

Sports

A&M expected to announce volleyball coach

By Doug Hall
Sports Writer

After almost two-and-one-half months without a coach, the Texas A&M volleyball team expects Mississippi Coach Al Givens to take over the program, sources told *The Battalion*.

Givens, who posted a 28-16 record in his second season with the Lady Rebels, also spent five seasons coaching at Arizona Western and will be an assistant coach for the South team at this year's Sports Festival in Houston.

When contacted Sunday night by *The Battalion*, Lynn Hickey, assis-

tant athletic director for women, said she had no comment on the possibility of Givens being hired.

But Givens was wearing a Texas A&M T-shirt as he watched the Aggies defeat the University of Texas in the second game of a spring match in Austin Saturday.

If Givens is hired, it will end a search initiated by the departure of Terry Condon who left A&M to become assistant athletic director at UCLA. Condon's absence since Jan. 24, combined with the hiring freeze placed on A&M faculty as a result of state budget cuts, had left the program with an uncertain future.

The A&M Athletic Department

reviewed more than 70 applicants for the position and granted two interviews, but due to the hiring freeze, could not officially name a coach until given approval by A&M President Frank Vandiver.

Many players expressed concern over the lack of instruction during the important spring season.

But Givens' appearance at Saturday's match against Texas seems to have answered any doubts the players had.

Margaret Spence, an All-Southwest Conference middle blocker on last year's 26-8 team, said Givens was at the United States Volleyball Association Regional tournament this

past weekend to scout players for this year's Sports Festival.

After losing the first game to the Longhorns, Spence said Givens walked on to the Gregory Gymnasium court wearing his A&M shirt during a second-game time-out with the Aggies holding a slim lead.

When asked if that made his hiring official, Spence said that Givens replied, "Just call me Coach Givens."

Spence went on to say that the team was so excited that "you could hear us all over the gym."

Despite the absence of a coach for the two-and-one-half months, Spence said the team was not too far behind schedule, mainly because 10

of last year's 12 players are returning, including five starters. She did say that the freshmen probably had suffered from the lack of coaching during the spring season.

The Aggies are only losing All-America middle blocker Sherri Brinkman and All-SWC second-team setter Lasha Beakley from a team that was ranked as high as No. 10 in the nation during the 1985 season.

In addition, A&M inked two high school prospects, San Antonio Churchill's 5-foot-7 setter Yvonne Van Brandt and Round Rock's 5-11 middle blocker Liz Clifford, to letters-of-intent on Feb. 12.

Spence said the reports on Givens label him as a disciplined, yet highly-motivational coach. Quite a change from the easy-going style of Condon, who was 180-102 in her six seasons with the Aggies.

Kelli Kellen, a freshman from Conroe, said she also was excited about the possibility of Givens being hired.

"It's been a long time coming," Kellen said. "We anticipated it."

Although Kellen said she didn't foresee any major changes in the program, she did say, "I think he's ready to do some work."

"He seemed really qualified. He just fit the job."

Maroon-White game leaves Aggies optimistic about '86

By Danny Myers
Reporter

Texas A&M Defensive Coordinator R.C. Slocum said Saturday's annual Maroon-White spring game at Kyle Field was "a chance to let the teams line up against each other and execute some plays."

But the Maroon-White game also provided other "chances."

It gave scouts from the Southwest Conference and LSU, A&M's first opponent in '86, a chance to scope-out the defending SWC champions.

It also gave A&M's new freshman recruits a chance to watch their future teammates.

And it gave the first-team offense a chance to go against the second- and third-team defenses, while the first-team defense went against the second- and third-team offenses.

Sound confusing? It was. When running back Roger Vick scored the game's first touchdown, the scoreboard gave the 6 points to the maroon, even though Vick was wearing white.

Then, when the second team offense kicked a field goal, more confusion ensued. The scoreboard read 0-0.

A&M running backs Keith Woodside and Vick saw limited playing time Saturday. But Ira Valentine, who figures to replace Anthony Toney at fullback, gained 30 yards on nine carries.

