

An 'exSpence' account

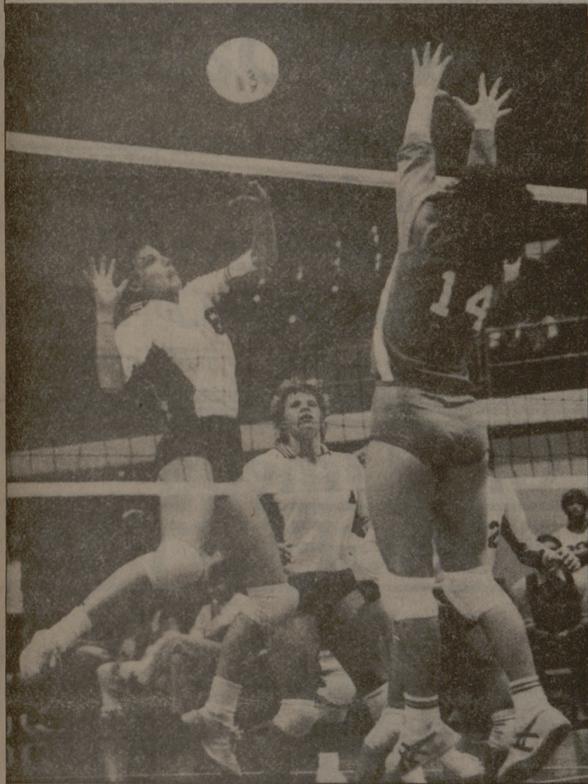


Photo by DEAN SAITO

By TAMARA BELL
Sports Writer

Although Texas A&M sophomore volleyball player Margaret Spence spends mornings in the gym and afternoons in the weight room, she manages to squeeze in an episode of General Hospital with older brother, David, and keep up with her favorite class — the sociology of sport.

"Volleyball naturally takes up a large portion of my days," Spence said. "But I make time to visit with my brothers and friends. Since finding a stable job, perhaps in the marketing field, is of top priority when I graduate, my days are divided between studying and volleyball."

Since volleyball is an aggressive sport, Spence credits it with developing her character and maturity.

"It's difficult to play volleyball without assuming certain roles, such as the aggressor," Spence said. "I played basketball in high school and was told not to pursue basketball in college because I was too skinny and would be pushed around. I decided to concentrate on volleyball full-force."

On the wall in Spence's room, amid pictures of friends and posters of sailboats, hangs a photograph of television star Tom Selleck.

"When I was in Seattle for national competition, Tom Selleck was supposed to arrive at the games because of his interest in the sport," Spence said. When I wasn't playing, I was scouting out all the possible areas Tom could be. I ended up missing him by one day."

The easygoing Spence becomes animated when discussing the position of athletic director at Texas A&M.

"I would like to be athletic director for A&M so I could delegate the money supply to each or-



A&M's Margaret Spence

ganization according to its performance," Spence said. "Obviously, I would take money from football and give women's athletics what it deserves, or at least divide the budget more evenly than it's divided right now."

"The (Athletic) department is a bit backwards in comparison to other universities, with reference to women's athletics. All they (the department heads) want from us is to win the (Southwest) conference."

Spence encourages more students to attend A&M volleyball games.

"Even though we're always encouraging people to come out to the games, the turnout this season has been the best volleyball has seen here," Spence said. "We didn't expect the support we've gathered, especially from Dunn Hall. Those guys are like a fan club. It gets our adrenaline flowing when we know someone's behind us."

No. 14 A&M and Texas are tied for first place in the SWC. Spence said the team needs extra support for the rematch with the Longhorns on Nov. 14 in Austin.

Ags showcase '84 cager talent

By JEFF GRAUNKE
Sports Writer

Basketball exhibition games are used to showcase a team's talent for the upcoming season. Texas A&M proved its '84 showcase is chock full of talent in a run-and-gun 95-89 victory over the Houston Continental Flyers over the weekend.

The Aggies looked like versatile basketball team. They showed their ability to run the fast break and work an offense to get the ball to the basket, even this early in the season.

"We're where we should be," A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said. "We're adept and we played with confidence. I was pleased."

Metcalf has some potent offensive weapons on his '84 squad. Leading the Aggies in scoring was "Downtown" Kenny Brown with 26 points. Brown also pulled down six rebounds.

"I felt strong," Brown said. "I just had to bring it out. This year we're running a lot. We're pushing the ball down court without forcing it."

Holding his own in the lane, 6-foot-9 Jimmie Gilbert pulled down 10 rebounds and scored 13 points for A&M. Gilbert had tough competition under the boards, fighting against the Flyers heavy artillery. They brought some big guns to town.

