

Sports

Ag spikers lose Smith, rip Tigers

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

The No. 10 Texas A&M volleyball team won Wednesday night — and it lost.

The Aggies' win came at the expense of Texas Southern 15-3, 15-3, 15-3 in a nonconference match at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

But the biggest news was the Aggies' loss. A&M will be without the services of starting middle blocker Stacey Smith for awhile.

Smith was going up on a routine spike in the second game, when in

midair, she winced and let out a scream. In the quiet gymnasium, Smith could be heard crying. "Oh my knee!"

"I was taking off on my approach," Smith said. "I stepped with my left foot and my (left) knee went out of socket. It just jerked my knee sideways."

Smith was taken to Dr. L.W. Coleman, A&M's athletic physician, and preliminary reports said her knee is moderately sprained in the lateral-colateral ligament. It is not yet known how long the San Antonio junior will be out.

However, after getting the news from Coleman, Smith was in good spirits.

"It hurts," Smith said. "It was a lot more painful, when it first happened, than it is now. When I first came down, I thought the worst. You always think it's real bad when you're lying on the floor. I was just so hyper after it happened. But after having ice on it, I feel a lot better."

Smith will wear a knee stabilizer, and if there is swelling, the knee will be reevaluated.

"I hope it remains as optimistic as it seems to be now," A&M Assistant

Coach Marj Alexander said.

A&M Head Coach Terry Condon said starting outside hitter Margaret Spence will take Smith's position, while she's out.

"We'll just see how things go," Condon said. "It's good that we play Texas Tech next, since the middle isn't one of their strong points. The lack of experience won't hurt us that bad."

Smith's injury came with the Aggies' leading 7-2 in the second game. After that, the A&M players said they were distracted.

"When Stacey got hurt, our momentum lagged," A&M setter Lesha Beakley said. "We did seem to come back in the game and get it back. I think that's where our mental comes in. At first, I thought we were going to lose it, but we were able to block out the distractions."

Condon said she was pleased with the Aggies' play throughout the match.

"We played real well, especially with everything that happened," Condon said. "We had a lot of substitutions with everybody going in and out."

"Texas Southern played very well. They got their hands on everything. That one girl dug (All-American) Sherri (Brinkman) like a piece of cake."

The Tigers were supposed to be like the Aggies past two opponents, Hofstra and Rice.

In other words, the A&M players were supposed to get good stats for nothing and a win for free.

But it didn't quite work out that way. Although it wasn't a fingernail biting, heart throbbing match, the Aggies had to put in a little overtime.

"We played pretty well," Brinkman said. "I was surprised at the way they (TSU) played. They were pretty good. At least they seemed to be in the right place at the right time. They were never afraid of us. They were intimidated, but never scared."

However, the Ags once again had a field day on paper.

Spence led the Aggies in hitting percentage with a .642 with nine kills. Brinkman had 16 kills and a .625. Outside hitter Cheri Steensma hit .500 with three kills, and setter Chris Zogata had five kills and a .357.

"I think we could have executed better offensively," outside hitter Michelle Whitwell said. "We did well in getting the big plays when we had the serve, instead of using them to get a side out."

The Aggies are hoping to get a lot more big plays when they travel to Lubbock Sunday to face Tech in an important Southwest Conference match.

"It's always tough playing at Tech," Whitwell said. "It's not one of the trips we look forward to. It's kind of an omen when we play them there — we go five games."

