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Aggie volleyballers set for game, tourney

By Loyd Brumfield
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M volleyball team, currently 4-8, will host the University of Texas at Arlington tonight at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

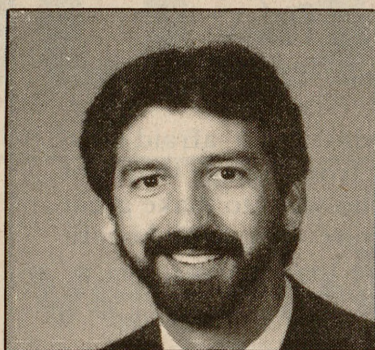
The Lady Aggies also will host the Texas A&M Invitational this weekend in G. Rollie White.

A&M defeated Sam Houston State in four games last week, and lost to 14th-ranked Pepperdine, also in four games.

UT-Arlington brings a 7-2 record into tonight's match. Its only losses are against Ohio State and Brigham Young.

"UT-Arlington is an explosive team, both on offense and defense," A&M Coach Al Givens said. "They lost only two players off of last year's squad, and have been receiving votes for the polls. Their middle blockers (Shari Parks and Jackie Bennett) do a very good job, and we will have to stop them if we are going to be successful in the match."

Cheri Steensma has emerged as a team leader early on in the season. She is first in hitting percentage in the Southwest Conference at .389, second in kills at 4.51 a game, and fifth in digs at 2.87 a game. Yvonne Van Brandt is first in the SWC in



Al Givens

digs per game with a 11.65 average. Louisiana State will open the A&M Invitational Friday at 5 p.m. against New Mexico State, with A&M taking on North Carolina at 7:30. Saturday's action pits the Lady Aggies against New Mexico State at 9:30 a.m., and against LSU at 7:30 p.m.

"The tournament offers a very competitive field with LSU, New Mexico State and North Carolina coming here," Givens said. "Our goal is to take each match one game at a time, one point at a time. With the schedule we have been playing, we should be prepared for this type of competition."

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The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Texas A&M wishes the Jewish University Community a Healthy and Happy New Year.
 Everyone is invited to services conducted by Rabbi Peter Tarlow.
Rosh Hashanah Services
 Wednesday, Sept. 23, 8 p.m.
 Thursday, Sept. 24, 10 a.m.
 Friday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m.
Yom Kippur Services
 Friday, Oct. 2, 8 p.m.
 Saturday, Oct. 3, 10 a.m., 4:30 p.m., Yizcor 6:30 p.m. Break-the-Fast.
 B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation (Jewish Student Center) 800 Jersey 696-7313

Defense

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The Texas A&M 12th Man Kick-Off team, which suffered probably its worst game in its five-year history against LSU (2 returns for 80 yards), looked like it was in for another rough day Saturday. After the Aggies' first score, Washington kick-off return man Steve Jones took a Slater kick-off from his own 6-yard line to the Washington 44.

That return, however, was about all the 12th Man team could stand. Henceforth, the kick-off team did some serious head banging, twice holding the Husky return to under 15 yards.

For a minute there Saturday, I was having flashbacks to the 1986 Cotton Bowl when Kevin Murray and tight end Rod Bernstine hooked up on dump passes over the middle

to totally destroy a tough Auburn defense.

Five times against Washington, Pavlas hooked up with his tight ends for a total of 41 yards. Senior Sylvester Morgan and sophomore Brian Ross caught two passes each and transfer junior Gary Coster caught one. For the Aggie offense to click, A&M needs to make opposing defenses key on their wide receivers and Woodside. This usually leaves the tight end open, as Bernstine, A&M's career receiving leader, so aptly demonstrated.

Although he's only 5-11 and 205, freshman running back Darren Lewis is a serious power-back. His hard-running style and second effort, which earned him 61 yards on 14 carries, provides an excellent contrast to Woodside's slashing, accelerating style.

Strike

(continued from page 9)

player salary has risen from \$90,000 to \$230,000 a year.

"Free agency cannot be summed up in terms of dollars. It's not about money, it's about dignity and freedom," Upshaw said. "It's about who you work for."

There had been no talks since a meeting Friday between Upshaw and Management Council negotiator Jack Donlan, and no further negotiations were scheduled. "The ball is in Gene's court," said Jim Conway, assistant executive director of the Management Council.

The two sides have met 19 times since first exchanging proposals April 20, and each has made just one counterproposal, both within the last two weeks.

Donlan said he offered concessions Friday on several issues, including pension and roster size, if Upshaw would delay the strike 30 days. But Upshaw said the only specific proposal was to increase rosters from 45 players to 49.

A Management Council statement Monday said free agency was the only issue that could not be settled.

Although Upshaw told the players to expect a long strike, he said it should not take that long to settle the differences.

"I think you could hammer out a deal in a matter of a day, but it will take two or three days to do the language," Upshaw said. "If we started today, there would be no reason there couldn't be games Sunday. Even if we talked tomorrow it could still be done. In 1982 they took eight weeks off and came right back."

Conway said it would take a lot longer. "We don't look for this falling in in 24 hours," he said. "We think the parties have some hard bargaining between where we are now and any labor agreement."

Commissioner Pete Rozelle, who attended the Management Council meeting, said he was just an observer.

"They are so far apart it wouldn't

make sense for me to intervene right now," he said.

Some teams, like Indianapolis, said they already had full rosters of free agents to continue the season, while others had barely more than one or two players signed.

Upshaw insisted that the union's support was solid, "including Chicago, which had so many question marks around it."

Dave Duerson, the Bears' assistant player representative, said the free agency issue was "blown all out of proportion," since the average NFL career is only 3½ to 4 years, anyway.

Upshaw, however, said he talked to Chicago player rep Mike Singletary after the team meeting on Monday and "Mike said the Bears voted to strike unanimously."

Any roster player who does cross the picket line, Upshaw said, "is going to cut his career short. He'll never be the same again. His teammates won't like him, the bitterness will be there. You never forget the guy who tried to stab you in the back. And this is not the type of game that you need added incentive for anyone."

Upshaw said the players had to be willing to stay out the rest of the season.

"Whenever I've talked to a team, I said, 'Look, one thing you have to understand if you walk, you're walking for the season,'" he said. "I don't want anyone to think it's going to be a week, a day, two days. It's for the duration, and they know that."

The previous walkout was over a demand that players receive 55 percent of the NFL's gross revenues, which amounted to a package of about \$1.6 billion over four years. They settled for \$1.28 billion over five years, plus incentives.

Part of the players' demand is that management repay \$18 million in what the union calls "delinquent contributions plus interest earnings." Upshaw contends the owners cheated the union out of that much money when the final contract language differed from the tentative.

A&M hires new trainer for women's athletics

Lynn Hickey, Texas A&M Women's athletic director, announced Monday she has hired a new trainer for women's athletics.

Julie Hipple, a graduate assistant trainer at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, who spent four years as a student trainer there, was hired to take over the duties for women's athletics.

Hipple received her bachelor's degree from Texas Christian University last May and graduated magna cum laude.

During her tenure at TCU, she worked with the Horned Frogs' football team and the women's basketball team and track program.

"We feel very fortunate to find a trainer with Julie's qualifications at this time of the year," Hickey said.

"She has a great background coming from TCU, and we are very confident that she will be a great asset to our women's athletics program here at Texas A&M University."

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