

A&M spikers find out all about work ethic

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

Thus far this season, the only thing the Texas A&M volleyball team has lacked has been intensity. Looking to find last year's form, which carried A&M to a 33-4 season, Terry Condon changed the Aggies' practices to try and find some consistency.

"I've been too easy on them in practice," Condon said. "We haven't been as intense. We will work a lot harder in practice. We'll work the whole two hours in the gym."

The No. 16 Aggies got to have "a little fun" on the court Wednesday and Thursday. Condon had the Ags running, jumping, hitting, blocking and sweating — really sweating.

"Wednesday we worked on hitting a lot," Condon said. "Thursday we worked on blocking and the transition game."

The Aggies, 8-3 on the season, are going to be on top of their blocking game Friday night. That's because the Ags take on Ruby Randolph and Lamar at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Randolph is sixth in the nation in kills per game, having averaged 4.61.

"She's a good hitter," Condon said. "She jumps pretty high. We have to take away the strong shot. We will play defense around that."

On Oct. 15 of last year, middle blocker Sherri Brinkman and outside hitter Margaret Spence keyed the Aggies to a 15-1, 15-12, 15-0 crushing of the Cardinals.

However, this season Lamar has already upset Houston, so Condon



A&M Coach Terry Condon



A&M spiker Stacey Smith

said the Ags must be ready.

"I haven't seen them play yet this year," Condon said, "but from what I've heard, they're better than last year. I've also heard they're a real up and down team. You have to get on

them early and get them down. They still have the potential to come back. It's not going to be easy."

Condon said A&M will switch the lineup around tonight to try to become more consistent. Ironically, before last season's game against Lamar, the Ags made some starting lineup changes, switching setters Lesha Beakley and Chris Zogata.

"It will be the same people," Condon said. "We'll just be rotating up and back depending on if we're serving the ball or not. You'll just have to wait and see exactly what we're going to do."

The Aggies '85 season has taken them from a low against Sam Houston to highs against Minnesota and Houston. But, thus far they just haven't put it all together for one complete match.

"Hopefully we will be more consistent," Condon said. "We just need a little more teamwork. We don't need individuals out there playing. They need to quit worrying about how they're doing and start worrying about how the team is doing."

AGGIE VOLLEYBALL NOTES:

Tuesday the Ags defeated Sam Houston State 15-3, 15-11, 15-13 in G. Rollie White in front of a disappointing crowd of 650. . . . "(The crowd) was a little weak," Condon said. "I don't think anyone knew we're playing in G. Rollie White. It will hopefully be better Friday." . . . The starting lineup remains Sherri Brinkman and Stacey Smith in the middle, Margaret Spence and Stacey Gildner at the outside hitting positions and Lesha Beakley and Chris Zogata will be setting.

Cougars looking to claw way out of losing streak

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Houston Cougars fans have learned to be wary of too much bragging early in the season.

They've had front row seats in the Cotton Bowl four of the past nine seasons, but the early going seems to carry its own set of problems.

Last season, fans came to the Astrodome expecting to see an easy victory over Louisville and were surprised by the Cardinals 30-28 upset win.

But later in the season, the Cougars beat highly ranked Southern Methodist 29-20 and eventually earned their fourth trip to the Cotton Bowl because of a tie with the Mustangs for the title.

This year, the Cougars are once again having to dig out of an early season hole with an 0-2 record going into Saturday's rematch in Louisville.

And Cougar linebacker Robert Harper thinks the wake-up call finally has arrived at the UH athletic dorm.

"It just seems like we can't get our minds right at the start of the season," said Harper, a sophomore from Kansas City. "I don't know why, but it seems like we have to get beat by somebody before we realize that we can get beat."

The Cougars were upset by Tulsa in their season-opener and lost Saturday to Washington.

"You might look real good going against your own second team offense but when you get in that first game it's different," Harper said. "I think we start the season expecting to shut everybody down and when we don't, we don't know how to react."

Cardinal Coach Howard Schnellenberger said he thinks the Cougars are ready to react.

"They are the defending champions down there and although they lost their first two games, that's historic with Houston," Schnellenberger said. "By this game, Houston will have its fumbles and bad things

out of its system and be at mid-season form."

Harper, a sophomore starting his second season on the Houston defense, thinks it's time for both offense and defense to play a complete game.

"The offense showed up for one game and the defense for the other," Harper said. "We need to both play at our best in the same game."

Harper is experiencing a transition from his freshman year on the Cougar defense. Last season, he had to worry only about playing his position. Now he calls the plays and makes certain everyone is lined up correctly.

"I've got to get the call from the sidelines, go to the huddle, make the call, make sure everyone is in the right spot, and then I get to play my position," Harper said. "I'm getting more comfortable with it now."

A&M Golf

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even finish on the leader board the rest of the season.

Ellis said Wylie, who has struggled the past two seasons, is off to his best start ever.

And good starts, by the whole Aggie team, is what it's going to take to be competitive in the SWC.

Ellis said the conference is "really strong" with Texas, Arkansas and Houston, last year's champion, all expected to field outstanding teams.

The Southwest Conference is going to be extremely strong (for ev-

eryone to compete against) nationwide," he said, "and very competitive within the conference."

"All the schools in the conference, except maybe Texas Tech . . . are improved over last year."

The Aggies opened the '85 season last week by finishing a distant second place, 32-strokes back, to Houston in the SWC Commissioners' Cup in Lufkin.

"I didn't think U of H would be as strong as they are," Ellis said, "but they played just an unbelievable round of golf."

Ellis said the Aggies can beat

Houston, as well as the other SWC teams, if they "just go out and play good solid golf."

"Any of the (SWC) schools can be beaten," he said. "But you're going to have to play — not even up to your capability — you're going to have to play well."

"I feel that when we play up to our capability we can play with any team in the country. But we can't go out and play as we did last week on that 18 holes at 17-over-par and expect to beat teams."

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