

Sports

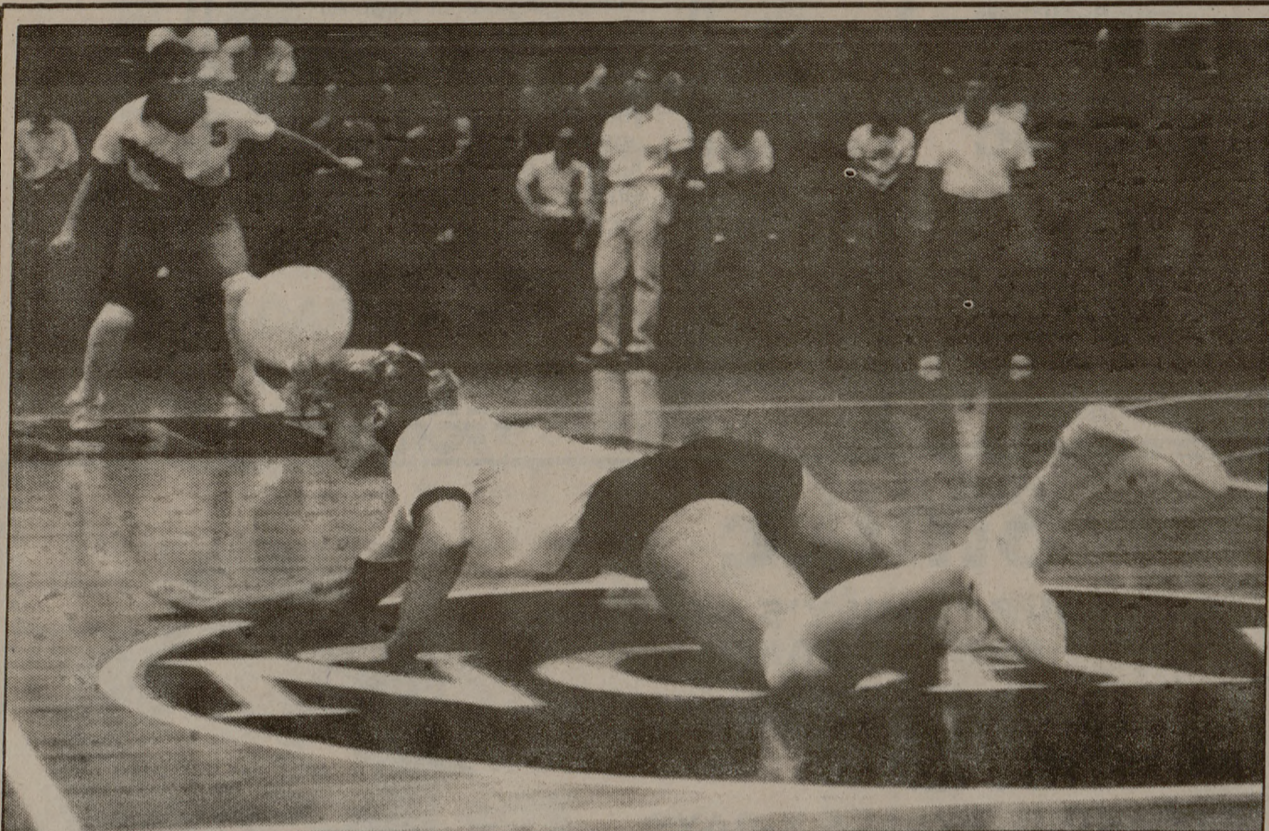


Photo by Mike Sanchez

Outside hitter Stacey Gildner goes for the dig as setter Chris Zogata (No. 5) looks on in

Texas A&M's victory over 19th-ranked Arizona in G. Rollie White Coliseum Saturday.

Aggies clip No. 19 Arizona

By Homer Jacobs

Assistant Sports Editor

The 18th-ranked Texas A&M volleyball team stayed alive in the hunt for an NCAA tournament berth with a 15-5, 15-10, 10-15, 15-8 victory over the 19th-ranked Arizona Wildcats Saturday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

After losing to 16th-ranked Pepperdine Friday night 13-15, 9-15, 15-13 and 15-8, the Aggies, 22-9, could not afford a loss to the Wildcats.

"We had to win tonight," A&M Coach Al Givens said after the match. "That keeps us in the hunt for the NCAAs."

The Aggies did not lack intensity or execution in the Arizona

match, especially on the offensive end.

