Sports

Sherrill's first Tech victory an 'Unpredicta-Bowl'

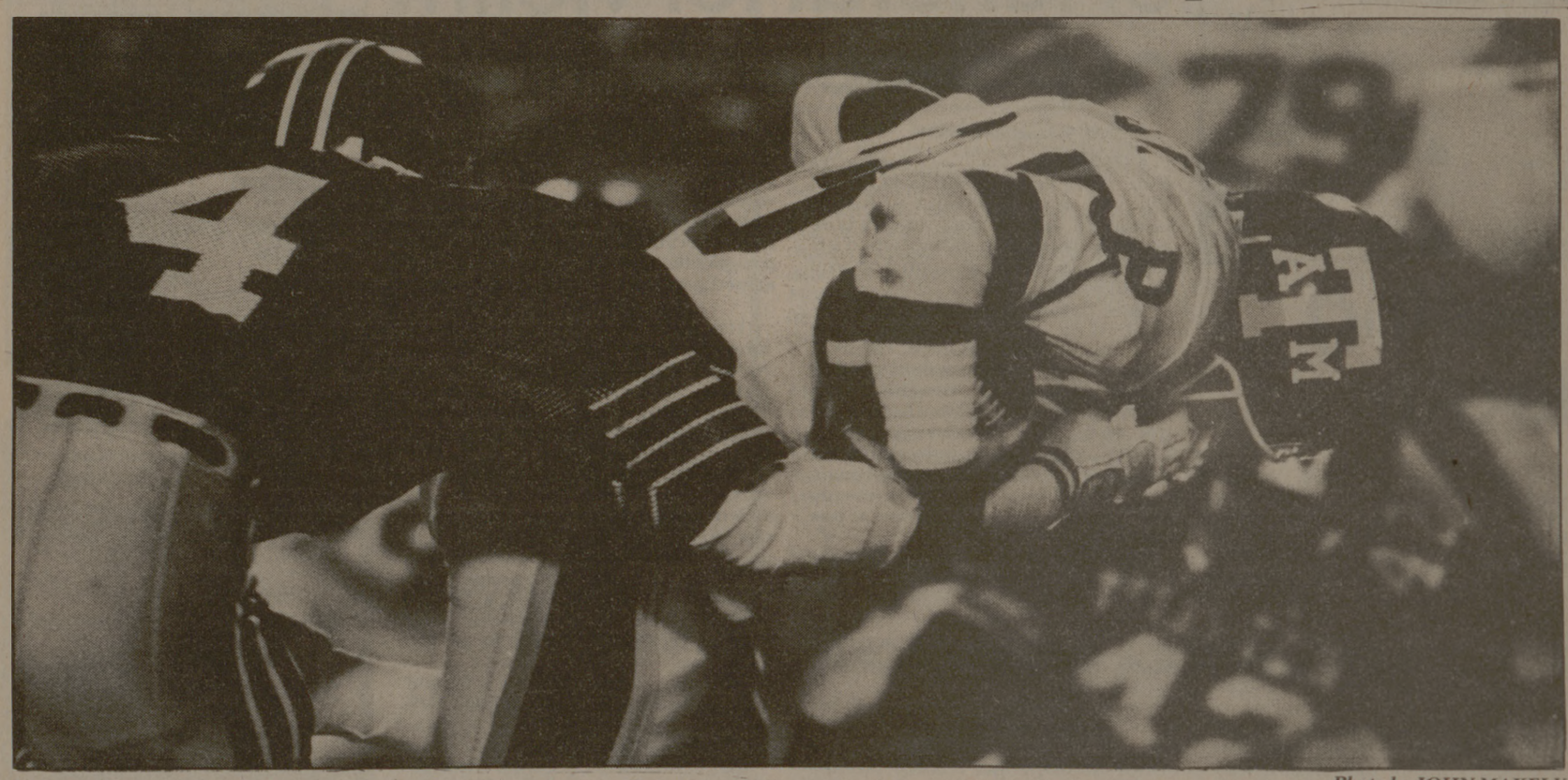

Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas Tech defensive back King Simmons (4) should have got "caught" grabbing the facemask of Texas A&M flanker Jeff Nelson (8) after he "caught" this pass from quarterback Kevin Murray. The Aggies edged the Red Raiders, 28-27, in Lubbock Saturday night.

By PETE HERNDON
Sports Writer

LUBBOCK — Texas A&M quarterback Kevin Murray takes the snap and falls on the ball to run out the clock. A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill runs onto the field and hugs Murray as the Aggies walk away from the Cotton Bowl with a 28-27 victory over Michigan.

OK, OK, so it wasn't Michigan —it was Texas Tech. And so it wasn't the Cotton Bowl — it was the "Unpredicta-Bowl." But since it *was* A&M's first win in a Southwest Conference opener in four years, it's easy to see why Sherrill got so carried away.

However, to pull off the 28-27 win over the Red Raiders, the Aggies needed some help from Tech Coach Jerry Moore.

After Tech running back Bouvier Dale scored the game's last touchdown with only 42 seconds remaining, the Red Raiders trailed by only a single point.