Brian Christensen led the Flyers in scoring with 18 points. Christensen, 6-10, 245 pounds, wasn't the only hoss on the Flyers' front line. John Horrock, 6-10, 230 pounds, Nick Cucinella, 6-8, 230 pounds and Bill Wendlandt at 6-8, 220 pounds, provided muscle underneath.

Andrew Parker was second in scoring for the Flyers, chalking up 16 points. Former Aggie Steve Sylestine followed with 14 points and 7 rebounds.

The game was physical — the fouls prove it. Three Aggies, Winston Crite, Don Marbury and Al

Pulliam fouled out for the Aggies. The Flyers' Harry O'Brien fouled out for the Flyers. The Ags totaled 25 personal fouls to the Flyers' 27.

Sophomore Todd Holloway was second in scoring for the Aggies with 15 points. Marbury, a transfer from Brooklyn, New York, scored 12 points and had three steals for A&M. Overall, the Ags hit 50.7 percent from the field and 75.8 percent from the foul line.

"On the whole they played better than I expected," Metcalf said of his team. "Gary Lewis played better than I expected. Al (Pulliam) looked impressive out there."

Lewis, a junior guard, is coming off a serious knee injury which has kept him out of uniform for a year. Lewis hit six for six from the foul line against the Flyers.

"Gary's knee held up," Metcalf said. "I'm going to forget that. Obviously he has."

The Ags had the lead for most of the game, but, even when the Flyers led, A&M controlled the game. A&M displayed confidence throughout and showed it could play in control in a pressure situation.

"In the second half we took charge," Metcalf said. "We ran the offense well."

The Ags took charge, but not for long. With 7:54 left in the game, the Flyers took the lead. The lead changed hands twice in that span, but the Ags held on. Even when they were down, which was only by three points, the Aggies kept their cool.

Metcalf wasn't completely satisfied with the Ags' zone defense. Even though A&M won, Metcalf said, "There just wasn't a whole lot of defense out there."

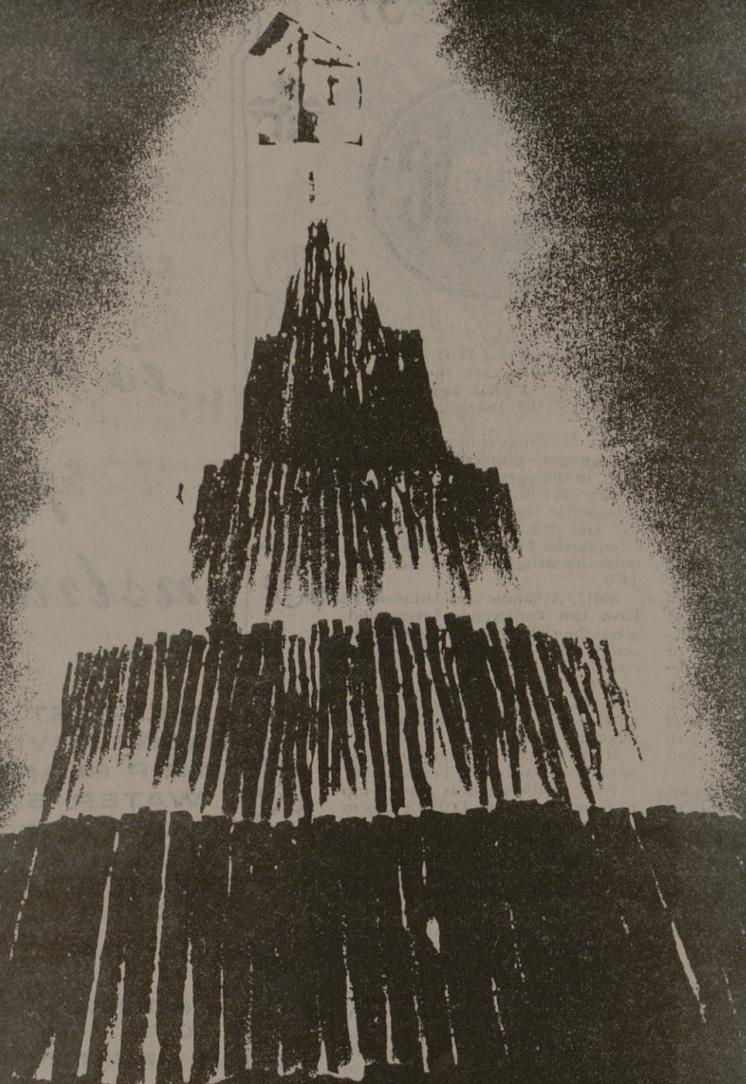
Metcalf said the game was definitely a confidence builder for the Aggies. It was a high scoring game, something the Ags need to establish this early in the season.

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— Texas A&M volleyball player Margaret Spence (pictured above, No. 6, in action against Texas earlier this season).

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