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**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 13, 1985**  
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**Cougars to get wish, host 19th-ranked Ags**

By **CHAREAN WILLIAMS**  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Houston volleyball team always leaves College Station wishing they had played Texas A&M in Houston.

On Oct. 9, the Aggies took no prisoners in a 15-9, 15-5, 15-7 blow-out of the Cougars in G. Rollie White Coliseum in both team's Southwest Conference opener.

Houston Coach Dave Olbright left shaking his head at the A&M crowd. "You always expect a crazy crowd in this part of the country," Olbright said. "If I had to do it all over again, I'd choose to play in Houston."

Olbright will be getting an early Christmas present when the No. 19 Aggies (22-6, 5-2 in SWC) travel down Highway 6 Wednesday to play in the Cougars' backyard. But when the Coogs (15-16, 4-3 in SWC) unwrap their gift, they might find an empty box.

"We've never really had much trouble playing down there," A&M Coach Terry Condon said. "I don't know why. Maybe it's because we usually have more fans there than they do. We've really had more trouble with them at home in the past."

But Condon said since Houston always gets up for A&M, the Cougars are always a concern.

"If you don't get down on them from the start and let them get into the match, you're in trouble," Condon said. "They hit hard, deep balls from the outside. We have to be ready to dig and play some good defense."

"They play good defense too, so we're going to have to be able to run the middle."

Tonight's match will be the teams' third and final meeting this season.

In the first match at San Diego State in September, the Ags won but the Cougars gave them fits in the process. UH outside hitter Angela Lewis, who currently has a hitting percentage of .310, led the Coogs' attack.

"She played real well in San Diego," Condon said. "She hit the ball well and played good defense."

The Ags have finally had a chance to rest for a few days since they haven't played a match since last Wednesday's whipping of Texas Tech.

"I think it rested them up for the final four matches," Condon said. "It was a good time for them to relax and think about the next week and a half."

And since Texas has already captured at least a share of the Southwest Conference Championship, the Ags must now worry about winning their last four matches to solidify their chances for a NCAA bid.

"We have got to win," Condon stressed. "There are no ifs, and's or but's about it, or the season's over Nov. 21."

When starting middle blocker Stacey Smith injured her knee in an Oct. 16 match against Texas Southern, the season was supposed to be over for her.

But after a week of practice, she's back.



Photo by **JAIME LOPEZ**

Texas A&M middle blocker Sherri Brinkman (left) seems to surprise everyone when she's anywhere near the net. The No. 19 Aggies hope there won't be any surprises waiting for them when they travel to Houston to face the unranked Cougars tonight at 7:30.

"We want to get her in the match and see what she can do," Condon said. "She needs to get out there and get some playing time. She's looking pretty good so far in practice. She just has to get over the fear that something else is going to happen to the knee. With the brace she's wearing, her knee's not going to move anywhere. She just needs to quit thinking about it and go."

While Smith's on the sideline, the Aggies will use their usual lineup with Margaret Spence moving from the outside to the middle to fill Smith's shoes, and freshman Cheri Steensma starting on the outside for Spence.

**AGGIE VOLLEYBALL NOTES:**  
The Aggies' match against Louisville Saturday has been changed from 7:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. due to the football team's game against Arkansas being changed for television.

**Volleyball Top 20 Poll**

1. Stanford — 20-1
2. Pacific — 25-2
3. UCLA — 22-4
4. USC — 19-8
5. Cal-Poly SLO — 22-5
6. San Jose State — 22-4
7. Nebraska — 21-2
8. Texas — 19-5
9. Cal-Santa Barbara — 21-12
10. Hawaii — 25-7
11. Purdue — 25-3
12. Arizona — 15-8
13. Illinois — 31-2
14. Arizona State — 18-11
15. Western Michigan — 22-2
16. Brigham Young — 25-9
17. Colorado State — 22-8
18. San Diego State — 22-15
19. Texas A&M — 22-6
20. (tie) Cal-Long Beach — 14-11
21. Illinois State — 25-6

**Ag student tickets for NIT on sale**

Texas A&M student tickets for the regional Big Apple National Invitational Tournament (NIT) games to be played in The Summit in Houston are now on sale at the A&M Athletic Ticket Office in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Only 300 student tickets remain for the tournament. These tickets can only be purchased as a package for \$20. This package entitles the student to attend every game of the tourney.

The student tickets will only be on sale through Thursday at noon. After this time, the tickets can be purchased at any Ticketron location (locally at the MSC Box Office or Dillard's). Non-student tickets can be

purchased for \$25 per package.

The A&M-University of Alabama-Birmingham game will open the regional tourney in Houston on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. The other two teams in the regional field are Lamar and Duke. Here's the tourney schedule:

**NIT Regional Tourney**  
Thursday, Nov. 21  
7 p.m. — A&M vs. UAB  
9 p.m. — Lamar vs. Duke

Sunday Nov. 24  
7 p.m. Regional Finals

For any additional basketball ticket information call the A&M Athletic Ticket Office at (409) 845-2311.

**Aggies-Hogs on ESPN**

By the end of the season, ESPN will have had Texas A&M on its national network five times since last Dec. 1.

The Entertainment and Sports Programming Network decided last week to pick up A&M's game against Arkansas this Saturday at Kyle Field.

The game, originally scheduled for a 2 p.m. kickoff, will now begin at 6:45 p.m. with the pregame beginning at 6:30 p.m.

The game with the Razorbacks will be the third time ESPN has carried the Aggies this season with a fourth appearance scheduled for Nov. 28 when A&M hosts Texas.

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