

# Sports

## 'A case of deja vu for A&M' No. 16 Ag spikers travel to play Lamar — again

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

When the Texas A&M volleyball team looks left, then right tonight, it'll see the same familiar faces. And, even when it looks through the net, the faces on that side will be the same, too.

The names will be the same, only the match's setting will change to protect Lamar from another predetermined outcome — even in Beaumont.

Friday night, the Aggies topped the Cardinals 15-13, 15-2, 15-12 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. But, tonight the Cards (9-5 on the season) will have the home court advantage and the No. 16 Ags (9-3 on the season) might just find a tougher match awaiting them.

"Lamar plays 180 percent better at home," said A&M Coach Terry Condon. "They're more consistent and more confident. They don't make as many mistakes and they don't have the Dunn Hall guys yelling at them."

Lamar Coach Katrinka Jo Crawford admitted the fans at A&M made G. Rollie a difficult place to play, and said the Cards would be a different team tonight at home.

"Playing at A&M, you know how it is," Crawford said. "The crowd at A&M is great. That's something good to have. The first game, we didn't know (the crowd) was there because we were so intense. In the second game, we were out of it mentally. We played better here this year."

"All they (A&M) did was throw the ball, but you can't expect to get the calls playing away from home. I think you'll see a better match Tuesday night. We'll have a few fans there."

Crawford said the Cardinals must pass better if they expect to stay at A&M.

"Their serves are tough," Crawford said. "Passing was certainly the key to Friday's match. We didn't get to run the middle, which we plan to do Tuesday. Being an unranked team, you've really got to be up when playing a ranked team. You have to play your best to expect to win."

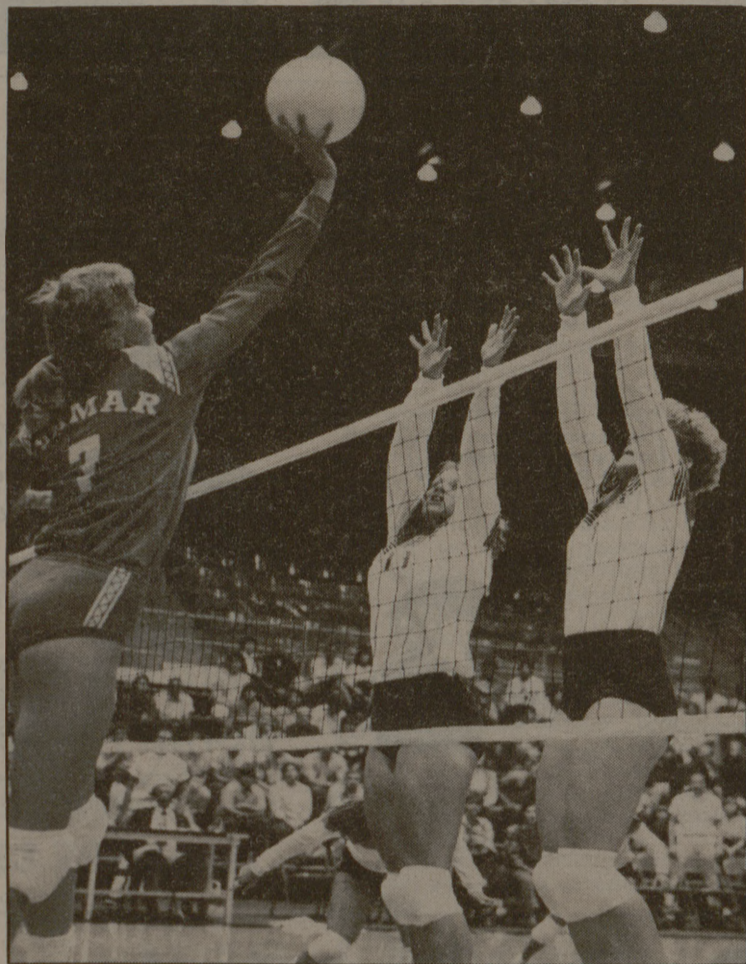


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Lamar's Tracy Turner (7) will look to hit a few past Texas A&M tonight in Beaumont. Here, Turner tries to get the ball past Aggies' Sherri Brinkman (left) and Stacey Gildner (right).

Although the Lamar team isn't ranked, one of its players made the Top 20. Outside hitter Ruby Randolph is sixth in the nation in kills per game, averaging 4.61.

In the first game, Randolph kept the Cards close, but in the next two games, the Aggie blockers took Randolph out of the match. The 5-foot-11 senior finished with 9 kills.

"She's (Randolph) played much better matches," Crawford said. "It all goes back to the mental thing. She was shaken by those A&M fans. In the third game, she started to come back. She will hopefully play better this time."

As for the Ags last Friday, they played better than they have all season. A&M finally played a whole match with consistency and

intensity.

"We need to keep playing like Friday," Condon said. "We gained confidence. The players felt good about the way they played."

Condon made a few changes before the LU match, which finally brought the Ags to life. Setters Lesha Beakley and Chris Zogata were switched to get more productivity from the spikers.

