

Sports

Aggies roll over SHSU

By Danny Myers
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M volleyball team improved its record to 8-2 Wednesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum by defeating Sam Houston State University in three straight games, 15-4, 15-6, 16-14.

"I think in the first two games we made a statement," Head Coach Al Givens said after the Aggies dropped the Bearkats' record to 6-6.

"In the second game we made some changes and still won 15-6," he said.

"In the third game we made some additional changes, playing some of our younger players with less experience and they hung in there and won the match," Givens said.

"Any time you can play all of your players and the level of play doesn't diminish, you have to be pleased," he said.

Chris Zogata did a good job setting up the ball, and Stacey Gildner and Megan Purcell had a good game from the service line to lead A&M's victory, Givens said.

Gildner, who had eight service errors against Southwest Texas State University, said she has been working hard to improve her service game.

Her combinations of jump serves and float serves kept the Bearkats off balance.

This game was a confidence builder for the Aggies' Sept. 24 matchup against the University of Texas at Arlington in Arlington, Gildner said.

"They have a really good team. We'll have to play hard again," she said.

Givens said another thing he was pleased with was the fan support.

"The Dunn Hall Bleacher Bums were great. You never know how they're going to come out," he said.

The Bums showed up at the game donning their bathrobes,

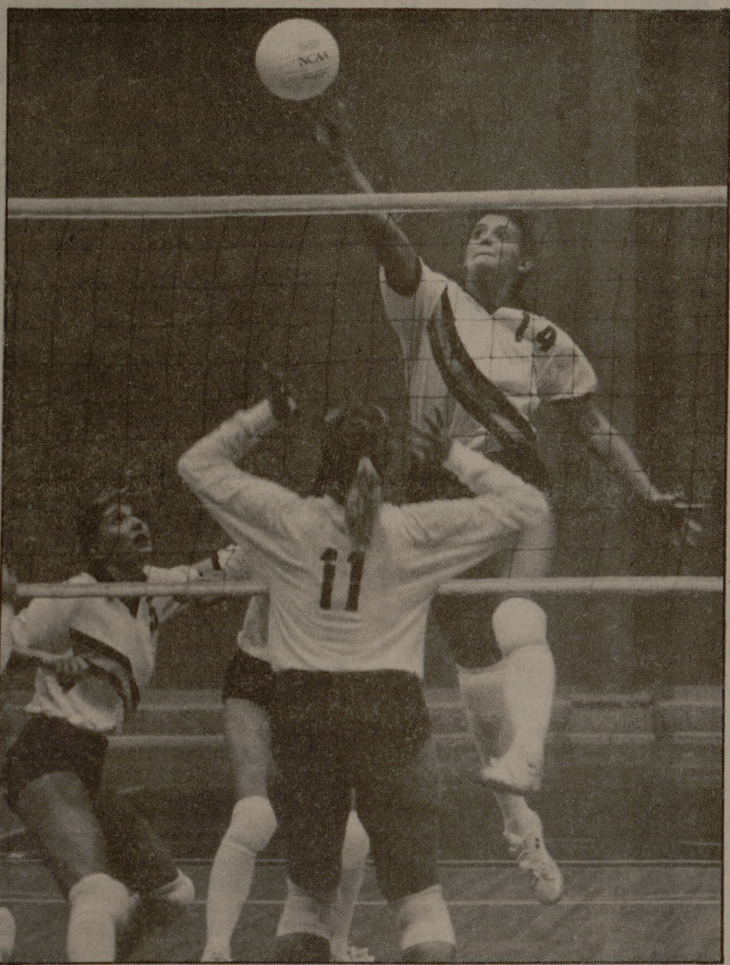


Photo by Michael Sanchez

A&M's Kelli Kellen (14) finds SHSU's Karen Zoch (11) flat-footed during her spike in the Aggies' win over the Bearkats Wednesday.

pajamas and other sleeping apparel to cheer A&M to victory.

"The fans get involved and that helps," Givens said.

"Hopefully, the crowds will keep getting bigger.

"Once we get into conference games I hope we can get two or three thousand people in here," he said.

After the second game, 20 people were chosen randomly from the crowd to try their hand at serving a volleyball.

Five-hula-hoop sized rings were strategically placed on the court and if a fan hit one, he received a pizza.

Just three small pizzas were given away.

Brooks relishes 'hit man' role

By Homer Jacobs
Assistant Sports Editor

Forget the interceptions. Forget the deflected passes.

Texas A&M defensive back Terrance Brooks simply likes to hit.

"I enjoy hitting and inflicting pain on wideouts and running backs," Brooks said smiling.

