

Sports

Lady Aggies defeat LadyKats in rematch

By Tammy Hedgpeth
Sports Writer

After a tough road trip, the Texas A&M women's volleyball team came back to Aggieland and exacted its revenge on the Sam Houston State University LadyKats Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Lady Aggies overpowered the LadyKats in four games, 15-8, 10-15, 16-14, 15-10 to record their fourth win against seven losses.

After splitting the first two games, the Lady Aggies made a remarkable comeback from a 2-10 deficit to win the third game.

"It (the comeback) was something we needed to do," A&M Coach Al Givens said. "We haven't been able to do that. In the ten previous matches, we'd get ahead then we'd get behind and we just didn't have enough fight."

"We'd get in a situation where we were playing not to lose rather than to win. When you do that, you have a tendency to get tentative and hesitant."

The offense was led by junior outside attacker Cheri Steensma with a career-high 28 kills out of 45 attempts.

"I think that we knew we had to win," Steensma said. "It's something we needed because our next nine out of 10 matches are at home. Losing three matches really inspired us. We're just sick of it (losing)."

Sophomore setter Yvonne Van Brandt set the pace for the defense as she recorded 15 digs and 64 assists.

The LadyKats were not lacking power. Senior Karen Humphrey had 16 kills and senior Janell Cook posted 45 assists and nine digs.

A&M senior outside attacker Michelle Whitwell made things happen during the two matches she played in by recording six kills.

"What's so exhilarating about playing part time is to come in and be able to do something good to lift the team," Whitwell said. "It's almost more exciting at times. It's very tense. You get a lot of attention that way. When you come off the bench, people watch you. So when you do something good, it makes you feel more of an accomplishment."

Freshman Amy Cummings had an exciting first start. She posted nine kills and 15 digs.

"I was excited and nervous about my first start," Cummings said. "It felt great. I worked hard and finally got it. . . . I need to learn the game a lot better."

Givens said, "Amy earned that starting position. She made some mistakes and those mistakes were from a lack of experience. You can see from watching that she has a great potential for the game."

The Lady Aggies will take on No. 14 Pepperdine Friday at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Freshman overcoming 'dumb jock' image, concentrating on pursuing lifelong dream

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

Say the name "Darren Lewis" to a college football fan who has never met him and these catch phrases will probably come to his mind: awesome athletic ability, combines power and speed, blue chipper, can't miss prospect, has all the tools, unlimited potential and dumb jock.

And he will be right on all but one count—the last one.

Coming out of high school in 1986, Lewis received almost as much publicity for his immense problems with the Scholastic Aptitude Test as for his immense athletic talent. And that hurt Lewis.

"I accepted the fact that a guy with a lot of publicity coming out of high school, seen all across America, does one wrong thing and the press will take advantage of that," Lewis said. "The press made it sound like I'm not a very intelligent guy just because I didn't pass that particular test. But I hope people don't look at me as a dumb guy."

Lewis knows the dumb jock tab has been used for a long time on a lot of other people besides himself.

"Other people feel like athletes are not smart," the 5-foot-11, 205-pound freshman said. "They look down on us. People say athletes doing good in football rely on it. Their saying the coaches push them through college and don't get them a degree, but just try to get them into the pros."

"But that's not true. I feel like if you want to be pushed through college, that's your decision. But if you want to go through college and receive your degree and play football, then you have something to fall back on."

Lewis attributed his low SAT score to taking the test the day after an exhausting football game and to his lack of preparation. To keep from losing a year of college eligibility, Lewis had to improve his score. He was determined not to make the same mistake twice when the time came for him to take the American College Test (ACT).

"After I made that mistake, that's when I really jumped on top of it and started studying," Lewis said. "Then I tried the ACT and I studied that a lot before I took it."

"It was a pressure situation. A lot of things were going through my mind, like 'Hey, I can't sit out a year because of one test. I buckle down on all my other tests. Why can't I buckle down and pass this test?'"

"When you're taking the test you're supposed to be relaxed," he continued. "But the night before, everything was going through my mind. I had to really go in, relax and pass the test. If I didn't (pass), I had to accept that."

Luckily for the Aggies, Lewis scored high enough on the ACT to retain his freshman year of eligibility. In the Louisiana State game, Lewis rushed for 36 yards on six carries. He is listed as the number two halfback on the depth chart behind senior Keith Woodside.

Usually freshmen, especially those playing a skill position like running back, are redshirted. Redshirted players are allowed to practice with the team, but are not allowed to play in the games for a year. However, they retain that year of eligibility. And when Lewis arrived for two-a-days, even he didn't know if he would be playing this year.

"I didn't know at the time if I was going to get redshirted or going to play this year," Lewis said. "I just came here and told myself, 'Hey, I want to work hard. And if they red-shirt me, I accept that. If they don't, I accept that too.' . . . Whatever they had in store for me, I was willing to do."

What the coaches had in store for him was to run the ball and contribute to the offense. He was warned before the LSU game that his number would be called soon.

