

A&M spikers reap Rice, ascend to No. 10 in poll

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

HOUSTON — Tuesday was a good day for the Texas A&M volleyball team.

About the only disappointment suffered by the Aggies was the fact that they didn't shut out Rice.

The Aggies started the day by moving up from No. 17 to No. 10 in the NCAA Top 20 poll and finished it by pulverizing the Owls 15-5, 15-6, 15-2 at Autry Court.

"It was kind of disappointing, when I hit that one pass out in the third game to make it 13-1," A&M outside hitter Margaret Spence said. "We really wanted to shut them out in at least one game."

Hofstra defined the word bad when it lost to A&M on Monday.

Rice defined the word terrible.

"We played a lot better than against Hofstra," A&M Coach Terry Condon said. "We were a lot better prepared to play today. It was nice to see us play well. We didn't let Rice get into the match by making a bunch of mistakes in a row."

The Aggies, now 15-3 and 2-0 in the Southwest Conference, probably won't even have to wash their knee pads before their next match, since this one lasted only 46 minutes.

"They're (the Owls) just real hurt right now," Condon said. "They lost three starters to injuries and then they lost their middle blocker this morning."

The Owls tried to serve, although they got so carried away once that they forgot that it was their turn to serve.

The Owls tried to pass, when they didn't allow balls to fall between them.

Volleyball Top 20 Poll

Here's the NCAA Top 20 Poll with overall record through Oct. 15 in parentheses:

1. Stanford — (14-0)
2. Pacific — (15-2)
3. UCLA — (15-2)
4. San Jose St. — (14-3)
5. Nebraska — (16-2)
6. Cal-Santa Barbara — (15-7)
7. Hawaii — (17-3)
8. Illinois — (26-0)
9. Arizona St. — (14-7)
10. Texas A&M — (15-3)
11. Western Michigan — (13-1)
12. BYU — (18-6)
13. San Diego St. — (17-9)
14. USC — (13-6)
15. Texas — (9-5)
16. Purdue — (14-2)
17. Colorado St. — (14-7)
18. Long Beach — (9-6)
19. Utah — (11-8)
20. Pepperdine — (11-10)

The Owls tried to spike, when they didn't mistime their jumps or hit the ball into the stands.

"They (the Owls) never really gave us a chance to play because they couldn't even pass our serves," Spence said. "They did have good serves, though. I'll say that much for them."

In other words, it was a good day for the Aggies to pad their statistics.

"It was a very nice day for that," Condon said. "I think everybody had a good hitting day to move up in the individual rankings. I wanted to

get the starters before they started making mistakes."

A&M middle blocker Sherri Brinkman had 10 kills and a hitting percentage of .467. Outside hitter Cheri Steensma hit .500 and had five kills. Outside hitter Stacey Gildner had three kills and hit .333 and Spence, who had a terrible hitting day against Hofstra, redeemed herself with six kills and a .444 percentage.

But the biggest move for the Aggies didn't come at Autry Court, it came at the polls.

Following their upset of No. 9 Purdue last Friday, the Aggies moved up in the NCAA poll from No. 17 to No. 10. It marks the first time in A&M volleyball history that the Aggies have been ranked in the NCAA's Top 10.

Even nicer, from the Aggies' standpoint, was the fact that the Texas Longhorns, the only other SWC team ranked in the Top 20, moved down to No. 15 in the poll.

"We're excited about the (No. 10) rank, especially with Texas moving down," Spence said. "We just can't wait to play Texas now."

The Aggies will play a "Texas" tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum, but it won't be the Longhorns — it will be Texas Southern.

"We really don't even know what to expect from them," Spence said. "We don't know anything about them. They're probably about the same caliber (team) as Rice — at least, we hope so."

And the Aggies hope it will be at least as good a day.

Bus ride offered to A&M-BU game

The Brazos County A&M Club is sponsoring a bus ride to Saturday's Texas A&M-Baylor game in Waco for people who would rather not drive their cars.

The club's president, M.F. "Tex" Wright, Class of '33, said the Trailways bus, which carries about 40 passengers, is scheduled to leave from the Rudder Tower area at 4:15 p.m. Saturday.

The bus is expected to arrive in Waco about 6 p.m., in time for the 7:30 p.m. kickoff, and should leave Baylor Stadium about 10:30 p.m. No

television coverage is planned for the game, as of Tuesday night.

Wright said a second bus will be taken if enough reservations to fill a second bus arrive. The cost of the trip is \$12.50 per person.

The club will provide ice and cups for those who wish to bring their own drinks on the bus.

Wright said anyone interested in taking the bus to the game should first call and make reservations with either John Richards, who coordinates the bus trips for the club, or

Richards' secretary at 845-8904.

After the reservations are made, the person should go to the Association of Former Students Office in the Memorial Student Center and leave either cash or a check with the secretary there.

Checks should be made payable to the Brazos County A&M Club.

Wright said the reservations to fill the bus or buses will be taken on a first-come, first-serve basis, with preference given to former students.

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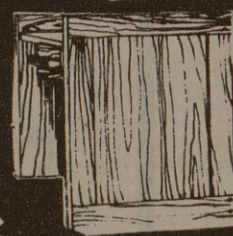
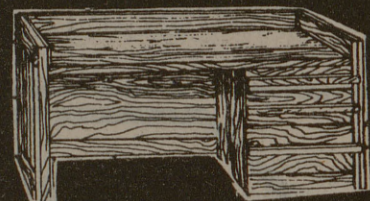
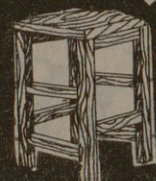
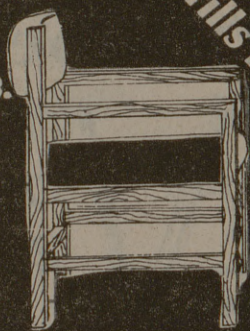
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Your yearbook photos will be taken from October 14 to November 1 at Yearbook Associate's studio above Campus Photo Center at Northgate.



No pictures will be taken at the Pavilion this year.