So Moore sent in Tech place kicker Marc Mallery to tie the game, right?

Wrong.

Moore changed his mind and sent in his offense back in to attempt a game-winning two-point conversion. But by the time Tech got set up for the play, the 30-second clock had expired and the Red Raiders were penalized 5 yards for delay of game.

So Moore sent Mallery back in to go ahead and get the tie, right?

Wrong.

Moore decided to go ahead and go for two from the A&M 8-yard line. But a strong A&M rush, led by cornerback Terrence Brooks, caused Tech quarterback Andy Keesee's pass to fall harmlessly to the Jones Stadium turf.

"The decision to go for two was a very emotional one," Moore said. "The kids played their guts out and they wanted to go for the win. I had planned to just kick it even before we made the touchdown, but the crowd and the players urged us on. Looking back now, it was not the right decision, but hindsight is always best."

But the Aggies' win wasn't all luck.

After Murray threw an interception that Tech safety King Simmons returned 34 yards for a TD, Tech tied the game with a two point conversion and had the momentum going into the fourth quarter.

"I didn't help the cause too much, but the coaches stayed with me and the team stayed behind me," Murray said. "We found a way to win."

And that "way to win" came from A&M's offensive line.

"The offensive line did a great job again," Murray said. "We kept going right at them and wore them down."

A&M center Matt Wilson said, "We have confidence we can stop on any team. We just had to put our ears back and run the football. We wanted to keep the ball between the guard and tackle. We just had to make a few slight adjustments in the second half."

A&M freshman guard Trace McGuire agreed with Wilson.

"We went back to basic football," McGuire said. "The guards had to blow their men off the line. We were doing a great job moving the line, wearing them down and taking time off the clock."

McGuire gave runningbacks Anthony Toney (20 carries for [illegible] yards, 1 TD) and Roger Vick (37 carries for 135 yards, 2 TDs) credit for controlling the ball.

"They (Toney and Vick) won't go down on one hit," he said. "They find the cracks in the defense and hit hard. We know if we take our man a yard or two off the line, it will be at least a four or five yard gain."

A&M offensive tackle Doug Williams summed up the Tech game.

"It wasn't one of the prettiest games we have ever won," Williams said. "But we didn't get down when things got rough. We weren't clicking on offense like we were last week (against Tulsa), but it's a win."

A&M spikers get ugly win over Kentucky

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat — at least that's the way it's *supposed* to be.

But if you judged Friday night's volleyball match by the Aggies' mood afterward, you'd have thought they had lost.

Terry Condon's No. 17 Aggies defeated Kentucky 15-10, 8-15, 15-5, 15-10 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. But Condon and the Ags were not happy.

"We played very poorly," Condon said. "We've been doing this for weeks. After the first game, we got overconfident and we slacked off. Kentucky wasn't going to roll over and die for us."

The Aggies, now 10-3, made almost every conceivable error at sometime or another during the match.

They even managed to serve out of order and were called for being out of postition.

"We just got into one of our ruts again," A&M backcourt specialist Laura Hoppe said. "We just get down on ourselves. We make a mistake and we think that's it, but it's not. We've just got to keep thinking positively and forget about all the previous mistakes we made."

No one was safe from Condon's wrath.

"Sherri (Brinkman) played horrible," Condon said. "Lesha's (Beakley) choice of setting was poor. You don't set Sherri when she has three blockers on her. We brought some substitutes in for the second game and they weren't ready to play. Cheri (Steensma) wasn't ready to go when we brought her in, although she did play better in the third game."

Even though she had 15 kills, Brinkman had what Condon called "an off night".

"She played better in the third game," Condon said, "but she wasn't in the match mentally. She can't afford to have anymore matches like that. We can't afford for her to have any more matches like that."

The normally excited All-American looked like she had just lost her best friend.

"I played bad," Brinkman said. "That's about the only thing."

On a night in which the Aggies couldn't get their mean machine to turn over, outside hitter Margaret Spence and Hoppe provided the needed fuel.

Spence provided the offense with her nine kills and .333 hitting percentage, perhaps her best match of the season.

"Margaret has been hitting well," Condon said. "She is finally getting her timing back."

And A&M's little sparkplug, Hoppe, added the much needed defense.

"Laura played great defense," Condon said.

Coming in off the bench, Hoppe also provided a little excitement to an otherwise lackadaisical team.

"I do that all the time," Hoppe said. "I think part of my job is to get them going. Sometimes I think they just want me to shut up because I do it so much. But I hope it helps. It really fires me up."

Overall though, the Aggies seemed less than fired up about playing a team that they had dominated 15-9, 15-6, 15-7 on Sept. 14 in the Southern Illinois Tournament.

"We just played real well up there," setter Chris Zogata said. "And obviously we didn't here."

The Aggies did find a few aspects of their game to be pleased with.

"Offensively we're pretty consistent hitting wise," Zogata said. "I can't say our passing was that good, but we had a lot of one-arm digs that were controlled. Sometimes we're wild on those. And when we were blocking, we got our hands on a lot of balls."