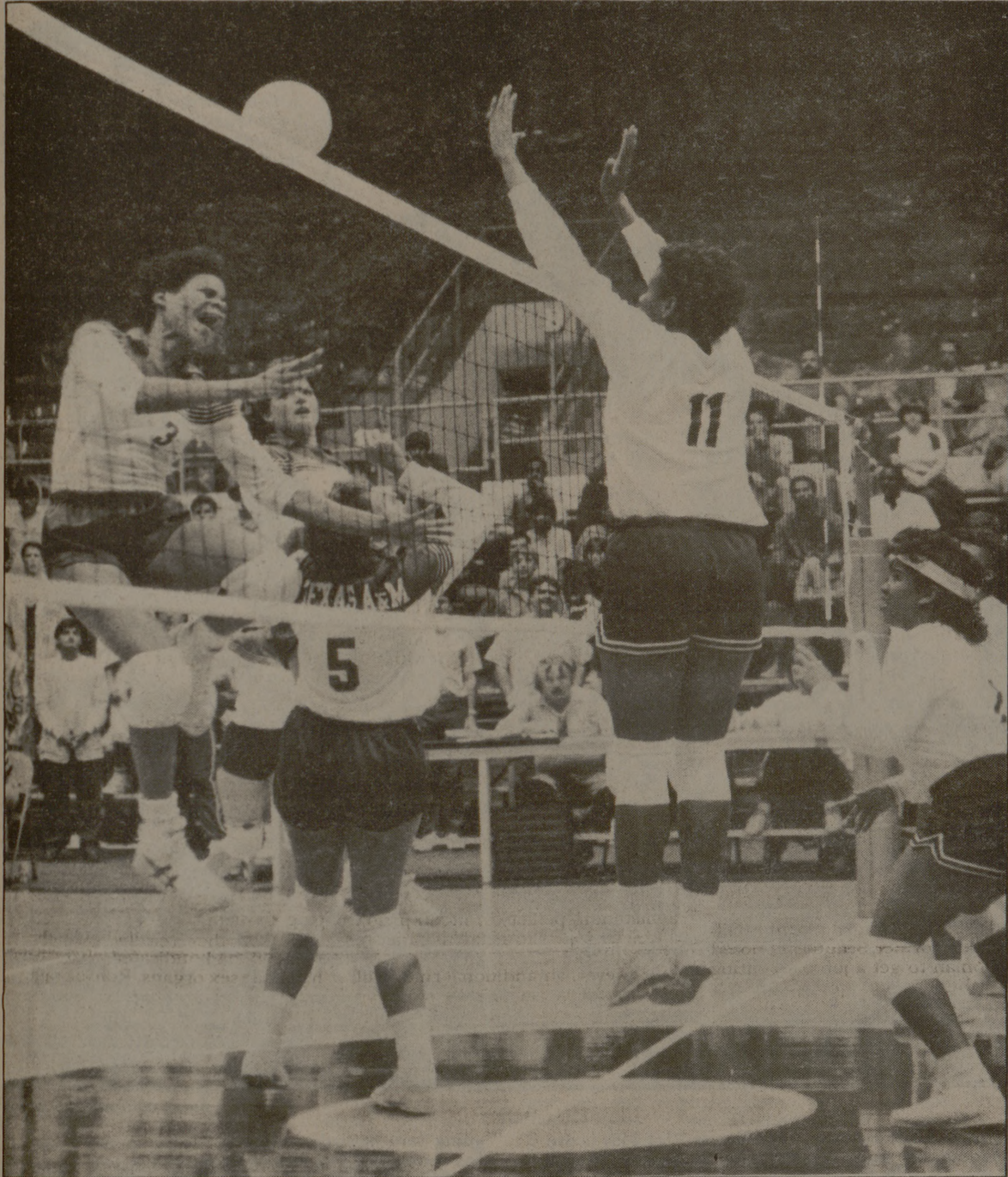


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Texas A&M's Stacey Smith (far left) screams in pain as she grabs for her left knee in Wednesday

night's Texas Southern match. Smith suffered a moderate sprain and may be out of action.

Cards head to World Series

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The St. Louis Cardinals had just rewritten the script to the classic tale, "The Mouse That Roared."

A team built on singles, speed and baserunning, the Cardinals captured their 14th National League pennant Wednesday with their second ninth-inning home run in as many games.

