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A&M signs 2 of Texas' best spikers

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
 Assistant Sports Editor

Even though the Texas A&M volleyball team is still without a coach, that didn't stop two of Texas' top high school players from committing to the Aggies.

San Antonio Churchill's Yvonne Van Brandt, a 5-foot-7 setter, signed her letter of intent yesterday.

Van Brandt led the Chargers to a 38-0 record and the Class 5A State Championship.

"I am excited," Van Brandt said. "I was really nervous before I signed. I don't know if it's really hit me yet that it's all over."

Van Brandt picked the Aggies over LSU, Sam Houston State, Southwest Texas State and Wyoming.

"My goal was to play in the Southwest Conference," Van Brandt said. "A&M has always been my top choice in both academics and athletics."

Since the Ags only have one setter returning, Van Brandt may quickly see action.

The Aggies will sign Round Rock middle blocker Liz Clifford Saturday when her brother, Mike, a starter on the A&M basketball team, will be home.

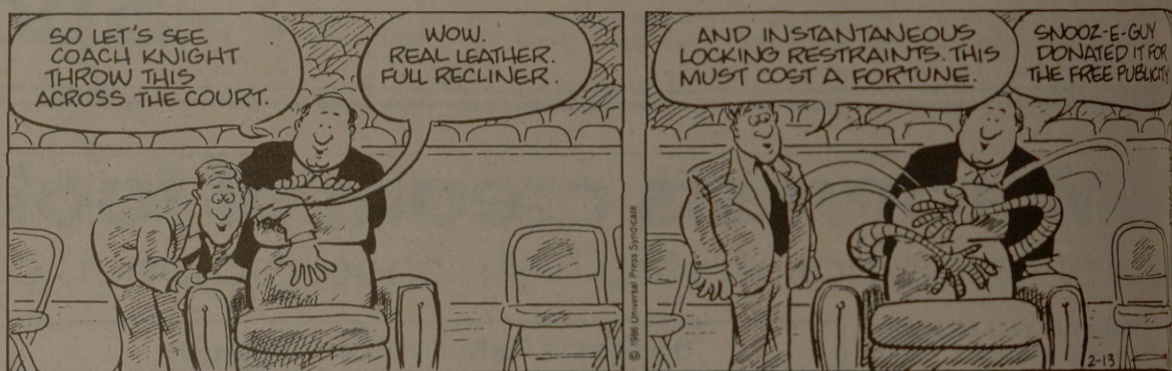
"I'm very excited," said the 5-foot-11 Clifford. "I've always wanted to go to A&M."

Clifford said she was considering Texas-Arlington just in case A&M didn't offer her a scholarship.

"I was thinking about UTA if I didn't hear from A&M," she said. "But A&M's always been my first choice."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hines



State's top back shocks A&M by signing with LSU

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
 Assistant Sports Editor

Fishermen like to talk about the "big one that got away."

Even though Texas A&M had perhaps its best recruiting day ever Wednesday, the Aggies were talking about the prize recruit that escaped their net.

Hempstead's Harvey Williams, the most sought after running back in the state, pulled the first surprise of the recruiting season Monday when he announced he had narrowed his choices to A&M and LSU.

Everyone, including his high school coach, Robert Kinney, and the A&M coaches had expected Williams to commit to the Aggies.

The second and biggest surprise came Wednesday morning when Williams announced he would be spending the next four years in Baton Rouge, La. at Louisiana State.

The 6-foot-2, 209-pound Williams, using his 4.35 speed, broke

"Maybe there were too many reasons to go here (A&M) and not enough to go somewhere else, if that makes sense."

— A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill

All-Pro Eric Dickerson's \$A career rushing mark. As the 15th ranked player in the nation by Houston scout Max Emfinger, Williams was the prize of recruiters across the nation.

A&M was believed to have the inside track for Williams because Aggie All-America linebacker Johnny Holland is also from Hempstead, friend Lance Pavlas had already committed to the Aggies and Williams had developed a close

relationship with A&M Assistant Coach George Pugh.

But it was not to be.

"I'm not going to jump off a building," A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill said of Williams' decision to attend LSU. "Harvey's a good ball player and a good person."

"Young men have a tough decision to make. Maybe there were many reasons to go here (A&M) and not enough to go somewhere else that makes sense. Sometimes we expect kids to do something, and then turn around and do something else. Life goes on."

Sherrill did get one running back Wednesday. Grand Prairie's Marc Marcus signed on the Aggies' line.

While the Tigers stopped the Aggies short of the goal line in a one-point game, A&M will get its first chance to stop Williams at LSU. That's because A&M opened its '86 season in Baton Rouge against Williams and LSU.

SWC Roundup

(continued from page 13)

Houston 71, Rice 69

HOUSTON — Houston's Ricky Jackson hit a long jumper at the final buzzer to cap a wild comeback and give the Cougars a 71-69 victory over Rice Wednesday night.

The Owls were on the brink of defeating the Cougars for the second time this season with a 69-68 lead when Houston's Greg Anderson and Rice's Richard Holmes were ejected from the game for fighting with three seconds to play.

Each team was awarded two technical fouls and Alvin Franklin, who led Houston with 29 points, hit both of his shots and Rice's Ivan Pettit sank only one for a 69-69 deadlock.

The Cougars then got the ball out of bounds and Renaldo Thomas flipped the ball to Jackson, appearing in the game for the first time.

Jackson let his shot fly from the side just before the buzzer sounded.

Before going into the game, Jackson told roommate Earl Small he was going into the game and win it.

"I told him I was going to try to

get off the last shot and be the hero," Jackson said. "Coach (Guy) Lewis just said go in and shoot your normal shot, and that's what I did."

Rice had the ball and a one-point lead with three seconds left when a fight started by Houston's Anderson allowed the Cougars to tie the score and get the ball out of bounds.

Texas 55, Baylor 50

WACO — John Brownlee scored 21 points to lead Texas to its sixth straight win, a 55-50 victory over Baylor Wednesday night.

Texas' record improved to 15 overall and 10-2 in the league, as Baylor fell to 9-14 and 1-11.

Karl Willock added 16 points to Texas. He scored six of those in the first 10 minutes to help Texas get a 10-4 lead with 14:08 remaining in the first half.

Baylor never led, but came close as 49-46 in the final minutes. Jody Reeves connected on a foot jumper, his only score of the night. Texas then reeled off five straight points to seal the win.

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