

Sports

Lady Ags dominate Lamar Young A&M team impressive in opener

By Tammy Hedgpeth
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M volleyball team feasted on cardinals Wednesday night in their opening match against Lamar University in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Lady Aggies swept the Lady Cardinals 15-8, 15-7, 15-8 in a three-game match which was strong both offensively and defensively.

A&M fell behind in the first game 4-6, but once they stepped forward, it never looked back. It rallied to score six consecutive points before Lamar scored its last two points.

With sophomore Yvonne Van Brandt blocking and junior Cheri Steensma spiking, the offense went hand in hand with the defense.

"We really pulled it together," Steensma said. "The chemistry

was there, but we still have a long way to go.

"I was happy with my game. I do need work and I know it."

"We established that we can run the middle," A&M Coach Al Givens said. "We established it early and the outside was there. That's why Cheri had a good night."

The Lady Aggies were cheered not only by each other but also by a rowdy Dunn Hall yelling section. With all of that, they appeared motivated and ready to sweep.

The Lady Aggies took total control of the rest of the match.

"We showed we can run a quick attack," Givens said. "It (the match) showed we have power. This group is so young. They will do nothing but get better. We need matches to give us the experience."

The Lady Cardinals had a couple of tough cookies themselves. Sophomore Cassi Presley set up good balls for senior Trisha Beissel to spike.

"I think they came out hustling," Van Brandt said of the Lady Cardinals. "We had a slow start. Trisha had some experience. She was tough."

"It's nice to start with a win. We still have a lot of flaws. We were just ready to play."

The future looks promising for the young Lady Aggies but Givens said they still need work.

"Our main concern is our blocking," Givens said. "We're using a new blocking technique. Some players are having to get used to the new blocking. Outside blockers are our big concern. This performance was better than our opener last year."

Aggie players shun ties to Tigers, hope to look good for home folks

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Keith Woodside and Basil Jackson are two football players with several things in common.

For instance, they are both native Louisianians, they both left their native area to attend Texas A&M, and they both love cajun food.

And the senior running back and the junior linebacker both are looking forward to taking a big bite out of the Bayou Bengals Saturday when the 15th-ranked Aggies open the 1987 football season against 6th-ranked Louisiana State at Kyle Field.

Both were highly recruited high school players from deep in the heart of LSU country. Woodside is from Vidalia, about 90 miles north of Baton Rouge; Jackson is from Hammond, 32 miles to the east.

Jackson said the difference between his roles of LSU supporter and Aggie football player became evident at the game last year.

Jackson said, "Every game I'd gone to, I was a fan of LSU. When I got there, it seemed like everyone had turned against me."

He said his family and friends supported his decision to leave Tiger country for A&M, but he still feels pressure to do well in front of the hometown folks.

Woodside, too, grew up as a Tiger fan. He said he had other priorities than just playing the hometown team, but the game still meant a lot.

Woodside said, "I'm just happy to have the opportunity to play LSU on national television." The game is being telecast nationally by ESPN.

The native Louisianians left their home state for different reasons. Woodside said the main reason he did not go to LSU was because of the running back talent already there. Dalton Hilliard and Garry James, both All-Southeastern Conference selections, would have been sophomores when Woodside entered as a freshman, limiting Woodside's playing time.

Jackson's main reason for becoming an Aggie, on the other hand, was because of A&M's excellent academic reputation in engineering. Jackson is an electrical engineering

major with a 3.2 grade point ratio.

Both are going to be playing a bigger role in A&M's game plan this year. The Aggie backfield is missing second-team All-America Roger Vick, which means more ball-carrying opportunities for Woodside. Woodside estimates he will get 20 or more handoffs per game this year.

Jackson will be trying to help fill the holes left by four starting linebackers who have left for the professional ranks, including All-America Johnny Holland.

"It's a bigger obligation to myself as well as the team," Jackson said. "I have a job, I know I can do it, it's just a matter of showing it."

The two Aggies are not the only ones involved in Saturday's game that left their home state for a rival school. After all, LSU is planning to start a young man from Hempstead named Harvey Williams.

Williams made headlines all across Texas and Louisiana when the blue-chip running back ranked as the best in the country that year decided to "defect" to LSU instead of staying near home at A&M.

He has made headlines again recently with bold predictions of how he and his teammates will do against the Aggies. And neither Jackson nor Woodside care too much for it.

Jackson said, "They're a good team, a team with a few talkers."

He said he didn't care too much for people who run out of breath blowing their own horn.

"Basil Jackson's a doer, not a sayer," he said. "If you can't back up your words, you shouldn't be talking."

And the subject of Williams in particular is a sore one for both players.

"That's the main boaster right there," Jackson said about Williams. "If he's as good as he says, he doesn't need to say it."

Woodside said, "When it comes to Harvey Williams, I think of Muhammad Ali — a man never at a loss for words."

Woodside downplayed the idea of him trying to outdo Williams on the field Saturday.

