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A&M spikers spoil Southwest's fun

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

It's fun to watch Lesha Beakley set the ball softly over the net. It's fun to watch Margaret Spence mystically hang in the air as she goes up for the spike. It's fun to watch Sherri Brinkman hoot and holler in delight. In fact, Texas A&M volleyball is just plain fun to watch. And what's more, they win! Maybe they could give the football team a lesson or two. Wednesday night, the Aggie spikers, ranked No. 17 in the nation by NCAA News magazine, defeated Southwest Texas State 15-7, 15-6 and 16-14. A&M improved its overall record to 27-3. A&M Head Coach Terry Condon was pleased with the Ags' performance until the third game. The Ags fell behind 2-11 in that game, but managed to comeback. "The third game was a lack of intensity," Condon said. "The third game we said, 'This is easy' and we relaxed a little too much. We told them to think about practice and play like they did in practice." Brinkman agreed with Condon's evaluation. "We thought the third game would come easy," Brinkman said. "Coming back was an achievement for us." Beakley said the team hasn't played intense in third games. "Lately that's been our routine," Beakley said. "In the third game we're just not as intense. This time we came back, which hasn't happened in the past. We start fighting on the court and we lose our concentration. This time we played as a team and pulled it out."

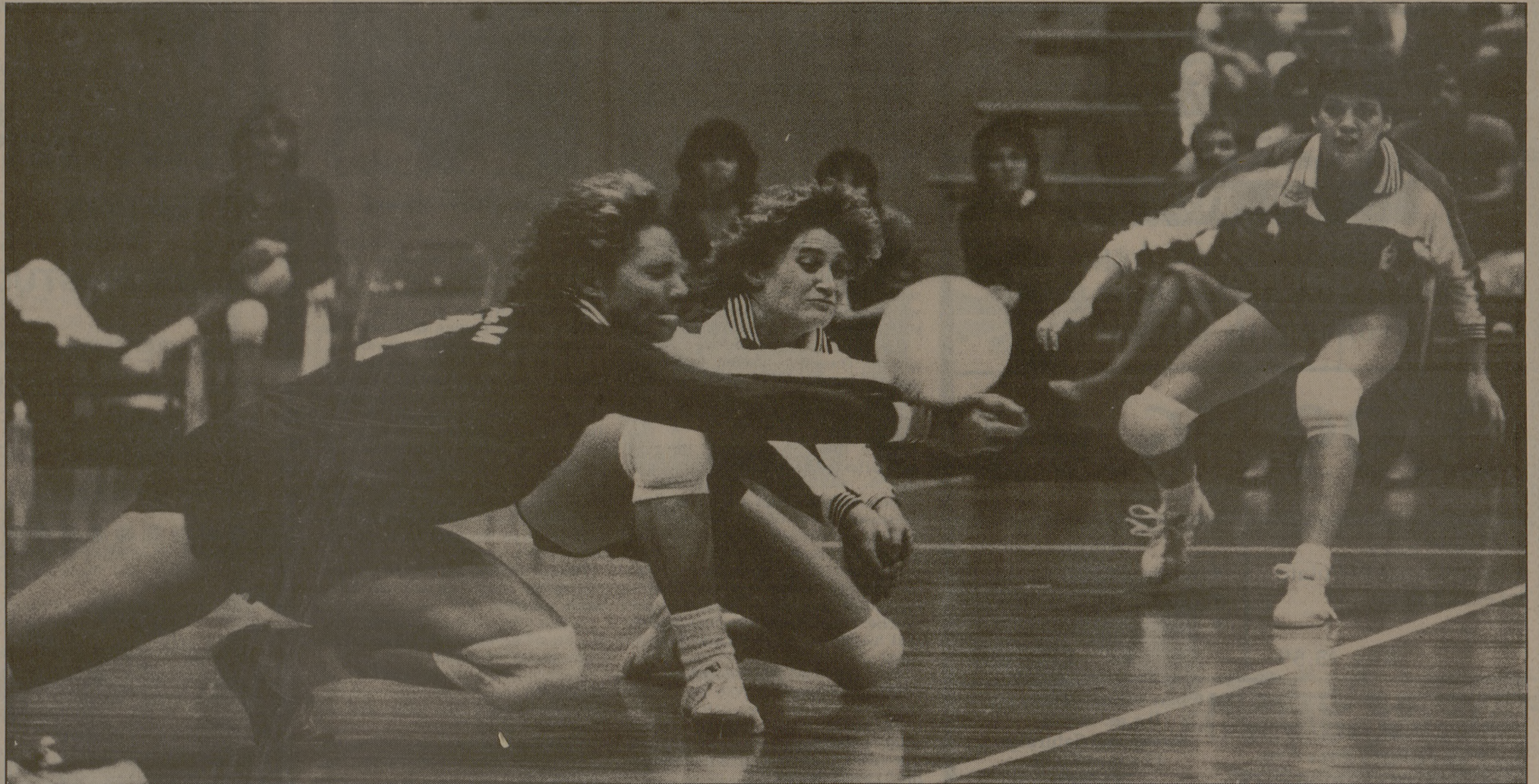


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M spikers Sherri Brinkman (far left) and Stacey Gildner team up for a diving dig save during the Aggies' victory over Southwest Texas State Wednesday. Terry Condon's No. 17 Ags improved to 27-3 and are 4-1 in the SWC.

Condon said she was pleased with the Aggies' performance. "We played good defense," Condon said. "Margaret and Chemine (Doty) played well. Sherri hit well." "This was one of my better games," Doty said. "I played good defense. I have been working on my defense in practice. We really

needed this game to get us out of a slump." Even though the Ags downed Texas Tech Sunday, they were disappointed with their play. "After Texas Tech they were down," Condon said. "Even though they won, it was demoralizing." A&M played SWTSU on Sept. 19 in San Marcos and were taken to five games before finally winning. This time though, the Ags disposed of the Bobcats quickly. "We played a lot better this time

against them," Condon said. "Last time I think we went in over confident." "A&M played a heck of a lot better," Bobcat Head Coach Karen Chisum said. "It wasn't Sherri Brinkman that beat us, it was their entire

team. We didn't play well, but we're going to grow up." Friday night the Ags play their toughest match of the year against No. 8 San Diego State at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. "I think we can beat any team if

we stay intense," Beakley said. "The key is passing. When we pass, everything flows." "If you want to see a good volleyball game then come out," Condon said. "They hit the ball hard. I just hope we play up to our potential."

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