"Terry (Condon) just thought it was time for a switch," said Beakley, who is 13th in the nation in assist percentage. "It seemed to work well. I work with Sherri (Brinkman) more. I think it's a real good move."

It certainly appeared to be a good move for All-American Brinkman. The Ags' middle blocker had 17 kills and hit .500 against Lamar, which was by far her best game of the season.

"We were getting the communication out there," Brinkman said. "We've been slacking off lately. Everyone was getting a little testy. I do like Lesha setting me. Maybe we all needed the switch, I don't know."

Brinkman's resurgence benefited outside hitters Stacey Gildner, Margaret Spence and Cheri Steensma.

"(Sherri playing well) helps because their blockers go to triple block in the middle, so it leaves us open on the outside," Steensma said. "It makes it a hayday for the outside hitters. Their blockers can't get outside quick enough to block us."

### AGGIE VOLLEYBALL NOTES:

After Lamar, the Ags next game will be at home Friday night when they take on Kentucky. . . .

The UCLA volleyball media guide arrived today and A&M Coach Terry Condon is still listed among its record holders. Condon is second in career spiking, having had 430 kills and a .340 hitting percentage from 1974-1976. She was also fourth and fifth on the single season spiking list. In her three seasons, the Bruins were 89-12 and won two NCAA championships. . . . Even with all those records, they managed to spell her name Terri.

## Hawkeyes soar to AP's top spot

Associated Press

The University of Iowa, which once set an NCAA record of 19 consecutive non-winning seasons from 1962-80, is ranked No. 1 in the Associated Press college football poll for the first time since 1961.

The Hawkeyes walloped Iowa State 57-3 Saturday and vaulted from third place to the top in Monday's weekly AP poll following No. 1-ranked Auburn's 38-20 loss to Tennessee and runner-up Oklahoma's 13-7 squeaker over Minnesota.

Iowa, 3-0, received 35 of 59 first-place votes and 1,111 of a possible 1,180 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and sportscasters. Oklahoma, which played its first game of the season last weekend, received 13 first-place votes and 1,046 points.

Meanwhile, Auburn plummeted from first place to 14th while Tennessee, Georgia, Baylor and Texas made the Top 20 for the first time this season. Dropping out were UCLA, Maryland, USC and Virginia.

Behind Iowa and Oklahoma in the Top 10 are SMU, Florida State, Ohio State, Oklahoma State, Michigan, LSU, Penn State and Arkansas.

The jump to the top for Iowa capped a rise from virtual obscurity in Hayden Fry's seven years as head coach. The Hawkeyes were fourth in the 1985 preseason poll and third, fourth or fifth in each regular-season poll. They have defeated Drake 58-0 and Northern Illinois 58-20 before crushing Iowa State.

Ironically, Fry had pleaded following the Iowa State game: "Don't put us No. 1. That might be the kiss of death for us."

When advised of Iowa's new ranking on Monday, Fry chuckled and said:

"That's a little bit unbelievable at the University of Iowa. When we came here seven years ago we were in the worst 10."

Then, he added: "Seriously, I think it's super-great. I really don't put a lot of value in early-season rankings, but I'd like to see us there at the end of the season. We're honored to be No. 1 and we'll try our best to stay there."

Iowa plays Michigan State at home this Saturday.



### AP Top 20 Poll

The Top Twenty teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and season record:

1. Iowa (35) — 3-0-0
2. Oklahoma (13) — 1-0-0
3. SMU (6) — 2-0-0
4. Florida State (1) — 4-0-0
5. Ohio State — 3-0-0
6. Oklahoma State (1) — 3-0-0
7. Michigan (3) — 3-0-0
8. LSU — 2-0-0
9. Penn State — 4-0-0
10. Arkansas — 3-0-0
11. Florida — 2-0-1
12. Alabama — 4-0-0
13. Nebraska — 2-1-0
14. Auburn — 2-1-0
15. BYU — 3-1-0
16. Tennessee — 1-0-1
17. Air Force — 4-0-0
18. Georgia — 3-1-0
19. Baylor — 3-1-0
20. Texas — 2-0-0

### Others receiving votes:

UCLA, Purdue, Miami (Fla.), Army, Maryland, Arizona State, Georgia Tech, USC, Washington, Indiana, Kansas, Arizona, Virginia, Bowling Green, Minnesota, North Carolina, Texas A&M, Utah, Wisconsin.

Iowa was No. 1 six times previously in the 50-year history of the AP poll — three times in 1960 and three in 1961. The Hawkeyes were first in the 1961 preseason poll and also in the first regular-season poll before they played a game.

The pollsters must have known something because Iowa finished the season with a 5-4 record. That was its last winning season until 1981.

The string of 19 non-winning seasons has since been broken by Rice, which had 21 in a row entering the 1985 campaign.

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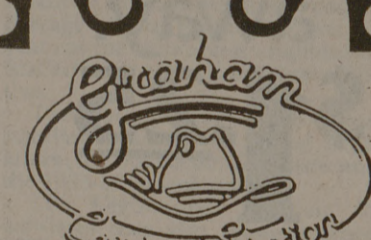
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