The junior agricultural economics major from Dallas knows what pain is all about. Brooks dislocated his kneecap in last year's Baylor game, knocking him out for the rest of the season.

"I didn't think my career was going to be over with," he said.

Brooks was right, already having made an impact on this year's Aggie squad despite missing all of spring drills to nurse the knee back to shape.

In the Louisiana State game, he made 13 tackles and recovered a fumble, bringing back memories of last year's big-play dynamo, Domingo Bryant.

"I liked the way Domingo played ball," Brooks said.

But the tackles and fumble recovery in the LSU game didn't seem to matter to Brooks, who felt his performance and the team's as a whole was not up to par.

"We're disappointed in our efforts against LSU," he said. "We (the team) made a couple mistakes at the wrong time."

Brooks said the Aggies' defense needs to improve on chasing and getting to the ball, which was a trademark of last year's group.

Regaining his awareness on the field has been the most difficult part of Brooks' comeback.

"I need to improve on my alertness," he said.

When asked if he has any personal goals for the season, Brooks was reluctant to admit his aspirations.

"Last year, I got myself in trouble after the Houston game, because I made some goals, and I ended up getting hurt," he said.

Brooks promises to take the season one day at a time, one hit at a time.

North Texas State is next up for

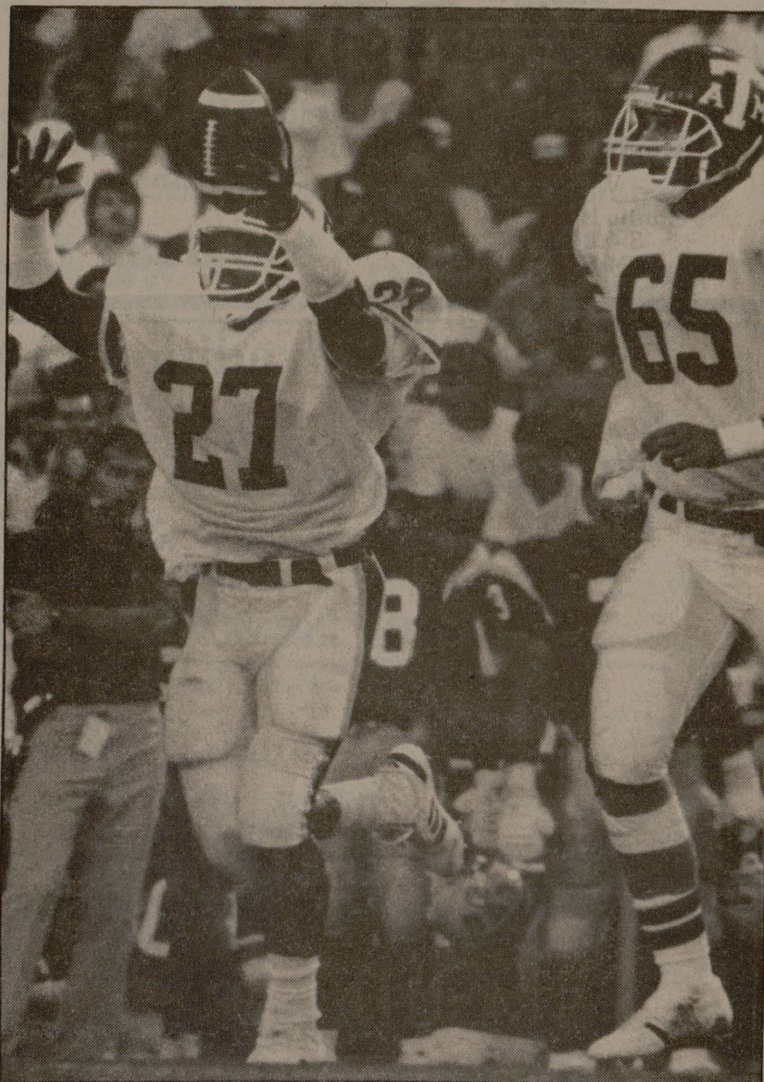


Photo by Greg Bailey

A&M cornerback Terrance Brooks (27) exults after pouncing on a fumble against LSU Saturday as Larry Kelm (65) stands nearby.

Brooks and the Aggies, and he said the game will not be a repeat of Saturday's shellacking of the Aggies.

"We're not going to take any team lightly after last week," Brooks said. NTSU operates a wishbone of-

fense which means Brooks should be able to engrave his No. 27 on a running back or two. The sound of his helmet and pads meeting an opposing back may reverberate off the upper decks of Kyle Field.

If so, it'll be music to his ears.

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