

# Sports

## SWC selects 3 Ag players all-tourney

### From Staff and Wire Reports

DALLAS — Texas A&M's Winston Crite and Don Marbury were named to the Southwest Conference Post-Season Classic's all-tournament first team Monday, while Aggie center Jimmie Gilbert was named to the second team.

Texas Tech's Tony Benford, a near-unanimous choice as outstanding player after leading the fifth-seeded Red Raiders to the tourney title Sunday, was the only unanimous choice.

Benford was named on all 70 ballots, after getting all but two votes in the outstanding player balloting.

Crite, who was named to his third consecutive all-tourney team, received the second-most votes with 64. Texas Christian's Carl Lott followed with 56, Tech's Dwayne Chism, 47, and Marbury, 35.

Eighteen players from five schools were listed on the balloting — five each from TCU and A&M, along with four from Tech, three from Texas and one from Arkansas.

Joining Gilbert on the second team were Texas' John Brownlee, Tech's Sean Gay and Ray Irvin and TCU's Greg Grissom.

## A&M remains minus coach

### Hiring freeze puts Aggie volleyball program in limbo

By DOUG HALL  
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M volleyball program has been left with several question marks as a result of both the departure of former Aggie Coach Terry Condon to UCLA and the A&M Board of Regents' recently imposed hiring freeze.

• First — Who will replace Condon, who left A&M Jan. 24, and when will the Athletic Department announce it?

• Second — Will the Athletic Department hire anyone, or will the program dropped as a result of Gov. Mark White's ordered budget cuts?

According to Lynn Hickey, A&M's assistant athletic director for women, neither question has been answered yet.

"I don't know what we're going to do right now," Hickey said. "There's not a scare for (eliminating the volleyball program) right now, but we have been given directives, like all other departments on campus, to come up with ways to cut back (spending). So I don't know exactly what direction we're going in."

But Hickey did say that from the nearly 70 applications she received for the vacant coaching job, two interviews were granted.

"We've already interviewed candidates interested in the position," she said. "There's a possibility we might bring in one more (applicant)."

"When the governor put a freeze on everything and made the budget cuts, it put us at a standstill. We hope to get an answer this week."

Hickey also said John David Crow, A&M's associate athletic director, was handling "all the red tape" involved with hiring a new coach.

Although Hickey failed to name the two prospective coaches, *The Battalion* has learned from sources, who asked to remain anonymous, that leading candidates are Al Givens, head coach at Mississippi and Lisa Love, head coach at Texas-Arlington.

Givens finished with a 28-16 mark in his first year at Ole Miss.

Love, who was partly responsible for bringing Condon to A&M in 1980, led UTA to a 28-3 record this past season before the Mavericks fell to the Aggies in the opening round of the NCAA tournament.

However, Love reportedly has received a raise in her contract in addition to the fact that many sports writers rank UTA's returning squad as one of the best in the region.

A&M also has a strong returning squad, losing only two players from last year's team which finished 26-8 and ranked No. 19 in the nation.

Although the two players lost to graduation — All-SWC middle blocker Sherri Brinkman and second-team SWC setter Lesha Beakley — were key players, the Aggies do return All-SWC middle blocker Margaret Spence and second-team SWC outside hitter Stacey Gildner.

During the absence of a head coach, Spence said the Aggies have been working out with weights, as well as doing other conditioning exercises, and practicing three times a week on the Read Building courts.

"It has been going OK," Spence said. "But without an organizing figure there, we have been making up drills off the top of our heads."

Freshman outside hitter Cheri Steensma echoed Spence's feelings.

