

## Real golfers just don't give a putt

The other day some people were trying to tell me that golfers are athletes. This is absurd of course, they're wrong.

Now I have nothing against golfers, but come on, how can you call a bunch of middle-aged, overweight, doctors and lawyers athletes? It just isn't right.

How hard is it to hit a silly little ball into a hole? I'm sure it's real difficult. Now I'll admit I've never played psuedo golf, but I have played close to the real thing — miniature golf. That's a real sport.

This is where you'll find the real athletes.

Miniature golf is tough, and I mean tough. Only real athletes can excel in this sport. To be good at the sport, agility, quickness, a feel for the course and a bright orange little ball are required.

Golfers are quick to defend their psuedo sport, usually claiming something to like, "It's hard work. You have to concentrate and it takes a lot out of you walking around 18 holes."

Well so does finding your car in the fish parking lot. You can walk for hours sometimes and you have to concentrate just as hard on where you left your car.

Another feeble attempt at legitimizing golf is, "It takes a lot of skill and not everyone can do it." I suppose it does take skill to drive around in those little carts. Realistically, I've got to believe that if fat old doctors can play golf, anyone can do it.

Now take a minute all of you psuedo athletes and their defenders and look at the awesome sport of miniature golf. It's a grueling and tough sport.

Take the ominous windmill for example. Every miniature course worth its weight in putters has a windmill. This is where the refined athletic qualities of the miniature golfer are put to the test.

### JEFF GRAUNKE

Sports Writer

The object is to get your little orange ball through the base of the windmill and between the rotating blades.

Perfect timing is essential. Now the toughest part is walking past the windmill without getting clubbed in the head. Some miniature golf courses require more agility than others.

Golf courses may have sand traps and water hazards, but have you ever seen a golf course with a dragon? Miniature golf courses have dragons, bridges, ramps and moving obstacles.

Quickness isn't important until the last hole. It separates the men from the boys. Here the ball goes in the cup and doesn't come out. The object is to get the little orange ball into the hole, but then run to the hole and pull out the ball before it reaches the point of no return.

This is the toughest maneuver known to man. It takes a true champion golfer to perform this feat.

If you're asking, "Can a golfer do that?" Of course not, if that's what you're asking. Have you ever seen a golf cart on a miniature golf course?

Even if they did allow golf carts, a golfer couldn't get out of his cart fast enough to perform the toughest maneuver known to mankind.

Now this leads to only one possible conclusion. Miniature golfers are the "real" athletes in the cruel world of birdies and bogies.

## Smith earns shot at starting role

# No. 16 Ags educate Owls

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Sports Writer

All season long, Texas A&M's Terry Condon has been searching for a sixth position player. Wednesday night in a 15-5, 15-4 and 15-7 win over Rice, she may have found her in the form of senior Angi Smith.

Smith said she didn't play that well, but that can be argued.

At one point in the second game, Rice attempted a spike, Smith blocked the ball sending it back over the net. Rice hung tough, forcing Smith to spike the ball twice before giving No. 16 A&M a 7-1 lead. In the third game, Smith scored nine straight points, stifling the upset-minded Owls.

Smith said she challenged herself to serve the ball well against Rice.

"I've had a problem with my serve lately," Smith said. "I challenged myself to get the ball in every time."

Although Condon thought Smith played well, she's not ready to name Smith as the starter for the remainder of the season.

"Angi played well," Condon said. "We'll just take it game to game. Angi's a better starter and Stacey (Gildner) and Carolyn (Drury) come off the bench better."

Smith said she would rather start, but she doesn't mind coming off the bench.

"If she (Condon) starts me I just want to make sure I don't do anything to hurt the team," Smith said. "If I come off the bench I will be ready to play. I know she has been shaky in her decision about the sixth player. I want to play well in practice and even better in games."

A&M's middle blocker Chemine Doty had 10 kills in the match. In the second game, Doty four straight spikes to give the Ags a 5-1 lead en route to improving their record to 31-3 overall, 7-1 in Southwest Conference play.

Doty said the Aggies needed an easy victory over the Owls (25-16, 1-7) to prepare for their next three crucial matches.

"I think it was good for us," Doty said. "It felt like practice. If we made a mistake we said, 'No problem, let's go.'"

The Rice match was A&M's first since beating Baylor a week ago. The players said they were tired of practice — they wanted to play.

"These past few practices have been monotonous," Doty said. "Actually, we really love doing horses."

"I was really glad to play," sophomore setter Chris Zogota said. "The last two practices have been really hard. We needed to get back in the swing of things."

Lesha Beakley, who was given a rose for her 22nd birthday by the Dunn Hall "Bleacher Bums" before the game, said the week off did the Ags some good.

