

Marietta doesn't mind losing record

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Ags bewitch Cougars

By **BRANDON BERRY**
Reporter

On a night in which all fans in Halloween costumes got in for free, the Dunn Hall cheering section at last night's A&M women's volleyball victory against the Houston added its own ghoulish chapter to the annals of "The Holler House on the Brazos."

"Where I come from, they wouldn't have let that harassment during the serve go on," Houston Coach Dave Olbright said. "The large crowds are good for volleyball, but there's a difference between enthusiasm and harassment."

The difference was strong enough for Olbright to lodge a protest with league officials and prompt A&M Coach Terry Condon to walk across the court to talk with the boisterous "Aggie renegades."

"I told them to keep it clean," Condon said. "Houston was really complaining, but that's their problem. Everybody else that's come here has been impressed with our crowd."

As if the crowd wasn't spellbinding enough, the Cougars (19-13) must have had a black cat cross Highway 6 on their way from Houston.

Houston's leading hitter, senior Kathy Metz, pounded a match-high 16 kills, but also committed a match-high seven errors.

A Cougar comeback attempt in the fourth game went for naught as Aggie middle blocker Sherri Brinkman slammed two aces to end the match.

Olbright also lost one match in a personal rivalry.

"There's a natural rivalry when A&M and Houston play," Olbright said. "Terry and I both went to UCLA, so that adds a little something extra."

Brinkman led the Aggies with 13 kills and a .400 hitting percentage. Margaret Spence and Chemine Doty added 11 and 10 kills respectively.

Olbright said the Aggies' best offensive weapon was their defense.

"They do a good job of keeping the ball in play," he said. "They



A&M Coach Terry Condon

really don't have six strong players across the board, but they play good defense and get the ball to the good players they do have.

"They're a good team — I think they should be in the playoffs and I think they'll do pretty well."

Condon was not pleased with her team's execution, despite win No. 29.

"They thought, 'it's no big deal — it's Houston, we'll win,'" Condon said. "They need to learn that you just can't take people lightly."

Ag blocker Chemine Doty said the quality of competition shouldn't be a factor, but it does frequently affect A&M's performance.

"We tell ourselves that we need to play our best all the time," Doty said, "but saying it and doing it are two different things. We've beaten them so many times."

Condon said the team's upset win over San Diego State Friday had a negative effect Monday night.

"We almost lost it because we just didn't get ourselves fired-up and ready to play like we were against San Diego," she said.

