

Sports

'Horn spikers slug Ags

Record crowd witnesses five-game struggle

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

There have been some classic heavyweight title matches. Joe Frazier vs. Muhammad Ali. Rocky Balboa vs. Apollo Creed.

Texas A&M vs. Texas. Wednesday night at G. Rolie White Coliseum, the Southwest Conference's heavyweights slugged it out on the volleyball court.

A record crowd of 3,500, which was on its feet and biting its nails for most of the match, saw No. 9 Texas take its fourth straight SWC Championship with a thrilling 10-15, 11-15, 15-12, 15-13, 17-15 win over the No. 19 Aggies.

"This was fun for the Aggie crowd, except that they would have liked to have won," Texas Coach Mick Haley said. "This is what volleyball's all about."

The Longhorns (21-5, 9-0 in SWC) came into the match with a two game lead over the Aggies (25-7, 7-3) in the SWC standings with only two left to play. Almost everyone had already given the SWC trophy to the 'Horns.

After all, the 'Horns had already given the Aggies an ol' fashioned whipping in Austin less than a month ago.

So while everyone was busy counting the Aggies out of the match, out of the conference race and out of the NCAAs, they were busy digging, passing and setting balls in the court.

"Let's not take anything away from Texas A&M," Haley said. "They played a very good volleyball match. It was a good job by their players and a good job by their coach."

The first two games, the Aggies controlled the Longhorns almost at will.

A&M jumped all over Texas in game one for an 8-3 lead. That was quickly increased to 12-5 behind outside hitter Stacey Gildner and setter Chris Zogata.

And while the 'Horns were trying

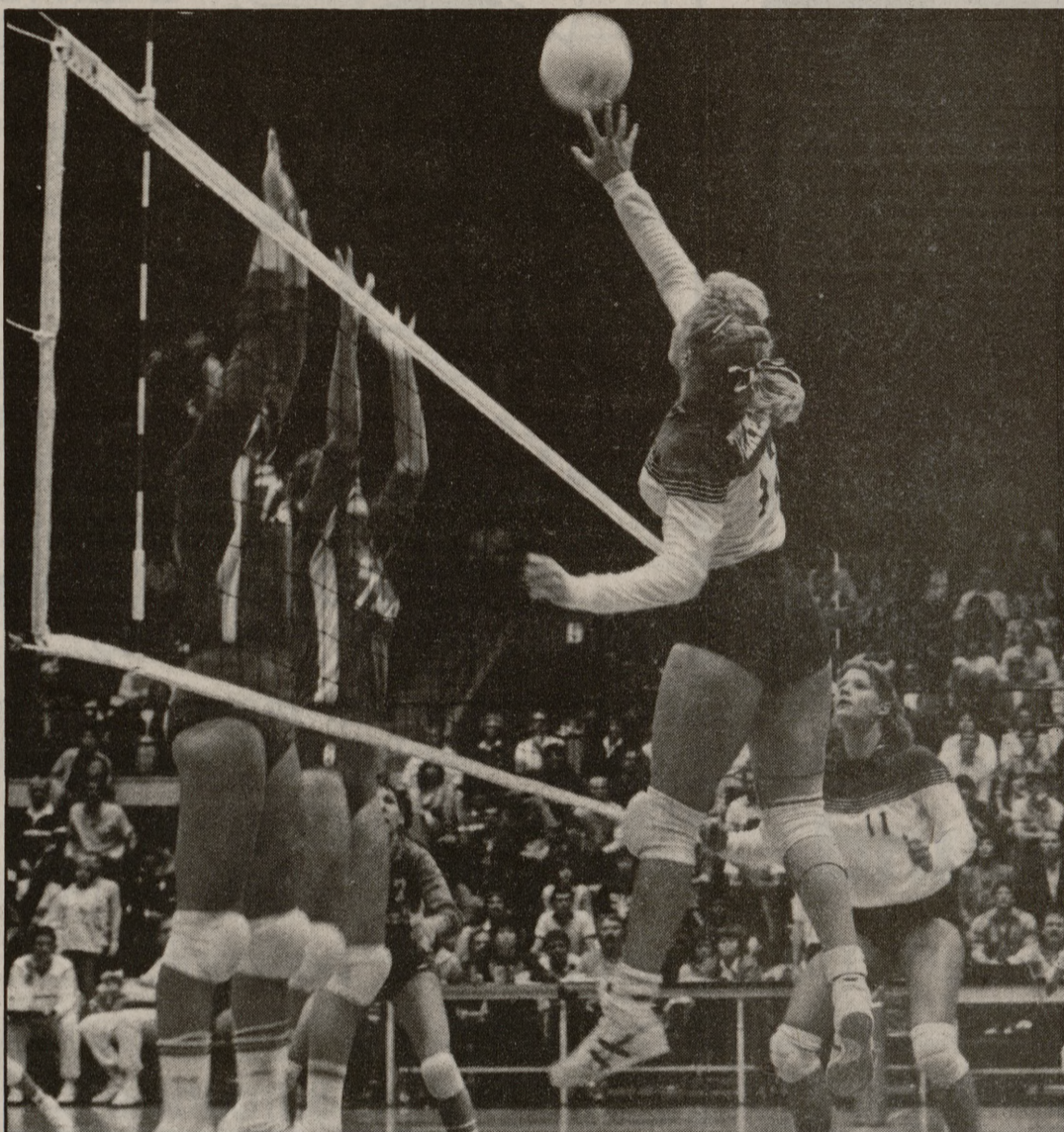


Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Texas A&M's Cheri Steensma tries to push one past two Texas blockers Wednesday night. The

Ags lost 15-10, 15-11, 12-15, 13-15, 15-17 to the 'Horns in front of a SWC-record crowd of 3,500.

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