In the deciding game, it came from Jack Clark, whose two-out, three-run homer in the ninth — with first base open — gave the Cardinals a 7-5 victory over Los Angeles and sent St. Louis into the World Series against Kansas City. The Royals defeated Toronto 6-2 Wednesday night to complete a comeback from a three-games-to-one deficit to win the American League pennant.

The Cardinals thus completed a four-game sweep of the Dodgers, after losing the first two games.

Ozzie Smith, the NL playoff's Most Valuable Player, who had won Game 5 with a ninth-inning home run, capped a three-run seventh with a run-scoring triple that tied the score 4-4. However, the Dodgers regained the lead on a lead-off homer by Mike Marshall in the eighth.

Facing the Dodgers' ace reliever, Tom Niedenfuer, the Cardinals started their winning rally with one out in the ninth on a single by Willie McGee, who came into the game with only four hits in 21 playoff at-bats.

McGee stole second and Niedenfuer then walked Smith, whose ninth-inning homer in Game 5 had beaten the Dodgers' relief pitcher.

A bouncing ball to first by Tommy Herr sent the runners to second and third, and Clark, the Cardinals' cleanup hitter, hit the first pitch deep into the left field stands as Dodgers outfielder Pedro Guerrero watched helplessly.

Guerrero threw his mitt to the ground in disgust and the Cardinals poured out of their dugout to welcome Clark, who had only one previous RBI in the series.

The hit put the Cardinals in only their second World Series since divisional play was instituted in 1969. The Cardinals won the 1982 World Series over Milwaukee in seven games.

The winning pitcher Wednesday was rookie right-hander Todd Worrell, who gave up Marshall's eight-in-



ning homer, and left-hander Ken Dayley pitched the ninth inning to save it for the Cardinals.

This was a contest settled between the bullpens of the two teams. Dodgers starter Orel Hershiser worked 6 1/3 innings and the St. Louis starter, Joaquin Andujar, went six innings, neither pitching very effectively.

Hershiser beat Andujar in Game 2 in Los Angeles, but that was the last game the Dodgers would win in this series. The Cardinals swept three at home, winning 4-2, 12-2 and 3-2 before returning to Los Angeles for what would be the final game of the playoffs.

Hershiser gave up a run in the third, then was chased in the seventh after McGee's two-run single. Andujar gave up runs in the first and second innings, and Bill Madlock's solo homer, his third of the playoffs, capped a two-run fifth.

Besides his home run, Madlock also drove in a run with a single, and Mariano Duncan had three hits, an RBI and scored twice for the Dodgers.

In the Cardinal seventh, Smith drove in the tying run in a dramatic rematch against Niedenfuer. Smith had hit the first left-handed home run of his career to beat Niedenfuer and the Dodgers in the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 5.

Darrell Porter and Tito Landrum got the Cardinals' seventh going with consecutive singles off Hershiser. A bouncer to first by pinch-hitter Steve Braun advanced the runners, and McGee, who came into the game with just four hits in 21 playoff at-bats, punched a two-run single up the middle, chasing Hershiser.

That brought on Niedenfuer for See Cards in Series, page 12

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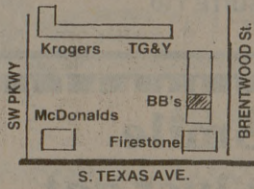
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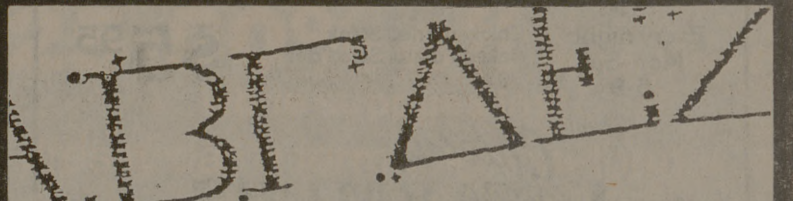
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