"Basically I just want to play ball,"

Woodside said. "It's not me against Harvey Williams."

He said the defense would take care of any punishment-dealing that might be necessary.

Jackson said Woodside was a better back than Williams, anyway. He said the back's quickness and experience gave him a significant edge over the younger Williams.

"There's no comparison," Jackson said. "(Williams) couldn't carry (Woodside's) shoes."

And the two Aggies are in a good position to rate each other. They line up against each other practically every day.

"Yeah, and I don't like it either!" Woodside says about practicing across the line of scrimmage from Jackson. He said the linebacker could really be an intimidating force.

"When he hits you, he really hits you," Woodside said.

Conversely, Jackson complimented Woodside on the way he could avoid being hit directly.

"It's hard to get a good lick on him," Jackson said of the back. "He's one of the better running backs I've seen."

Both said the atmosphere at a Tiger game in Baton Rouge is different than anywhere else. The fans, who are allowed to bring alcohol to the games and who have the reputation of being drunk and disorderly for the most part, are extremely partisan and extremely loud.

Jackson said, "You're either friend or foe (at LSU games). And if you're not for LSU, you're definitely a foe."

Woodside said the boisterous crowd might have had a negative effect on the Aggie team.

"Once LSU got into the groove," he said, "that wild and crazy crowd got into it."

Jackson, however, said the effect was minimal.

"Overall, if a team is going to play, it's going to play," Jackson said.

This year is different, though. The game is at Kyle Field.

"They're on our turf," Woodside said. "It's going to be exciting."

Sherrill says first game anxieties should hit new LSU coach Archer

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — On the night of the first football game for a new head coach, he may be looking anxiously for a bathroom, veteran Coach Jackie Sherrill of Texas A&M said Tuesday.

"You're excited. There's no question that you're scared as hell," said Sherrill. "You have confidence in your team or you try to find a bathroom to throw up."

Louisiana State Coach Mike Archer, sitting quietly at his weekly news luncheon while reporters quizzed Sherrill on the phone about that, grinned, shaking his head in agreement.

Just turned 34, Archer is the nation's youngest Division I head coach, and he gets bloodied in the post Saturday night as the sixth-ranked Tigers and No. 15 Aggies open their seasons at College Station — on Kyle Field, where A&M has a 14-game winning streak to protect.

Earlier, Archer said being a new head coach "didn't set in for the first time until yesterday. I returned to my office and had 33 phone messages, flowers and plants. I sat at my desk and said, 'hmmm, it's really here.'"

Archer was chosen in January as successor to Bill Arnsparger, who accepted the athletic director's post at Florida after his Tigers won the Southeastern Conference championship.

"If I were Mike, I'd be anxious," said Sherrill, whose highly-touted 1986 squad was ripped 35-17 in Tiger Stadium.

Archer, who was Arnsparger's chief assistant and defensive coordinator, inherited a team that has lost almost none of its offensive power. That includes sophomore quarterback Tom Hodson, who completed 15 of 21 passes for 193 yards and a touchdown against A&M in

Hodson's first appearance in a college game.

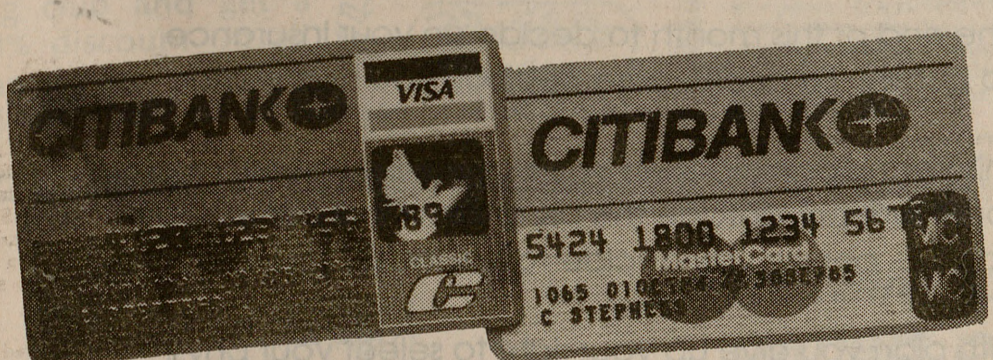
But Archer is dealing with a young, new defensive line that must jell quickly if LSU is to live up to its expectations, Archer said.

"The Aggies are similar to us," he said. "They have had to replace some outstanding players. . . . There is an experience factor for both teams. What concerns me is that our defensive line is young while their offensive line is big and experienced."

"Their runt on the offensive line is six-foot-four and 255 pounds. Most have started for two years. They will try to run the football against us. That makes sense."

To do the job, the Aggies have running back Keith Woodside. "He makes it go for them," said Archer. Sherrill, who may have been guilty of poormouthing, didn't sound too optimistic.

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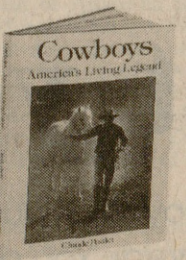





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