

Sports

Jays edge by Royals in 10th inning

Toronto has 2-0 lead going into Game 3

Associated Press

TORONTO — Al Oliver slapped a single to left field with two outs in the 10th inning, driving home Lloyd Moseby from second base and capping a two-run rally off Kansas City relief ace Dan Quisenberry that gave the Toronto Blue Jays a 6-5 victory Wednesday and a commanding two-game lead in the American League playoffs.

Moseby had been the center of controversy in the top of the 10th, when Kansas City scored to take a 5-4 lead.

But the quick turnaround in the Blue Jays' fortunes sent the best-of-seven series to Kansas City for Game 3 Friday night with the Royals in an unenviable position.

The Royals started as if they would easily snap their nine-game postseason losing streak, taking an early 3-0 lead. But this game was full of twists and the 10th inning was the most dramatic of all.

Willie Wilson scored from second base, when center fielder Moseby trapped Frank White's single with two outs in the top of the inning, giving Kansas City the lead for the second time.

White hit a hard liner up the middle. Moseby came charging in, reached down and scooped up the ball, raising his glove as if he had made the catch.

Second base umpire Ted Hendry ran toward Moseby but did not make an immediate call. Hendry looked toward crew chief Dave Phillips, who was on the right-field line, for help and Phillips waved that Moseby had trapped the ball.

While all this was happening, Wilson, who led off the 10th with a single and stole second, scampered home.

Different angles showed different results on the replay. From the side, it looked as if the catch was clean, but head-on, it appeared the ball had taken a short hop into Moseby's glove.