A&M outside hitter Stacey Gildner had 18 kills with a .267 hitting percentage, while Chris Zogata had seven kills and 16 digs as a setter.

"I think it was a case of us executing well," Givens said. "We established our middle attack early."

The Aggies established just about everything early as the squad jumped to leads of 11-5 in the first game and 9-0 in the second game. A&M was down 9-3 in the third game, but rallied to tie the game at 9-9 before succumbing to the Wildcats, 10-15.

The A&M defense sparked in

the victory as well, evident by the .033 hitting percentage for Arizona.

"Defensively, we made some great efforts to get to the ball," Givens said.

He said he felt Arizona was a good team, but the difference in the caliber of play between Pepperdine and the Wildcats was quite noticeable.

"There was a big difference between No. 16 and No. 19," Givens said. "I still feel we should have taken them (Arizona) in three."

A&M plays at Southwest Texas State tonight before returning to G. Rollie White Wednesday for its final home game of the year against Houston.

Unranked A&M men swimmers upset No.7 SMU in home opener

By Ken Sury

Sports Editor

Texas A&M swimming coach Mel Nash was dripping wet after Saturday's dual meet with Southern Methodist University. But he was smiling broadly.

His unranked men's team had just knocked off the seventh-ranked Mustangs in P.L. Downs Natatorium.

"We knew we could do it," Nash said. "I had been telling the guys all week that if we got up for it, we could do it. And that's what we did."

It came down to the final race, however. A&M led 89-79 going into the 400-yard freestyle relay. Under the newly instituted scoring system for relays (nine points for first, four for second and two for third), if SMU had taken first and second places, the Mustangs would have won the meet.

But Aggies Paul Weber, Aaron McDonough, Eddie Altman and David Kohel made it a moot point as they won the event with a time of three minutes, 8.92 seconds. The SMU teams finished second and third in the race with times of 3:11.31 and 3:11.32. The victory gave A&M a 98-85 win.

The Aggie women, despite having sophomore standout Suzanne Fiori swim only the 1,000 freestyle, easily outdistanced the 19th-ranked SMU women by a score of 113.5 to 69.5.

Fiori had sprained her ankle Wednesday and Nash said it swelled to the size of a baseball after she placed third in the race. She finished behind teammates Rachel Benzel and Jennifer Newcomb.

Nash said he was pleased with the overall team effort, especially since the teams are two-thirds freshmen.

"You don't beat a team like SMU with one person," he said. "We had some surprising seconds, thirds and fourths to help us out. This was a pleasant, pleasant surprise."

Even Reveille provided support in A&M's first home meet of the fall. She had to be quieted one time at poolside so the swimmers could hear the starting horn. Some of the Mustang women swimmers patted Reveille on the head as they walked



Photo by Mike Sanchez

A&M swimmers encourage teammates during Saturday's upset over SMU's No. 7 men and No. 19 women's teams.

past, but one of the men gave her a sidelong glance and said, "Grrrrr."

After the A&M men won the final emotion-filled relay, Nash and assistants Jay Holmes and Chris O'Neil were shoved into the pool.

"I had told them about three or

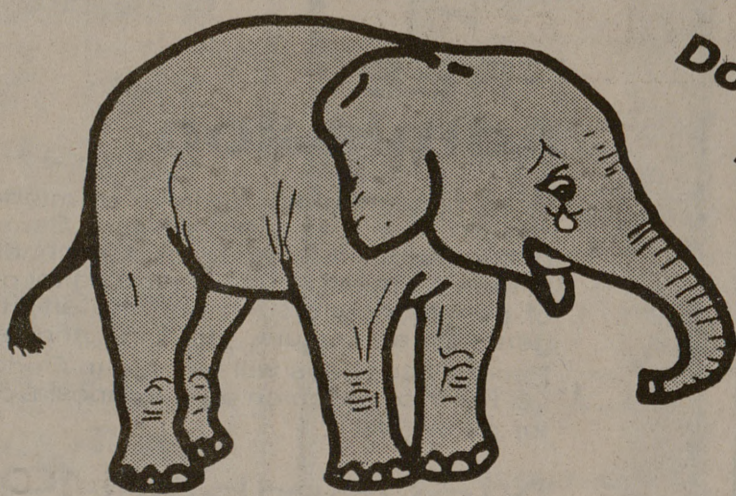
four years ago that the only way they could throw me in the pool was if we beat SMU or Texas," Nash said.

"Well, I had forgotten about since then," he added. "I guess I didn't."

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