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dp 1985

# Ags feature 'Wrath of Con'

## Volleyball success result of Condon's coaching style

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

You can take the Californian out of California, but you can't take the Californian out of a Californian.

Texas A&M Volleyball Coach Terry Condon is your typical out-of-place Californian.

She's joked about painting a beach scene on her office wall along with installing palm trees, sand and a sun lamp to keep her tan white away from the real beaches.

Although every one of her players has experienced the "Wrath of Con," her easy-going, fun-loving nature allows them to have fun.

Even Condon's colleagues enjoy being around her.

"I love that Terry Condon," A&M basketball Coach Shelby Metcalf said. "She is so competitive. She's made the program here what it is."

Condon can definitely be called a competitor.

"I remember when I came here for a USVBA tournament when I was in high school," A&M setter Lesha Beakley said. "I was watching this team and one of their players went way over the net and hit the ball straight down. I just stood there with my mouth open. But she was called for being in the net. She grabbed the top of the net and nearly tore it down she was so mad. That's the first time I saw Terry."

While playing for UCLA, the school newspaper ran a story headlined, "Condon's harassment brings in the crowds."

"If you asked anyone who knew me in college what I was like," Condon said, "they would tell you I harassed my opponents and made them cry. They just couldn't take it — it wasn't like I was saying anything bad. If they'd block me, I'd reach across the net, clap my hands and say, 'Very good. One out of 50 — that's good.'"

But, then, it had to be frustrating playing against someone as dominating as Condon.

From 1974-1976, UCLA went 89-12 and won two National Championships. Condon was named to ten All-

America lists. She is still listed among the Bruins' record-holders.

Condon began her head coaching career at Cal State-Bakersfield.

"The first year (at Bakersfield), we were horrible," she said. "There wasn't too much there. The tallest player was 5-foot-8. The setter was 5-feet. None of them really jumped. You really wouldn't think they were volleyball players."

But in only two years with little talent, Condon had produced the fifth best team in the nation.

"They had the desire and the aggressiveness," she said. "It was the neatest experience."

After that success, Condon was

UTA Saturday night at 7:30 in C. Rollie White in the first round, it has been a long season.

In fact, the '85 season can be broken up into three seasons.

In its first match, A&M was upset by Sam Houston State, before heading to the San Diego State Tournament. That was followed by an upset of No. 9 Purdue and a climb to No. 10 in the polls.

"We started off on a slow note," Condon said. "They put a lot of pressure on themselves to win. I'm pleased with the way we played in San Diego. We saw how we could play against the top teams in the country."

But unfortunately for A&M, when starting middle blocker Stacey Smith went down with a knee injury, so did the Aggs' ranking. A&M went 3-3 in the next six games and fell to No. 15.

"It's unfortunate we had to play (Texas Tech) right after she (Smith) got hurt," Condon said. "If it had of been someone like Baylor or Rice, we would have gotten by and improved."

Then the Aggies underwent a renaissance, winning six in a row before losing a five-game heartbreaker to Texas.

"We're starting to play a lot better," Condon said. "Overall, though, it's been a very disappointing season. If Stacey wouldn't have gotten hurt, we would have won the conference — no doubt about it."

"It was the hardest (season) because I knew we had the potential to be so good. It's been hard on all of us. This has actually been more satisfying than last season (when the Aggs went 33-4) because they've handled the turmoil, lineup changes, switching of gyms, time changes, this and that, and they've just kept coming back."

And Condon has had a lot to do with their desire to keep battling.

"I know she gave me everything I have now," Brinkman said. "She saw potential in me and never gave up on me. When you have someone believe in you so much, you don't ever want to give up."



A&M Coach Terry Condon

contacted by Texas-Arlington Coach Lisa Love about the vacant position at A&M.

"I really wasn't interested," she said. "But I came here anyway and visited. This campus sells itself."

In a year, she had taken a 18-21 Aggie team and had them ranked in the Top 20 and had signed a future All-America (current senior Sherri Brinkman).

Now in her sixth season at A&M, she has compiled a 179-101 record. But perhaps no season was any harder than the current one for Condon.

Despite a 26-7 record, No. 19 ranking and a bid to the NCAA Tournament (the Aggies will host

# A&M swimmers in cold Nebraska for meet

By KEN SURY  
Sports Writer

When the Texas A&M swim teams got off their plane in Lincoln, Neb. Thursday, they were greeted with freezing temperatures in the 20s.

The Ags are swimmers, not skaters, so it's a good thing the Nebraska Invitational is held at an indoor pool.

The meet, which begins today and ends Sunday, features teams from host Nebraska, Kansas, North Dakota, Iowa State, Texas Tech, Wyoming and St. Olaf (Minn.).

A&M Head Swimming Coach Mel Nash said the meet should be a tight three-team race between A&M, Kansas and Nebraska.

According to the preseason

NCAA Top 20 swimming poll, the only rankings released thus far, the meet will feature five ranked teams.

The Nebraska women's team is No. 9, Kansas is 13th-ranked and A&M 16th. The A&M men's team is No. 9 and Nebraska is ranked 19th.

"It's going to be a nice, even competition in this meet," Nash said. "There's not a single meet that we're guaranteed to win, except maybe (Chris) O'Neil in the 200-yard butterfly, but we have someone in each event that could win."

Nash said the A&M men's team goes into the meet healthy, except for viruses to Rance Boren, Clark McDonald and Jeff Garry. However, he said all three swimmers should be well enough to compete by the weekend.

The eight-member A&M women's

swim team will send six swimmers to the meet.

Meegan Wright had knee surgery for torn ligaments about a week ago and Nash said expects her to be out at least another two weeks. Kelley Johnston, who dislocated her shoulder four weeks ago against Southern Methodist, will travel with the team, but won't swim.

This meet is the last one of 1985 for the Aggies and Nash said he's excited about the teams' prospects for '86 and the spring season.

"We've got a lot of good work in," Nash said. "We've humbled a few teams (such as top-ranked SMU in the Southwest Conference Relays) and we've been humbled ourselves (in home losses to unranked LSU)."

"But we're swimming faster at this point than we ever have before."

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