Moseby threw up his arms in disbelief. See See Blue Jays, page 16

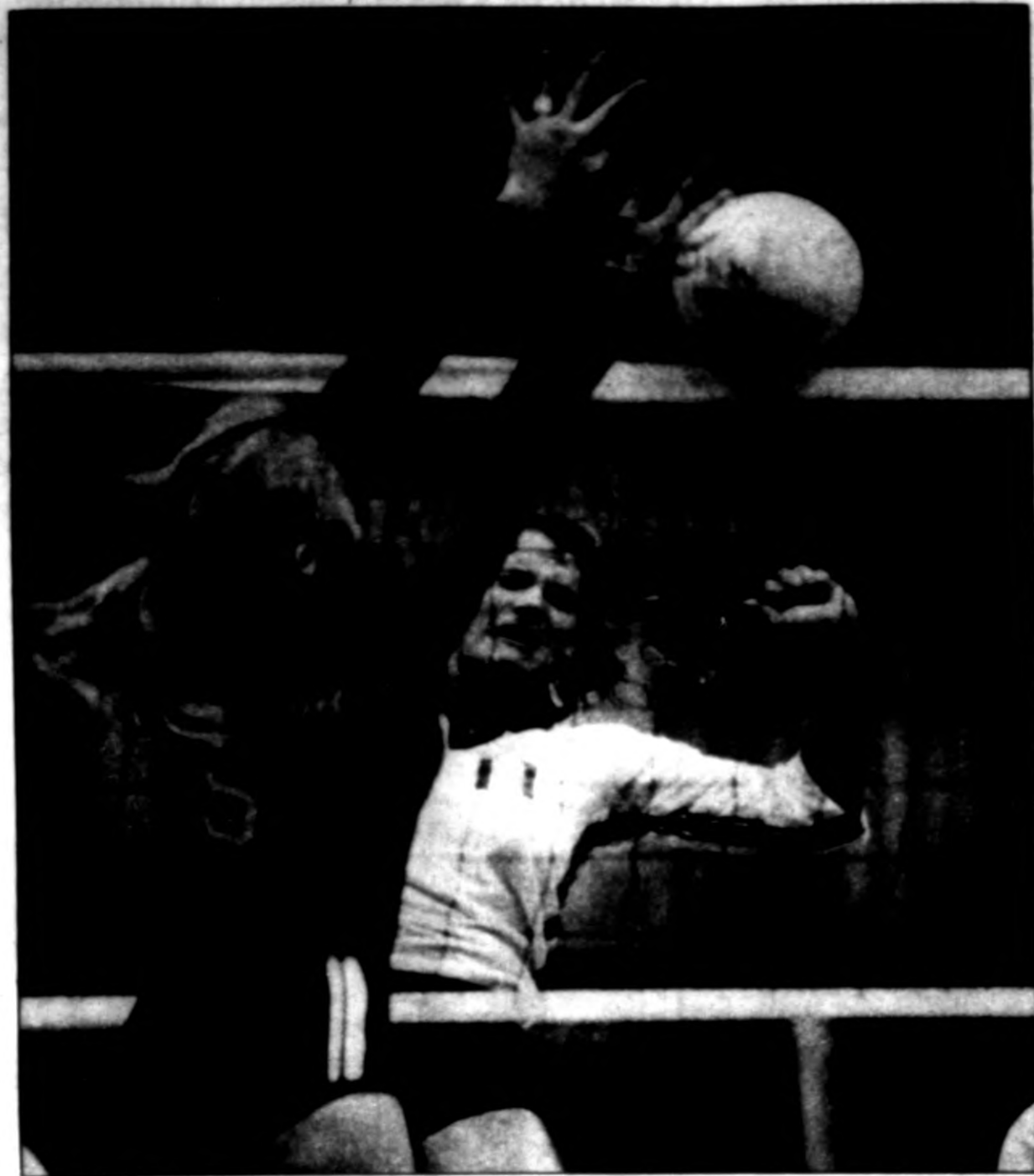


Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Texas A&M middle blocker Sherri Brinkman (11) left Houston crying Wednesday night as she pounded the ball past them left and right. A&M left smiling as it defeated UH, 15-9, 15-5, 15-7.

A&M spikers start SWC with 'good' match against UH

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS

Assistant Sports Editor

Will the real Texas A&M volleyball team please stand up?

So far this season, the Aggies have offered their version of "the good, the bad and the ugly."

Fortunately for the Ags, they used the "good" Wednesday night to open Southwest Conference play with a match win over Houston.

Even after the first serve of the match, the final result was never in doubt. The Ags walked away with a 15-9, 15-5, 15-7 smile on their faces.

"It was just a desire amongst ourselves to start playing," A&M Coach Terry Condon said. "We kept waiting for it to happen and it finally did. There's no love lost between these two teams."

You could say there's no love at all.

After last year's match at A&M, UH Coach Dave Olbright filed a protest with SWC officials complaining about the Dunn Hall "Bleacher Bums."

The Bums, who were dressed in their cry baby attire, and even had a SWC complaint telephone handy, kept the heat on Olbright and the Googs all night.

"I think certain players play well and certain players play poorly against the noise," Olbright said. "You always expect a crazy crowd in this part of the country. If I had to do it all over again though, I'd play in Houston."

But Olbright's Googs didn't play in Houston and they didn't come close to winning.

Except for end of the game No. 3, the Ags played virtually error-free volleyball.

"We played 2 1/2 games instead of playing in spurts," A&M outside hitter Margaret Spence said. "Starting the conference turned it around for us. You can expect this and better for the rest of the season."

The "better" seems to be that the Ags finally played as a team, instead of as individuals.

"We've been disappointed with the way we've been playing," A&M setter Lesha Beakley said. "We're now building up each other's confidence. Playing together as a team let us have a lot more fun. Things flowed more smoothly."

Flow, indeed.

Usually, one player stands above the rest for the Ags Wednesday night, all six stood on the pedestal together.

Spence had one of her best matches of the season, hitting 320 with 12 kills. All-American middle blocker Sherri Brinkman returned to her dominating self, as she hit 360 with 15 kills. Outside hitter Stacey Gidner led the team in hitting at 444 and had 14 kills.

Stacey Smith helped control the middle with her seven kills and one block. Setter Chris Zogata had a setting percentage of .550. And Beakley, playing with a fractured right hand, hit 272 and had a setting percentage of .412.

Olbright also noticed the togetherness of the A&M team, but said they have a long way to go before they return to last year's form.

"I feel like last year's A&M team was a little more experienced," he said, "and they knew what they wanted to do a little more than this year's bunch. This year they play really well at times and really poorly at others."

But the best seems to be that the Ags always seem to find a way to win when it counts.

"We're flowing now," Brinkman said. "I agree we had more fun out there tonight, but we need to keep going. There won't be any more uglies. Only the good and the beautiful."

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