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Ags have the right stuff in upset win

By **BRANDON BERRY**
 Reporter

In the midst of a 28-3 season, one might expect the No. 18 Texas A&M women's volleyball team to find winning merely routine. But the three-of-five match victory over No. 8 San Diego State Friday was actually a night of firsts.

• San Diego State is the first Top 20 team the Aggies have defeated this season.

• A&M's Carolyn Drury, a junior college transfer from Santa Maria, Calif., came off the bench for her first significant playing time of the season.

• A&M players say they hope this win will be the first of many sharp performances to come.

"We've been in a slump since Texas Tech," said A&M blocker Chemine Doty. "Everybody has been a little bitchy lately, but a win like this will bring us a lot closer together as a team."

Drury's aggressive play against San Diego State should help the Aggies' depth as the season progresses.

"She's played well in practice, so I put her in there," said Texas A&M Coach Terry Condon. "Carolyn (Drury) just came through for us."

Condon said the match shouldn't have been quite as long or dramatic.

"We should have won the first game," Condon said. "Actually, we should have won in three straight games."

The Aggies went up 5-0 in the first game, but the booming serves of Aztec middle blocker Renee Pankopf, who finished with seven service aces, brought San Diego State back into the game. A spike by outside hitter Sally Larsen gave the Az-

tecs the lead for good at 10-9.

A&M took a 4-1 lead in the second game, only to fall behind 14-11. They eventually tied the score on a Sherri Brinkman spike and fought off five game points before finally winning.

Aztec coach Rudy Suwara said that second game was the key to the entire match.

"We didn't put them away when we had the chance," Suwara said. "It would have been hard for them (A&M) to come back from two games down. A&M really played well."

San Diego State missed two starters because of illness and academic ineligibility and SDSU was coming off an emotional five-game victory over No. 9 Texas Thursday night in Austin.

Suwara offered no excuses for his Aztecs.

"I thought we played well," he said. "The crowd was a great volleyball crowd — very enthusiastic."

Doty said the win gives the Ags a mental boost going into a rematch with Texas in Austin.

"We can't wait to play Texas again," Doty said. "But first things first. We have to beat Houston before we think about anybody else."

A&M hosts the Houston Cougars tonight at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum. All students wearing Halloween costumes get in free of charge.

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Aggie men spikers host Houston select team

The Texas A&M men's volleyball team will play host to a select team from the Houston area Monday night after the women's volleyball game against Houston.

The select team will be headed by Houston women's volleyball coach Dave Olbright. Olbright was twice chosen an All-American, and he was selected twice for

the NCAA All-Tournament team.

Other players joining Olbright on the court will be Houston assistant coach Brian Funk and three time Ball State All-Conference player Michael Malley.

The Aggie squad will be led by a former national team member Dave Schackel.

Cotton Bowl race narrows to three

United Press International

There has been mention of late that the TCU Horned Frogs are a team of destiny this year since they have come from nowhere to be somewhere.

But that definition might soon be applied as well to the Texas Longhorns, who as a rule are simply referred to as overpowering winners.

Texas put itself into position to make a run at the national championship early this season with convincing wins over Auburn and Penn State.

But it would not have taken too many quirks of fate the last three weeks to have dealt the Longhorns three consecutive losses.

Instead, however, Texas is still unbeaten and shows every indication of staying that way for a while longer.

The Longhorns managed to tie Oklahoma two weeks ago thanks in part to a controversial call by an official at the end of their game.

One sign in Norman, Okla., the following week read: "Oklahoma 15, Texas 12, Officials 3."

Last week an Arkansas receiver was heading for the end zone with what would have been the winning touchdown on the final play of the contest only to be caught at the 3-yard line.

And on Saturday, a questionable

"no call" on what appeared to interference in the end zone in the final five minutes allowed Texas to escape the clutches of the SMU Mustangs, 13-7.

"A blind man could have seen that play," said SMU running back Reggie Dupard, who felt he had a good angle from which to see it.

"He pushed me down," said flanker Marquis Pleasant, who felt his fourth down effort to grab a lob pass from quarterback Don King had been wrongfully negated by cornerback James Lot. "Then the ref didn't call it."

The bottom line is that second-ranked Texas is by itself atop the Southwest Conference — the only team with an unblemished league record.

Houston and TCU, both of which have dates left with Texas, are a step back with one conference loss each. The Cougars and amazing Horned Frogs play each other next Saturday in the Astrodome.

And, if tradition holds true that a team never wins the SWC crown with two league losses, then the rest of conference is left to fight for the scraps.

Houston saw its perfect conference record besmirched by the Arkansas Razorbacks, 17-3, while TCU rallied to beat Baylor, 38-28, and keep its surprising championship hopes alive.

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