

Longhorns hold on to No. 1 UPI ranking

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## One buck buys heck of a show

For a measly sum of just \$1 you can watch the Texas A&M Women's Volleyball team play in G. Rollic White Coliseum Wednesday night against No. 8 ranked Texas.

Big deal you say? Why go watch a bunch of women hit a ball around in G. Rollic? Surely there can't be excitement in such an event. Why those women probably don't even take volleyball seriously.

Wrong. I know. I was sent to "practice" with the A&M team.

When I walked into the gym, I was a bit apprehensive. All I could hear was the squeak of tennis shoes and the thump of volleyballs being driven into the floor.

Spiking practice. Squads of four or five women took turns spiking the ball past a "guard" held by a teammate. The guard, a metal contraption on top of a pole, represents the blockers of the opposing team.

Forty kills must be hit by the women on each squad in the drill.

"More than 100 balls are spiked before reaching the required 40 spikes," said A&M Head Coach Terry Condon.

After each woman spiked the ball, Condon, seated close to the net, coached each player as they circled around her chair.

Since spiking isn't my forte, I decided the best position for me was ball retriever.

Yes, I chased down wayward volleyballs. I wasn't about to try spiking. These women moved too fast and spiked too hard for my liking.

I only stayed at practice for one hour. The Aggies practice three hours each day. I can imagine how tired they must be after practice. I was exhausted just watching them.

Don't use the excuse that you don't go to watch the Aggies play because you don't understand volleyball rules. I've seen con-

MARCY BASILE

Sports Writer

fused people at football games too.

If you fit the "I-don't-know-anything-about-volleyball-but-would-like-to-learn" group, read on. (After this, no excuse will be good enough.)

Men's and women's volleyball are played by the same rules. The only differences between the two versions is the height of the net. In a men's game, the top of the net is 7 feet 11 inches high, while women play with a slightly lower net, 7 feet 4 inches.

A match is the best three-of-five games. A game is won when a team scores 15 points, with a two-point lead. Only the serving team may score points.

Teams consist of six players on the court, with up to six players allowed for substitutions. At the time the ball is served, all players must be in specific positions. After the ball is served, players may move anywhere on their side of the net.

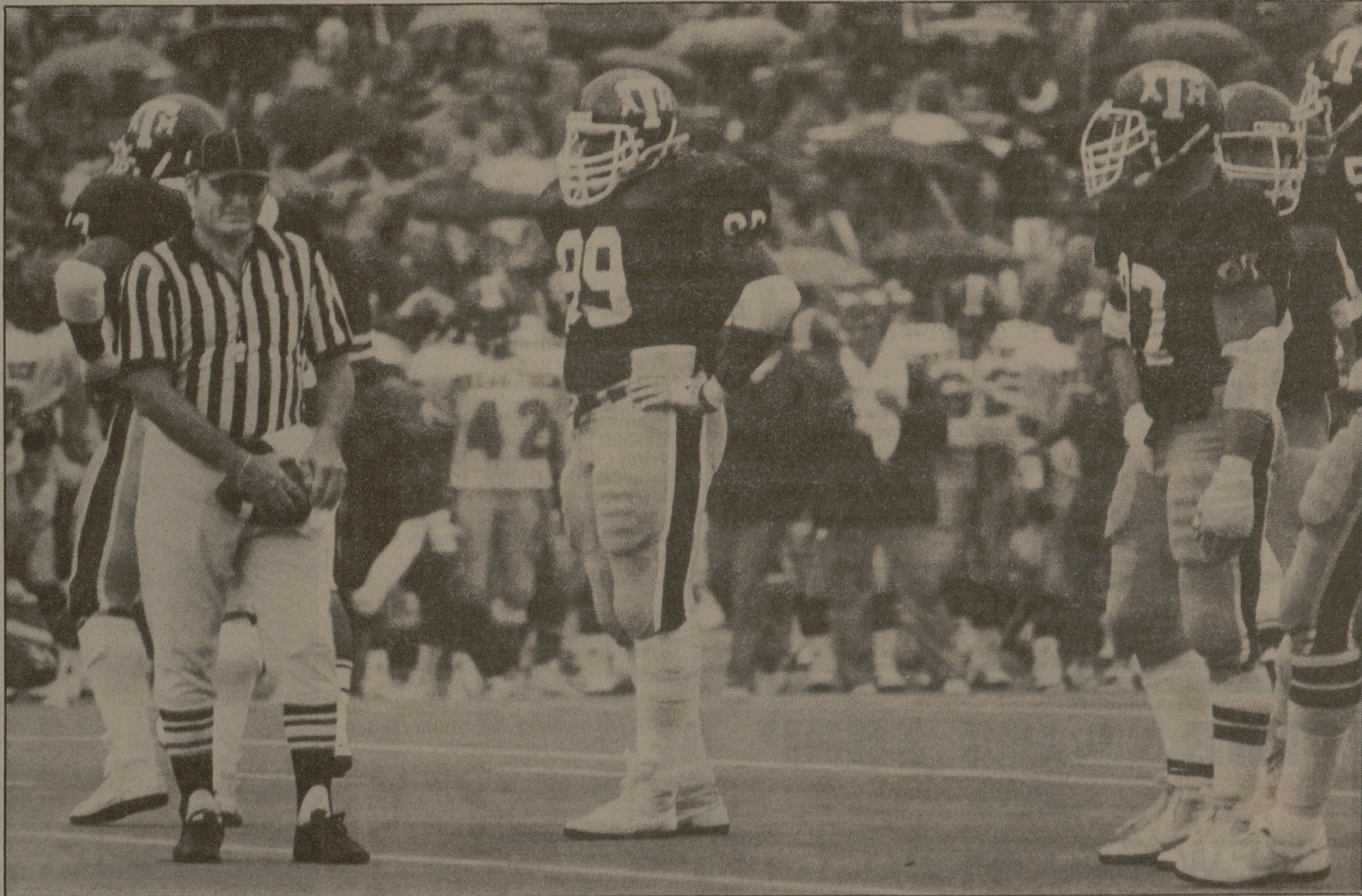
The ball may be hit a maximum of three times by any one team before it goes over the net. No one person may hit the ball twice in a row.