"It helps to have a few days off and then come back ready to play," Beakley said. "This game just felt like another practice. We were real relaxed. Instead of worrying about how much concentration we had, we just worried about playing and it happened."

Rice Head Coach Debbie Sokol said the Owls had a definite height disadvantage against the Ags, but a bigger lineup probably wouldn't have helped.

"Our average is about 5-foot-7," Sokol said. "Without the two injuries we had, we could have had a bigger lineup. Even if we had a bigger lineup, I don't think we could have done much tonight. A&M is the best blocking team we've played and Sherri Brinkman is one of the best blockers in the nation."

Sokol said the A&M crowd, who chanted, "Let us play!" and "Is Rice good in anything?," riled the Owls confidence.

"This is the first crowd we've played in front of all year," Sokol said. "They kept us from getting in the groove of things. It especially rattled my freshmen."

Condon said she was pleased with the way the Aggies played and hoped the win would carry over to Friday when the Ags host the nationally ranked Pepperdine Waves at G.

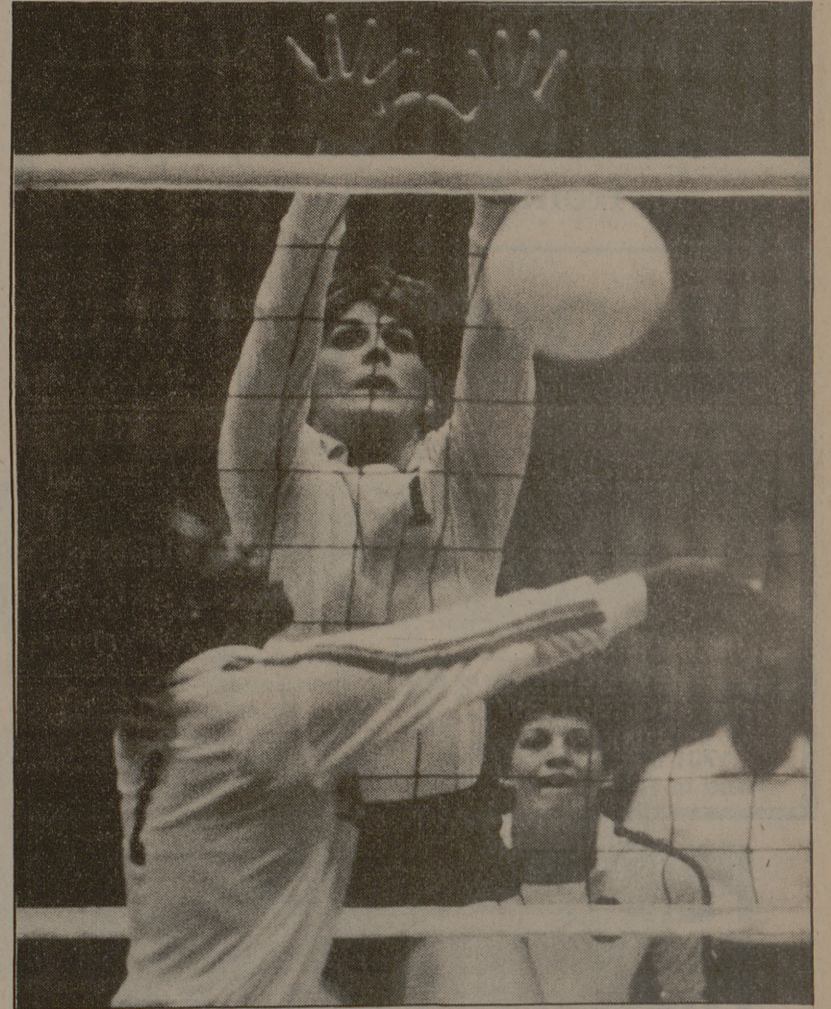


Photo by DEAN SAITO

A&M's Angi Smith (hands up) jumps high to block a ball that Rice's Alecia Abraham just bumped in the second game of Wednesday night's match in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Rollie White Coliseum at 7:30 p.m.

"I was pleased with the way we played," Condon said. "We worked on some things we need for Friday. This game and the game against San Diego State we were intense throughout the match. Pepperdine

is tough. They block well and play good defense. We are pretty evenly matched."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Texas was defeated by Houston last night, putting the Aggies and the Longhorns into a first place tie in the SWC race at 7-1.)

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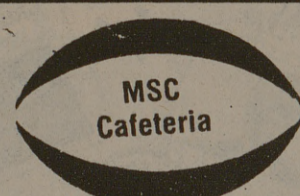


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