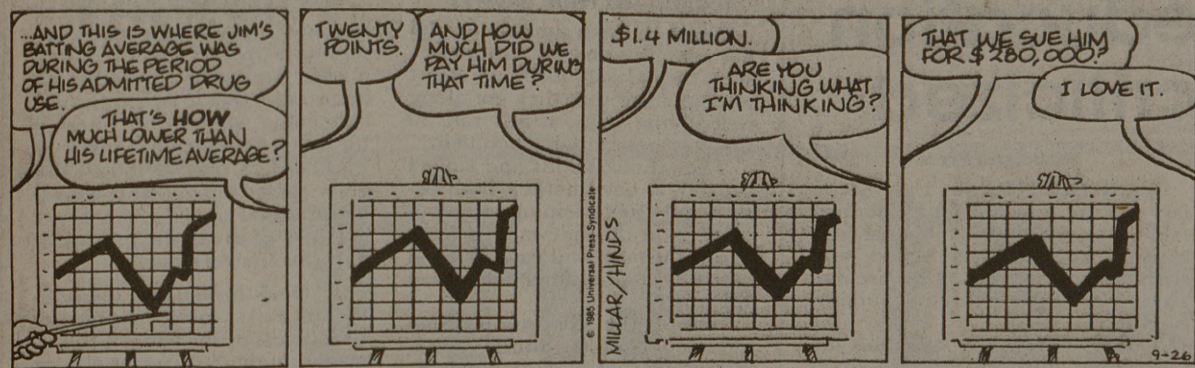


**TANK McNAMARA**

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Aggies drop a notch in Top 20 spiker poll

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

Coaches like to harp on the fact that statistics don't mean much, but it still looks good to see your team on top of the columns. And the fact is, if a team's on top of every statistical column, they're probably at the top of the standings. Although it's still too early in the season to make a judgement on this year's Texas A&M volleyball team, their statistics are good. The statistics came from the NCAA Wednesday and include the Aggies first five matches. A&M, currently 8-3 on the season, was hitting .305 on the season when the stats came out, placing them 11th in the nation. Since that time, the Aggies percentage has fallen to .265. None of the Ags placed individually in the Top 20 in hitting percentage. Freshman Cheri Steensma leads A&M with her .397 average in 13 games. All-American Sherri Brinkman has hit .370 in 35 matches and leads the team with 142 kills. In kills per game, A&M is ninth at 15.56. In assist percentage, the Ags are eighth. Senior setter Lesha Beakley was 13th in the nation with her .500 assist percentage. The Aggies other setter, Chris Zogata, wasn't far behind at .423. In assists per game, the Aggies were 13th, averaging 13.38. The only statistical categories the Ags didn't get mentioned were blocks, digs and aces. These were three areas A&M Coach Terry Condon said the Aggies must be more consistent in. Which brings us to adding two and two together. If you add all these statistics together, and take into account the Ags record, where would you place them in the Top 20? How about 17th in the NCAA poll and 16th in the Tachikara Coaches' Poll? Well, that's where the Aggies stand right now.



Here's the Tachikara Coaches' Top 20 Poll with overall record through Sept. 23 in parentheses.

1. UCLA — (8-0)
2. Stanford — (7-0)
3. Pacific — (5-0)
4. San Jose St. — (9-2)
5. Nebraska — (8-2)
6. Cal-Poly SLO — (6-1)
7. USC — (8-3)
8. San Diego St. — (12-2)
9. Hawaii — (7-0)
10. Texas — (4-2)
11. W. Michigan — (6-1)
12. Colorado St. — (7-4)
13. Arizona — (7-2)
14. BYU — (10-2)
15. Illinois — (18-0)
16. Texas A&M — (8-3)
17. Cal-Santa Barbara — (9-3)
18. Northwestern — (8-3)
19. Arizona St. — (9-1)
20. Pepperdine — (3-7)

# Astros rally late to clip Dodgers

10th inning homerun gives Houston victory

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Kevin Bass hit his 14th homer of the season in the 10th inning to rally the Houston Astros to a 6-4 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers Wednesday night. Jim Pankovits singled to right field before Bass broke the 4-4 deadlock with a homer over the right field fence off reliever Tom Niedenfuer, 7-8. Julio Solano, 2-2, pitched the 10th inning and got the victory. Despite the loss, the Dodgers maintained a six-game lead over Cincinnati in the National League West after the Reds lost 4-2 in 11 innings to Atlanta.

