

Aggies head to Austin for SWC showdown

Condon's Aggies pulverize Tech

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Sports Writer

"Now we can think about Texas," A&M middle blocker Chemine Doty said after the Aggies defeated Texas Tech Monday night.

The Ags, who are now 33-3 overall and 8-1 in conference, got all the preliminaries taken care of when they defeated the Red Raiders 15-2, 15-8 and 15-10.

The win kept the Ags in a tie for first place in the Southwest Conference with Texas, making Wednesday's match, at Gregory Gymnasium in Austin, a winner-take-all affair.

On Oct. 21 in Lubbock, the Red Raiders played the Ags tough. Although A&M won, they felt they had something to prove to Tech. Monday night, A&M proved they had the better team.

"There was a lot of revenge in this match," A&M Head Coach Terry Condon said. "We had a horrible match up there. They said all week they were going to beat us in three (straight games)."

"We definitely paid them back," Aggie setter Lesha Beakley said. "They weren't expecting us to beat them in three. This time most of us had good games. We passed really well."

Although everyone played well for the Ags, A&M outside attacker Margaret Spence stood out. Spence drilled the ball past the Tech players all night long.

Spence finished with a game high 14 kills and had an excellent hitting percentage of .700.

"What can I say?" Spence said. "The sets threaded the button hole. I just couldn't help but nail them."

The Ags did run into a few problems in the second and third games. They fell behind 6-2 in the second game and 9-4 in the third game be-



A&M's Terry Condon



Aggie middle blocker Chemine Doty (10) makes a diving save for the ball as setter Chris Zogota (left) looks on. The Ags defeated Texas Tech Monday night 15-2, 15-8 and 15-10 to im-

Photo by DEAN SAITO

prove their overall season record to 33-3 and their conference record to 8-1. The Aggies take on Texas Wednesday night in Austin for the Southwest Conference championship.

fore regaining the lead in both.

"They were just too keyed up," Condon said. "We told them to relax and pretend like it's practice. They tensed up and played too hard."

"I think that, like always, we have a couple of bad passing errors and then we all overcompensate for each other," Doty said, who had a match high 15 digs. "We are getting better about it (bad passing errors). Now we only lose about two or three points instead of the game. We just need to relax and we'll be all right."

Overall, the Ags were pleased with their performance.

"They played very well," Condon said. "Our defense seems to be very strong. Our offense is not quite as strong as I would like it to be."

"I think it (the match) went better than what we expected," an excited Beakley said. "I thought it would be a tougher match. We flowed tonight. We served much tougher. They just couldn't pick them up."

As soon as the Tech match ended, the Ags began thinking and talking

about the showdown in Austin.

The last time A&M played Texas, the Horns defeated the Ags in four games. The Aggie team said this time the outcome will be different.

"They (A&M) believe they can do it," Condon said. "I think we can do it. The players really want it this time. There's been a calming effect at practice. 'We're going to do all right' is the attitude."

"We have to keep the emotional factor out of it. We want to relax and play well. We need to have concen-

tration and intensity the entire match."

"We're ready for them — definitely ready," Spence said. "There's more on the line this time. We've improved a whole lot since last time."

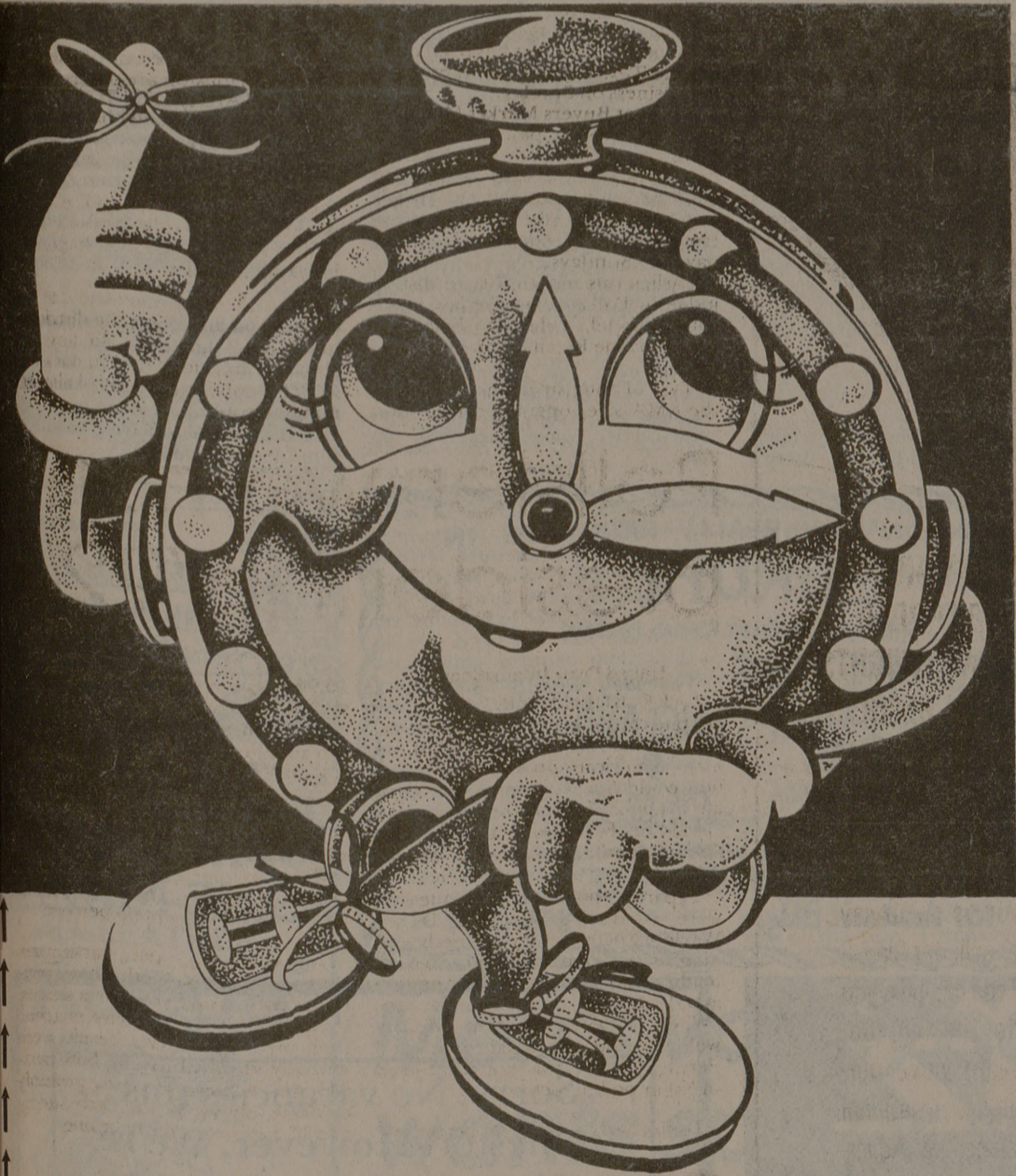
"I think we're peaking," Beakley said. "Beating Pepperdine and Texas Tech gave us a boost. We're confident."

"We're a lot more confident," Doty said. "I think we're going to go in there and play our game this time. We've got the mental attitude that

we're a good team — the best in the conference. It doesn't mean Texas is any better than us just because they beat us the last two years."

Condon said the win over No. 8 San Diego State on Oct. 26 was the turning point in the Aggies' season.

"Ever since San Diego, they realized they were good. It wasn't just me telling them they were good," Condon said. "Now they go 'gosh, we are good'. They're already thinking about Nationals. They think they can get into the final four."



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