

# Chlorine warriors ride polo waves

By MARCY BASILE  
Reporter

By now every one has gotten over Olympic withdrawals. Remember watching Rowdy Gaines win his first Olympic gold medal? Do you also remember the water polo team? They were the guys thrashing around in the pool, trying to out-swim their opponents to the ball.

To most of us from Texas, water polo is a fairly unusual sport. According to Pat Yates, player-coach of the Texas A&M Water Polo Team, water polo is basically a western sport.

"The competition is tougher in California," said Yates. "Kids out there play water polo in high school and then continue to play in college."

O.K. So you vaguely remember watching the game on television. That doesn't necessarily mean you knew what you were watching.

Water polo is played entirely in deep water. Each game consists of four seven-minute quarters.

"Water polo is a cross between soccer and basketball," said Chris Blockhus, team captain.

The water polo is similar to soccer in the way the ball is worked down the field, or in this case, the pool. Elements of basketball come into play with ball passing, stealing and fast-breaks.

Water polo team consists of six field players and one goalie. Field players can use only one hand at a time, while goalies are allowed to use two hands to pass the ball. Goalies are also allowed to stand on the pool bottom, if that's possible.

Because water polo is so physical, the players must undergo rigorous conditioning. The Texas A&M team practices at least two to three hours a night. Practice consists of lane work, running, exercising outside the pool, drills in the water and scrimmaging.

Texas A&M has had an extramural water polo team for six years. The past three years the team has gone to the water polo national meet representing the southwest region of the country. The team placed second in 1981, fifth in 1982 and fifth last year.

"We've never been beat in Southwest Conference play," said Blockhus.

A tournament is scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 6, which is also the weekend of the Baylor game. This tournament will be held at Cain Pool.

"Hopefully people will stop and watch the games," said Yates. "Maybe having the game (Baylor) here won't hurt us too bad. People can watch through the fence as they leave the game. Some might even stay."

Blockhus agrees, "we'd like to see people come out and watch us play."

Money for pool rental, the team pays \$5 an hour for pool use, and trips comes for the clean-up job the team does on Kyle Field after football games.

This year's team has many new players. According to Yates, the reputation of both A&M and the water polo team attracted some good players to the squad.

"I think the Olympics had a lot to do with the turnout," said Yates. "The fever is there."



Texas A&M's Sherri Brinkman prepares to block the ball away from a UT-Arlington

player during the Aggs sweep of the Movin' Mavs last night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

# Ag spikers demolish Mavericks

By DALE SMITH  
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M women's volleyball team rolled over the University of Texas-Arlington Mavericks in three straight games at G. Rollie White Coliseum Monday night.

The Aggies, behind the power spiking of Sherri Brinkman, swept the best three-of-five match in straight games 15-9, 15-3, 15-5. A&M improved to 13-2 overall with the victory.

Falling behind 6-0 early in the first game, the Ags overcame their pre-game jitters and fought their way to victory.

A&M Head Coach Terry Condon was afraid her team wasn't mentally prepared for the Lady Mavs — especially during the close first game.

"I keep telling them you can't take teams lightly or you're going to get beat," Condon said.

The Ags came out in the second game knowing exactly what to do. Let Brinkman show what she does best — spike the ball.

The third game was almost a carbon copy of the second Aggie win.

After UT-Arlington tied the game at one, the Aggies pulled ahead with Chemine Doty, Spence and Brinkman blocking shots and keeping the Mavs off balance.

Brinkman thinks the players are beginning to come together as a team.

"We're all now starting to flow together," Brinkman said. "We're working as a team instead of individually. We're all out there to win and if you don't have everybody out there to win, there's that slight chance that you're going to break."

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