Aggie quarterbacks Kevin Murray and Craig Stump threw with pinpoint accuracy for the most part, despite one interception apiece. Murray completed 3-of-7 passes in the first half for 27 yards, while Stump threw for 134 yards and one touchdown in a 10-of-18 day.

In the A&M receiving corps, Rod Harris saw limited action,



Photo by Anthony S. Casper

A&M quarterback Kevin Murray heads upfield during Saturday's Maroon and White game at

Kyle Field. Murray completed 3-of-7 passes for 27 yards in the first half of the spring game.

but Greg Dillon caught all five passes thrown his way for 57 yards. Chris Ford had two catches for 33 yards.

Defensively, the Aggies' secondary shined.

Lafayette Turner had three tackles and returned an interception

73 yards for a touchdown. But even after five touchdowns and two field goals were scored, the scoreboard still read 0-0.

Ags sweep Bears to remain in first

By Tom Tagliabue
Sports Writer

WACO — About the only thing Texas A&M Head Baseball Coach Mark Johnson could find wrong with this weekend's sweep of the Baylor Bears, was that his Southwest Conference-leading ballclub could not put any more distance between itself and the second-place Texas Longhorns.

"The disappointing thing is when you go on the road and sweep and you don't gain any ground," Johnson said.

The Aggies, 32-18 and 10-2 in the SWC, stayed a full game ahead of the Bears when they completed the sweep of the Bears Sunday with a 13-3 whipping on the strength of Gary Geiger's arm and the bat of Mike Scanlin.

"Gary threw very well," Johnson said. "Gary's one of those pitchers that can't make any mistakes."

"(Geiger) has a tendency, (that) when he gets the ball up, he gets roughed pretty good. He had his breaking stuff and his off-speed stuff going fairly well and kept (Baylor) off-balance."

Geiger, 5-4 and 3-1, scattered five hits through seven innings giving up one run before he gave way to Pat Wernig in the eighth.

"It felt good," Geiger said. "With the wind blowing out, my stuff was really moving. My fastball was running in on their hands pretty well. Then my change-up was going up to the plate and dying."

Wernig gave up a two-run home run to Mike Malinak with two-outs in the eighth and before retiring the last four batters he faced.

Mike Scanlin led the A&M offense, which launched 16 hits against five Baylor pitchers. Scanlin was 4-for-6 with three doubles, a sin-

gle, three runs scored and three RBI after a disappointing day Saturday.

Pat James had three singles, scored two runs and picked up an RBI in the seven-run second inning.

In that inning, the Ags bombed Baylor starter Bruce Aguilar, 4-3 and 0-3, for all seven runs on seven hits, including Scanlin's two-run double to the gap in left center.

Maury Martin, Robi Chandler and Ever Magallanes also picked up RBI in the second.

Braz Davis, who relieved Aguilar, recorded the final out of the second and then gave up a solo home run to A&M's Jeff Schow with one out in the third. Davis allowed two hits in the fourth and fifth before A&M unloaded two more runs off him in the sixth.

A&M produced two more runs in the seventh on doubles by Scott Livingstone and Scanlin and an RBI single by Wren.

Baylor fell to 28-18 and 4-8 in the SWC, which kept them in sixth place in the conference.

Last week, Johnson said the team needed consistent pitching in order to win, in the Baylor series he believed he got some.

"The ball really rolled our way today," Johnson said. "I thought (Darryl) Fry (winner of Saturday's second game) and Geiger threw very well. I thought Dale Barry (winner in Saturday's opener) threw well."

"It wasn't one of Dale's best ballgames, but I thought Fry was on top of his ballgame. Both of those guys (Fry and Geiger) solidified themselves in the rotation."

Sam Houston is the next opponent for the Aggies, as they travel to Huntsville for a Tuesday afternoon game against the Bearkats, whom the Aggies beat 1-0 and 4-0 back on March 4.

The first pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

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