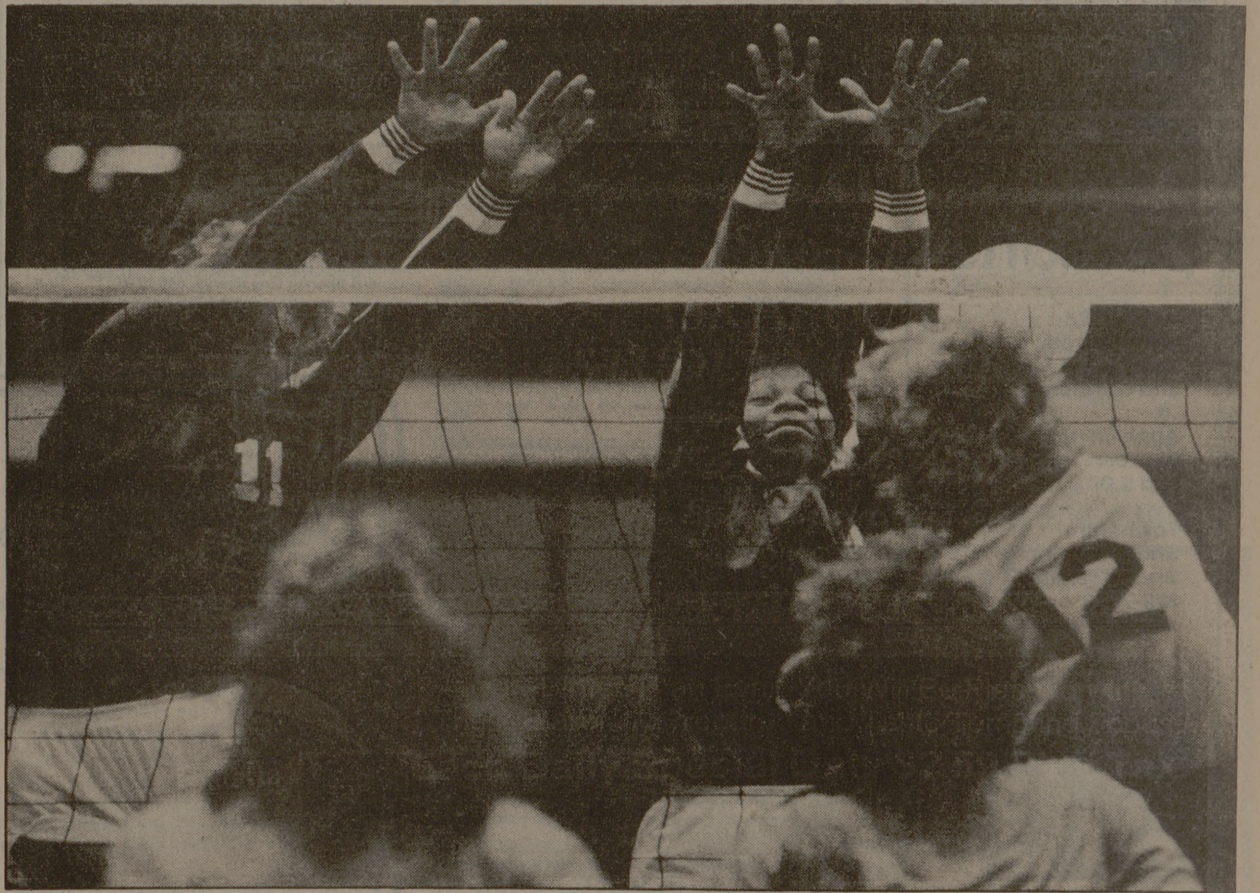


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M's Stacey Smith (right), and Sherri Brinkman make a futile attempt to block a blazing spike by Texas Lutheran

middle blocker Denise Dornak (12). The Aggies return to G. Rollie White for the Texas A&M Classic, Sept. 21-22.

second hardfought match, 15-12.

Condon inserted the starting six Aggies for the third match and they cruised to a lopsided 15-3 victory. The Aggies next travel to San

Marcos to take on Southwest Texas State Wednesday night.

Condon didn't want to speculate on how the team would do in A&M Classic tournament this weekend.

"All the five teams in the tourney are pretty equal," Condon said. "I think Florida State and LSU will probably be our toughest match ups. It will be an interesting weekend."

Ag netters surprise Cannon in Adult Major Tourney

By TONY CORNETT
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team showed their mature side this past weekend by walking away with the singles and doubles titles of the Adult Major Zone Tournament in Midland.

Junior Yanne Akagi won the singles title and the doubles team of

Akagi and sophomore Gaye Lynne Gensler won the doubles title. Freshman Stacey Knowles won the consolation singles bracket.

"It was a ranking-certified United States Tennis Association tournament," said A&M Coach Jan Cannon. "I'm sure we kind of messed up some people's rankings because they had expected to do well and we eliminated some people along the way."

The Aggies played very well and at times found themselves having to play each other to advance in the tournament.

"Nandini Rangarajan and Laura Liong played unusually well both in singles and doubles," said Cannon. "So they were busy taking out a lot of players along the way before we had to lose to ourselves."

One thing that was unfortunate

for the Aggie doubles champs was that even though they did take the title, the team they beat did not get to finish one set before having to retire and catch a plane flight.

Akagi and Gensler were playing the No. 61 ranked women's player in the world, Sandy Collins, and her coach, Virginia Brown.

"I'm sorry that we didn't get to finish it," said Cannon. "One mem-

ber of the doubles team (Collins) had to leave and go play in the Murjani Pro Tournament in Florida. We were ahead and we were playing well and we were playing well enough to beat them and beat them soundly. We had just broken Sandy's serve and gone up 3-2 when she decided to leave."

That A&M victory may have an asterisk on it in the record book, but

a win is a win. The fall tennis season is a time when Coach Cannon looks at her players and decides how they're coming along. The Midland tournament was the first of several fall events for the Aggies.

The Aggie Ladies will next play in a Pro-Am tournament Sept. 20-22 at the Royal Oaks Racquet Club in Bryan.

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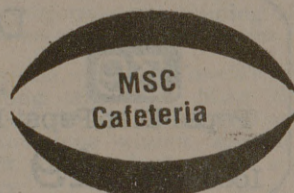
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