The Astros trailed 4-0 going into their four-run seventh inning, which was highlighted by Tim Tolman's two-run pinch-hit single.

Dodgers starter Fernando Valenzuela held the Astros to two hits until the seventh, but rookie Glenn Davis started the Houston rally with his 19th homer of the season.

### Twins 5, Rangers 1

ARLINGTON — Bert Blyleven continued his mastery against Texas as he pitched a five-hitter to lead the Minnesota Twins to a 5-1 win over the Rangers.

Blyleven, 15-16, went the distance for the league-leading 22nd time this year, walking one and striking out four. The strikeouts moved Blyleven past Jim Bunning and into the No. 10 spot on the all-time strikeout list with 2,860.

He is now 5-0 with five complete games against the Rangers for the season. Dating back to last year, Blyleven has won his last six decisions over Texas. The last time he lost to the Rangers was on April 23, 1983 when he dropped a 2-1 decision to Rick Honeycutt.

Jeff Russell, 2-6, went the first five innings to take the loss for the Rangers. He gave up five hits and all three Minnesota runs. Russell walked two and struck out a season-high six batters.

The Twins took the lead with a run in the second on three consecutive two-out singles.



Other Wednesday games: (Home team in capitals)

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

- Cleveland 7, OAKLAND 2
  - Boston 4, TORONTO 2 (13)
  - NEW YORK 10, Detroit 2
  - MILWAUKEE 3, Baltimore 0
  - Chicago at CALIFORNIA (n)
  - Kansas City at SEATTLE (n)
- ### NATIONAL LEAGUE
- CHICAGO 5, New York 4
  - PITTSBURGH 8, Montreal 2
  - Atlanta 4, CINCINNATI 2 (11)
  - ST. LOUIS 6, Pittsburgh 3
  - San Francisco at SAN DIEGO (n)

of those being tested a potentially coercive atmosphere, and a coercive atmosphere is not conducive to eradicating whatever problem there might be."

Don Fehr, the union's acting executive director, responded Tuesday to Ueberroth's news conference by saying the commissioner was illegally trying to bypass the union and negotiate directly with the players.

In his letter, Ueberroth asked the players to respond, yes, or no, by Friday whether they would submit to urinalysis three times a year starting with the 1986 season.

"It doesn't need to be unanimous," Ueberroth said Wednesday. "I'm just saying let's stand up and say that there's no more drugs in baseball. And we'll have to prove it. If we say it, it's one thing. Secondly, we have to prove it."

Generally, the players' response has been that they agree something has to be done, but that the commissioner should be working through the union. The New York Yankees, Los Angeles Dodgers, Milwaukee Brewers, Atlanta Braves and a number of other teams refused to vote on Ueberroth's idea.

*"As soon as testing was in all the minor leagues — and we did it without publicity, incidentally — the use of drugs just virtually vanished. . . . As soon as we do that in the major leagues, the same thing is going to happen."*  
— Baseball Commissioner Peter Ueberroth

Gene Orza, the associate general counsel to the union, said the union has never been given details of the minor-league testing program. "We've asked the commissioner for details on at least 10 occasions," he said. "All we get back is the same thing — there's random testing a number of times. I assume players get tested whenever they're asked."

He also said the "overwhelming weight of expert medical literature is that testing is not a solution because it necessarily establishes in the minds

# Baseball players' union doubt Ueberroth's claim

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Major League Baseball Players Association said Wednesday that Commissioner Peter Ueberroth "has yet to supply any evidence to support his claim" that the minor leagues are virtually drug free because of his drug-testing program.

Ueberroth, in a news conference Tuesday, said he had asked all major leaguers — in letters sent through club ownership or managers — to participate voluntarily in a testing program next season. And on NBC's "Today" show Wednesday, Ueberroth called testing in the minors a deterrent to drug use.

"Even before we started, the use of drugs went down dramatically," Ueberroth said. "As soon as testing was in all the minor leagues — and we did it without publicity, incidentally — the use of drugs just virtually vanished. . . . As soon as we do that in the major leagues, the same thing is going to happen."

"I made the proposal to the union on May 8, 1985. It's the same proposal. And it worked in the minor leagues," Ueberroth said. "I had the power to put it in the minor leagues and it worked."

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