

Sports

Spikers pop Tech's bubble

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

If Mister Rogers were speaking to the Texas A&M volleyball team, the word for Wednesday would have been "revenge".

The Aggies subdued Texas Tech 15-12, 15-5, 15-6 in G. Rollie White Coliseum to avenge an earlier loss to the Red Raiders.

"This one was sweet," A&M outside hitter Cheri Steensma said. "I think we were more mentally prepared this time."

However, the five-game loss to the Red Raiders on Oct. 20 in Lubbock was more bitter than Wednesday night's win was sweet. That loss ruined any chances A&M might have had of winning the Southwest Conference title.

"No (the win) doesn't make up for the earlier loss," A&M Coach Terry Condon said. "It's nice to win... but now we're just working for a NCAA bid."

The first time the two teams played, the Aggies were playing their first match without middle blocker Stacy Smith who went down with a knee injury.

Margaret Spence was moved from outside hitter to middle blocker for the first time ever and sophomore Michelle Whitwell and freshman Steensma were seeing their first full-time duty on the outside.

This time around, the Aggies looked like a different team.

"Our passing game was the difference," Condon said, "because that lets us run the middle. The setters have a lot easier time. And losing Stacy was a major blow. I still thought we could win without her (at Tech), but it's been really tough without her in there."

And this time, Tech was also playing without its Stacy. Starting middle blocker Stacy Blasingame, who had 12 blocks and 12 kills against A&M in Lubbock, sat out for disciplinary reasons.

"She was a big factor in the A&M game at Tech," Red Raider Coach Donna Martin said. "Stacy loves to beat A&M. She would have made a difference with her defense and intensity."

Without Blasingame, middle blocker Sherri Brinkman went to town, getting six blocks, 15 kills and

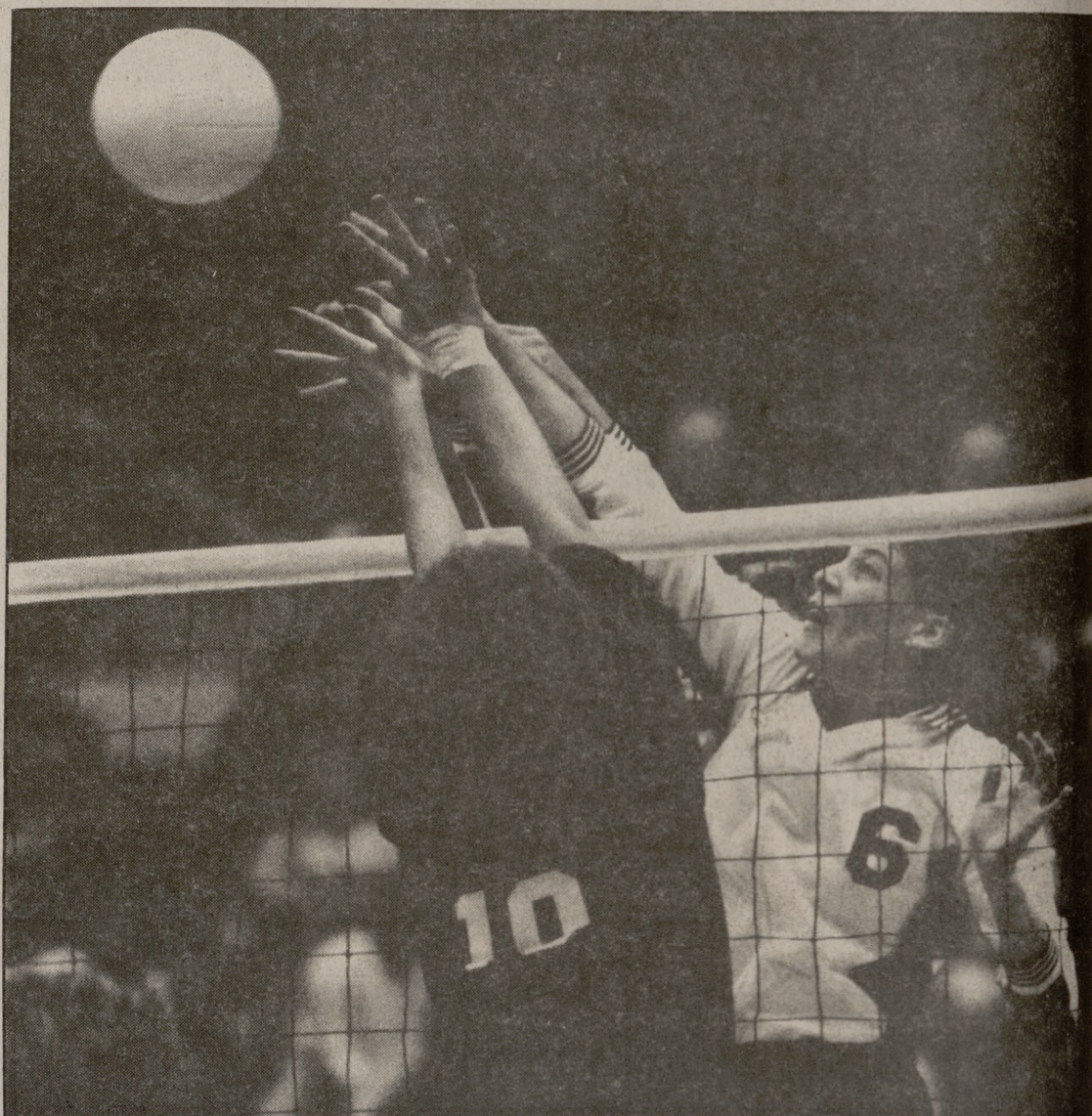


Photo by JOHN MARSH

Texas A&M's Margaret Spence (6) and teammate Sherri Brinkman had a field day in the middle against Texas Tech's Kelley Bronk (10). The Aggies whipped the Red Raiders 15-12, 15-5, 15-6.

hitting .275.

"(Not having Blasingame) evened us up some," Condon said. "Sherri had a field day with that No. 10 (Kelley Bronk). She couldn't really stop her."

But then again, none of the Red

Raiders could stop any of the Ags.

Many of the balloons given out before the match found their way to the top of the Coliseum. The "Boom!" sound they made when contacting the roof could only be compared to the Aggies' spikes hitting

the floor on the Tech side of the net.

Spence dominated the middle, hitting .478 with 14 kills. Steensma Gildner controlled the outside.

See See Aggie Spikers, page 8.

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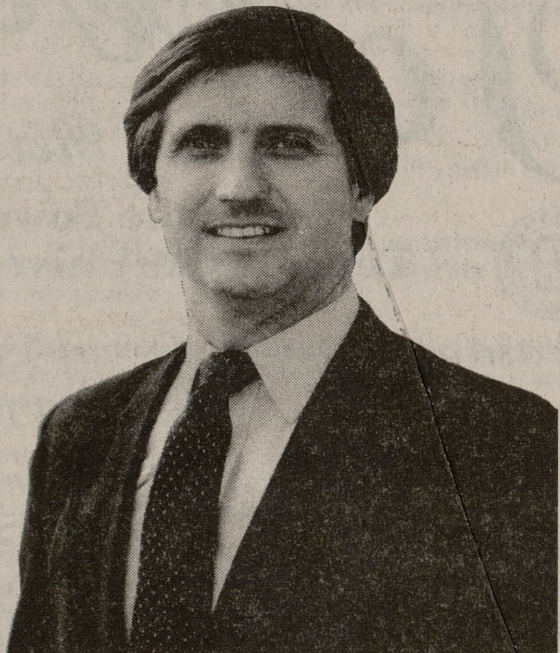
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