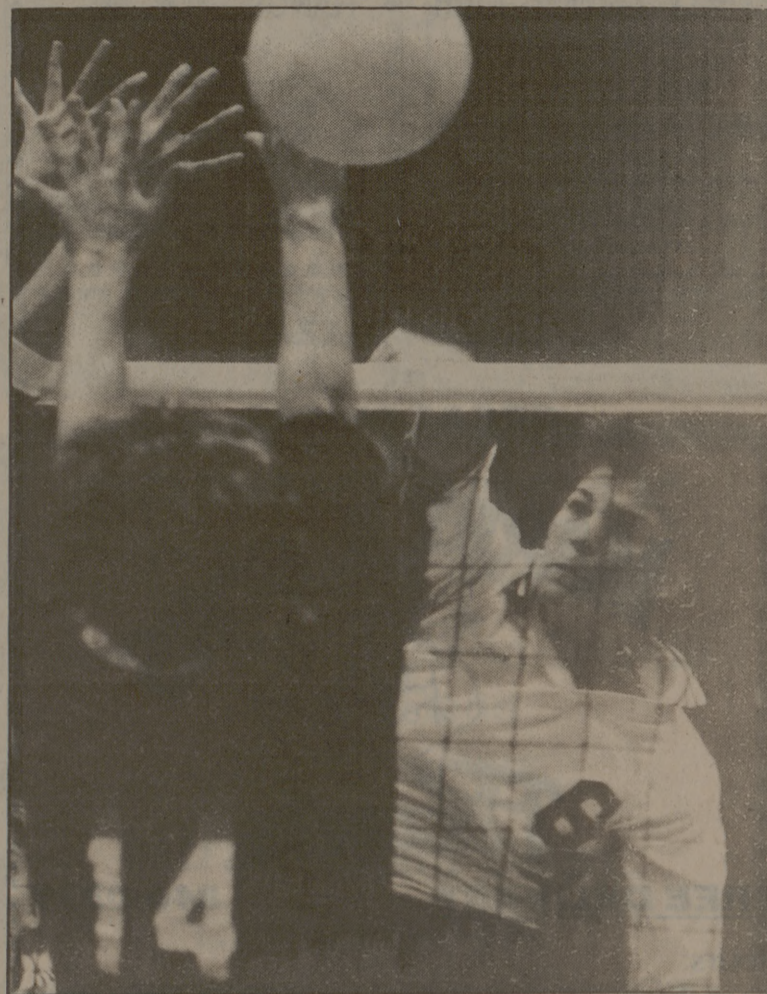
"We're getting better," Steensma said. "I'm very anxious (to get a new coach). We need someone there to get (the team) organized. Everything's up in the air."

Spence said the team has been told that no coach will be hired until after the hiring freeze has been lifted.

"We've been told that it could be two weeks, or it could be two months," Spence said. "But as soon as they lift (the hiring freeze), they will hire someone for sure."

Spence also said the Aggies have been assured that the program will not be terminated.

"That has been a rumor," she said. "And we've been told that it is just a rumor. There would be other sports cut before volleyball."



Battalion File Photo

A&M's Margaret Spence (right) — "That (dropping the program) has been a rumor. We've been told that it is just a rumor. We've been told that it could be two weeks, or it could be two months, but as soon as they lift (the hiring freeze), they will hire someone for sure."

## NIT bid sends A&M to Wyoming after NCAA snub

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

The NCAA laughed and told the Texas A&M basketball team, "Go home young men."

Meanwhile, the NIT consoled the Aggies, saying, "Go West young men."

After the Aggies' 67-63 loss to Texas Tech Sunday in the championship game of the South-

west Conference Post-Season Classic, A&M Coach Shelby Metcalf said his team should be included in the prestigious NCAA Tournament.

But the NCAA selection committee didn't see it that way.

The committee saw the SWC's 1-19 record against teams which are in the NCAA tourney and its 1-14 mark against Top 20 teams this past season.

Thus, the Red Raiders, having

won the automatic bid to the tourney, will be the only SWC team in the 64-team field. Tech will play perennial-powerhouse Georgetown in the first round.

It will be the first time since 1977 that the SWC hasn't had at least two teams in the NCAA tourney.

However, the National Invitational Tournament picked up the leftovers, awarding four conference teams bids to its tourney — A&M,

TCU, Texas and SMU.

The Aggies thought they would get an NCAA bid on the strength of their 20-11 record and SWC tri-championship.

"It's an injustice," Metcalf said. "I thought we'd get a bid, I really did. I guess I just don't understand the system."

A&M will play its first-round game Thursday night at Wyoming (20-11).

TCU (21-8) gets the tourney underway Tuesday when it travels to Montana (21-10). Thursday SMU (18-10) is at Brigham Young (16-13) and Texas (18-12) travels to New Mexico (17-13).

Wednesday's games will feature Dayton (19-8) at McNeese State (20-10); Pittsburgh (15-13) at SW Missouri State (22-7) and Boston University (21-9) at Providence (15-13). Besides the three SWC teams in

action Thursday, George Mason (19-11) will be at Lamar (18-11); Southern Mississippi (17-11) at Florida (16-12); Georgia (16-11) at Tennessee-Chattanooga (21-9); Louisiana Tech (16-13) at Northern Arizona (19-10); Loyola (Calif.) (18-10) at California (19-9); California-Irvine (16-12) at UCLA (15-13); Drake (19-10) at Marquette (18-10) and Middle Tennessee State (23-10) at Clemson (17-14).

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