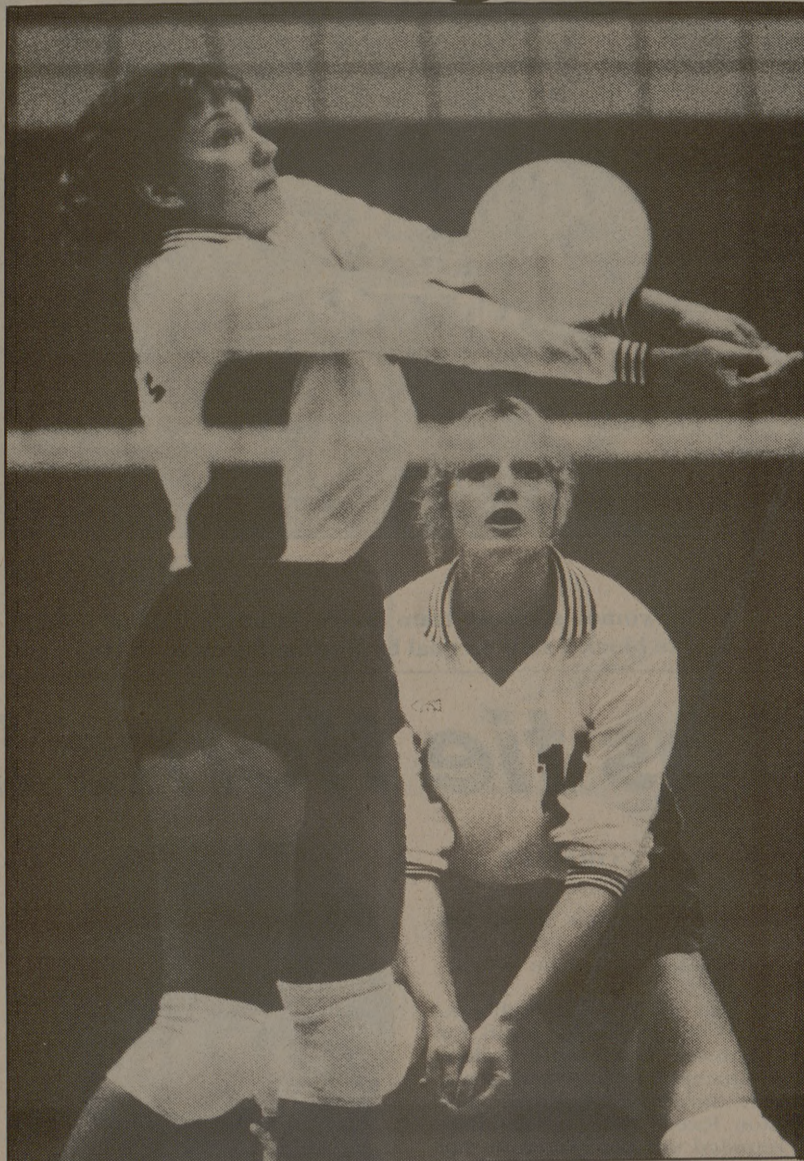


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Texas A&M's Chris Zogata (left), bumps the ball as teammate Chemine Doty waits to help out during the first of four games against Houston. A&M won the match by scores of 15-6, 9-15, 15-4 and 15-13. The Ags play Baylor in Waco Wednesday.

Agents are bad apples in NCAA

United Press International

Many star athletes are lured into signing contracts with agents before their college careers have ended, but the practice is almost impossible to police.

The practice of early signing has been disclosed recently by some pro football players. Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Mike Quick says the practice happens every day.

Earlier this month, 1983 Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier disclosed that he signed with an agent before the end of his career at Nebraska.

Most coaches say individual schools have a responsibility to warn their players of the ramifications of signing early, which is a violation of NCAA rules, but they had no solutions to the problem.

"We talk to our players repeatedly about NCAA rules and what it can do to their eligibility," says Tom Osborne, Rozier's coach at Nebraska. "But there's a certain percentage of athletes who, if given the opportunity for a little extra money, are going to take it."

"The people that are offering these type of inducements are people, as far as I know, I've never seen. They come to their homes in the summer or somehow get the guy's phone number. They hang around in the shadows, see a guy after practice, meet him at his apartment or his dorm room. Unless you just lock your players up and somehow try to control every person they've met or saw, it'd be virtually impossible."

Lee Steinberg, a football "super-agent" who was responsible for the multi million-dollar contract signed by Steve Young with the USFL's Los Angeles Express, says the practice is one few NCAA officials or coaches care to confront.

"At least one third of the top athletes in college football and college basketball are signing early each year," Steinberg says. "It usually is in return for money payments and is an open secret that no one wants to talk about."

Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer says, "There's nothing you can do. It's kind of like an athletic department trying to police the alumni from not breaking NCAA rules. There's no way you can. We talk to our athletes, try to educate them and give them supervision."

"We have a faculty group to advise our athletes about the problem but if an agent wants to come in the back door, which is the way they always operate, and go to the athlete without our knowledge, they're going to do it. An athlete in many cases, if he's offered a lot of money, he's going to take it. It's human nature. We all know that and we should recognize that."

West Virginia coach Don Nehlen says a university has a burdensome responsibility to educate players. He said he knows of no Mountaineer athletes who had signed before they left school.

"We talked to our kids about agents," Nehlen says. "The coach has to educate the players but it's hard to keep with each player. The agents have a responsibility, too. Any agent who tries to induce a kid to sign before he's eligible is a bad apple."

Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones says, "As coaches, we have to continually remind the players that agents are basically in for one reason — to make money."

"There are a lot of reputable people who are agents, but the bottom line is that they are in to make some money for themselves. Any time a player loses sight of that, he's kidding himself."

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