There are three basic hits in volleyball — the set, the dig pass and the spike.

Sets, or the strategic placement of the ball above the spiker's head, enables the spiker to smash the ball down on the other side of the net. Sets are two-handed passes.

The dig pass is hit below shoulder level with one or both hands. This type of hit usually returns a serve, allowing the ball to be set-up for a spike.

Now that you know the basics of volleyball, you are ready to watch the Aggies win. While you're at it, take some friends along.



Aggies Taken By Storm

Photo by BILL HUGHES

Aggie defensive tackle Rod Saddler waits patiently in the rain for Texas Tech to come out of the huddle. A heavy downpour in the third quarter of Saturday's game didn't help wash away the memory of a 30-12 Aggie loss. A&M is 3-1.

## Pokes must regroup before Skins test

United Press International

DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys have shown this year they need to put forth a Super Bowl effort every week to win. And since they were overwhelmed by the St. Louis Cardinals last Sunday, a major motivational job is needed during the next few days to prepare them for an important test.

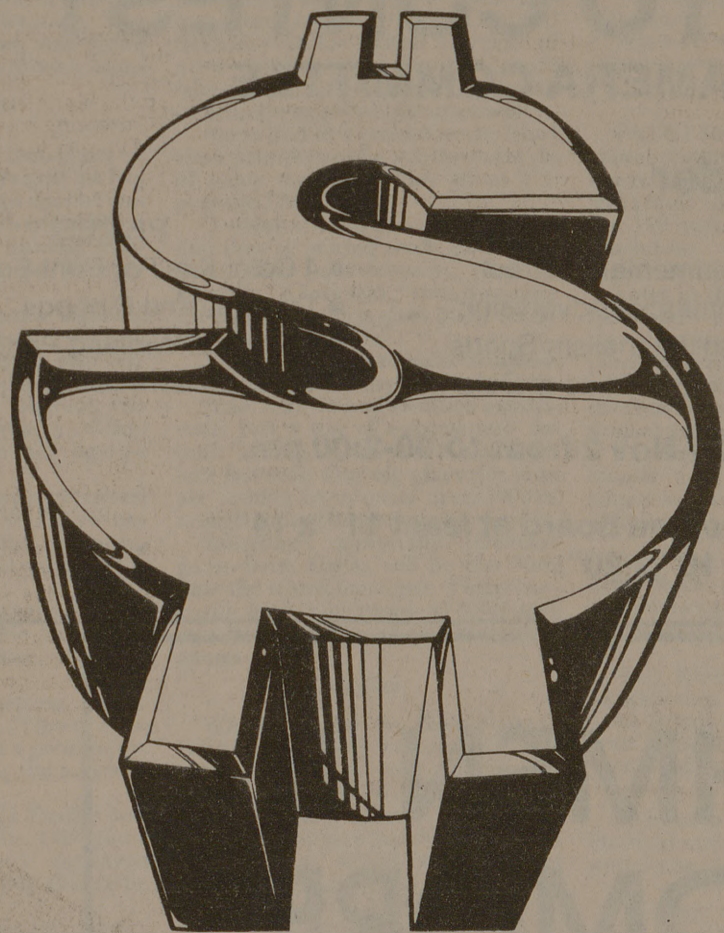
The Cowboys must tangle with the Washington Redskins next Sunday in RKF Stadium and the prospects look very good for Washington, and very bad for Dallas.

There was a general sentiment throughout the Dallas squad following the Cowboys' 31-20 loss to St. Louis that it was just one of those games.

"It just obviously showed that you can't be good every week," said cornerback Everson Walls, who had more than his share of problems with St. Louis receiver Roy Green.

"That's about it. We need to be more aggressive and tackle better. We can't let this loss change our whole plan because we were the No. 1 pass defense coming into the game."

"I think Washington is just another game on our schedule," said defensive tackle Randy White. "The next game is the most important game on our schedule. I don't think we have reached a point where win, lose or draw, it will make our break our season."



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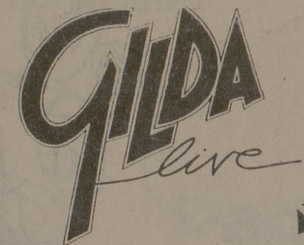
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