"They (the coaches) told me I would get my chance because we were down to three running backs. The told me, 'Hey, now you have to get ready to play.' Coach (Jim) Helms stated the fact that, 'Hey, you can be a freshman in the dorm, but once you hit the field you have to act like a senior. You have to learn the system faster now.'"

The A&M offensive scheme is more complicated than the game plan his high school ran, Lewis said. He says he learned it well.

"It really wasn't a difficult process."

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Giants deck Astros 7-1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Dave Dravecky pitched a four-hitter and Will Clark hit two two-run homers Wednesday as the San Francisco Giants beat the Houston Astros 7-1 for their fifth straight victory.

The Giants took a 7½-game lead over idle Cincinnati in the National League West and the third-place Astros fell 8½ games behind.

Dravecky allowed three singles and Gerald Young's first major-

league home run with two outs in the sixth inning. Dravecky, 10-10, won for the seventh time in 10 decisions since the Giants acquired him from San Diego on July 4. He walked one and struck out three.

Houston starter Mike Scott, 15-12, who retired the last 26 Giants he faced on Sept. 7, allowed three home runs in five-plus innings, the first by Eddie Milner leading off the game. It was Milner's fourth of the season.

NEW YORK (AP) — The chief negotiator for NFL owners, calling the latest proposal by the players union "very, very discouraging," said Wednesday that without mediation, a players' strike next week is "a very good possibility."

Jack Donlan, the executive director of the NFL Management Council, said at a news conference that the proposal submitted by the players on Tuesday would cost owners \$200 million above the figures contained in their proposal. And, he said, that is without taking into account the union's demand for free agency.

He also said he would like to resume negotiations, but only with a mediator or with his union counterpart, Gene Upshaw.

The Management Council also

disclosed it has filed with the National Labor Relations Board an unfair labor practice complaint against the union, accusing it of refusing to bargain in good faith. Council officials conceded, however, that the action was little more than a token gesture that could not have any effect before the NFL Players Association Tuesday's strike deadline.

Last Tuesday, the NFLPA presented the owners with its latest proposal for settlement of the dispute. In it the union changed its demand for unrestricted free agency to one that would make players free agents after they had played in the league for four years.

Upshaw, the NFLPA's executive director, called the proposal "a step

forward in the areas that we feel can bring a clear and fast conclusion to this collective bargaining process."

But Donlan dismissed it as little more than a variation on the original union proposal, first put on the table April 20.

"A cursory look at the proposal showed that it was little more than a restatement of their opening proposal with a few cosmetic changes," Donlan said. "It was a very, very discouraging proposal. In laymen's terms, it's a cynical thing."

Donlan called once again for intervention by a federal mediator, a proposal so far rejected by the union. He also said he had put in a call to Upshaw to suggest a face-to-face meeting, but added that he was

not sure it would be wise to resume talks at this time.

Asked if a strike is likely, Donlan replied: "There's a very good possibility."

Although the two sides met 17 times between April 20 and the Aug. 31 contract expiration date, little progress was made. On Aug. 31, the NFLPA executive committee set a strike date of Sept. 22, a decision ratified eight days later by the 28 player representatives.

The two sides met for 4½ hours Sept. 3 and again last Saturday and Sunday with little indication that they were anything but far apart.

NFL owners, meanwhile, say they plan to play with "whatever players are available."

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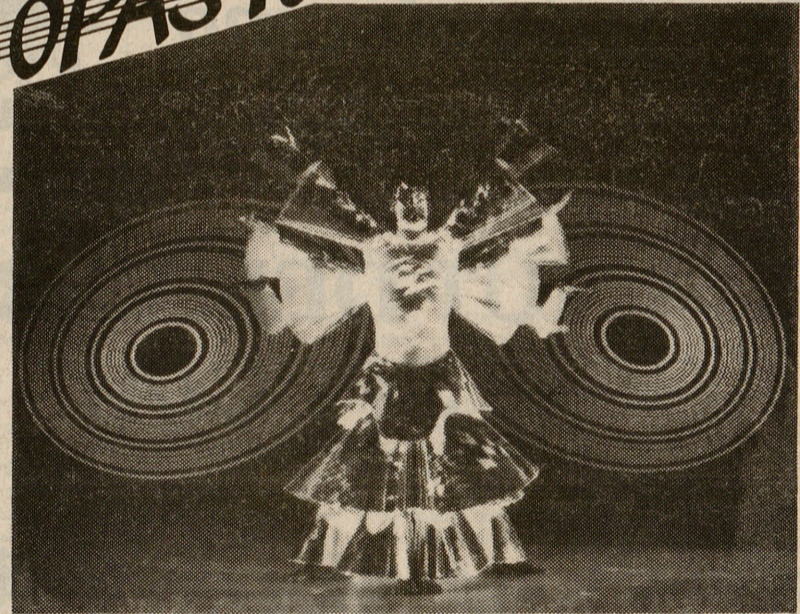
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