So who says the sun won't rise tomorrow?

"I don't know how we do it," Brinkman said, "but we manage to play bad and still win."

And regardless of the ugliness of it, this one still went in the win column.

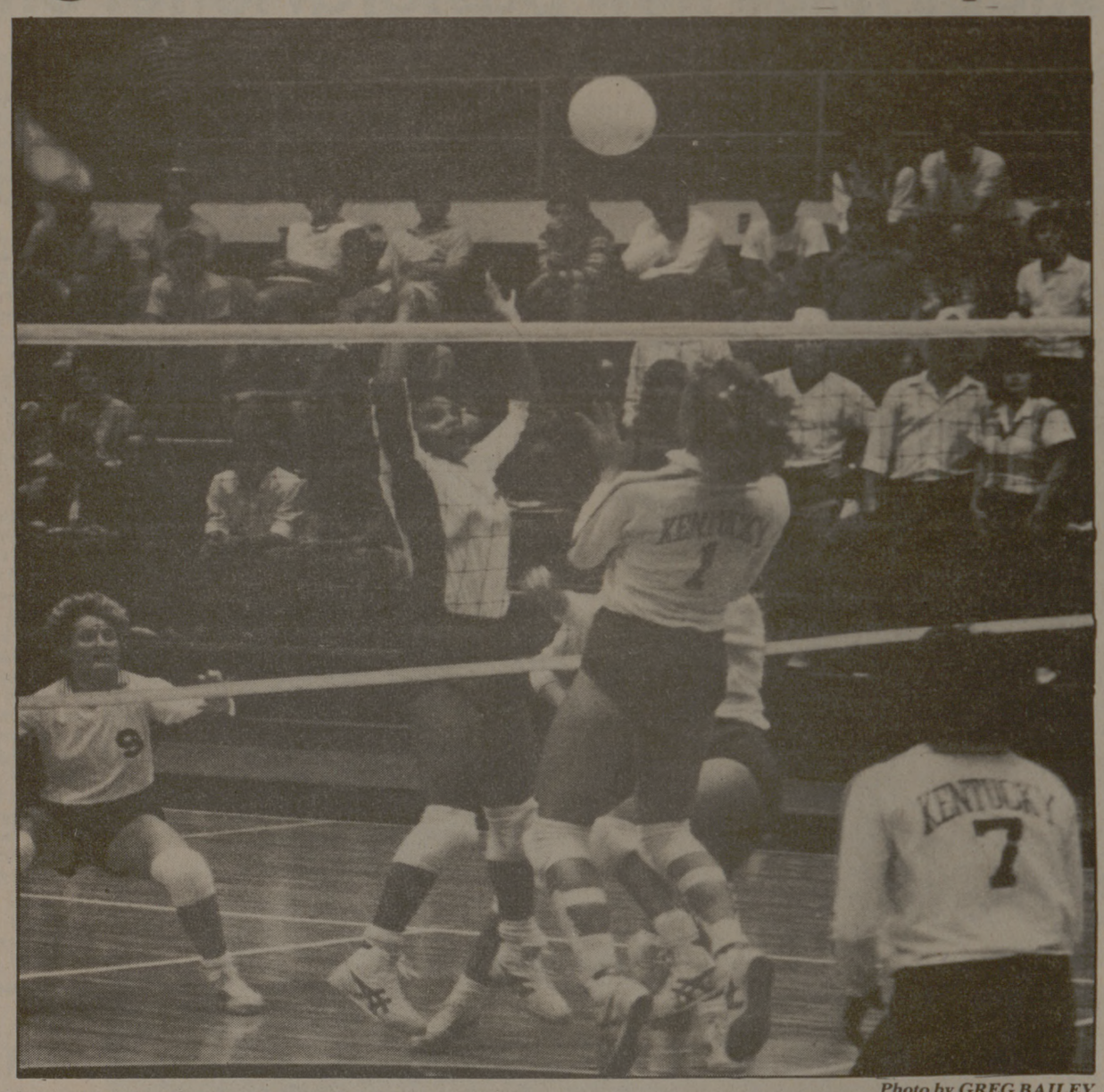

Photo by GREG BAILEY

Although it came away with a 15-10, 8-15, 15-5, 15-10 win over Kentucky Friday, A&M had to struggle to get its hands on the ball. Here, Aggie Stacey Smith battles Wildcat Jill Ackerman (1).

A&M golfers stand fourth in Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Texas A&M is in fourth-place after first day's first round of the Carrier/Memphis Women's Intercollegiate Golf Tournament at Stonebridge Country Club.

LSU leads the 17-team field with a score of 305. South Carolina is second at 308, Furman third at 309 and A&M fourth at 317.

A&M Women's Golf Coach Kitty Holley said the scores could have been lower, if the Aggies had adjusted better to the course's bent grass putting greens.

"We had a problem with the greens here," Holley said, "because we're used to playing on (slower) bermuda (grass greens) on all the area courses we play on back home. They (the greens) were very, very fast, so we had a problem with the putting."

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