

Sports

A&M sweeps Lady Cards; everyone plays in easy win

By Jerry Bolz
Sports Writer

Texas A&M's Lady Aggie volleyball team used a little time and a lot of youth to defeat the Lamar Lady Cardinals 15-6, 15-9, 15-12 Wednesday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Coach Al Givens used all eleven active players in a match that lasted just over an hour. With some minor injuries on the team, Givens took the opportunity to play the younger players against 0-9 Lamar.

"It was nice to give our injured players a rest and let the younger kids go," Givens said. "Hopefully, it will build their confidence for down the road."

The rivalry between the teams is A&M's second longest, with the Lady Ags leading 22-17. However, Givens said he is always careful with Lamar.

"I'm always concerned with a team that comes in here whose whole season depends on if they beat

A&M," Givens said.

The Lady Aggies came out gunning and scored the first nine points of the match. Junior setter Yvonne Van Brandt served the first seven points, and senior attacker Cheri Steensma added two aces along the way.

Givens pulled seniors Steensma and Vivian Viera in the second game and put in freshman Sheri Hermesmeyer and sophomore Melanie Rother. This left Van Brandt as the oldest player on the court for A&M.

The game stayed at 10-8 before Krista Hierholzer broke loose with a kill. Rother delivered several rocket kills, and the defense, led by sophomore Amy Cumings, held off a more lively Lamar attack.

The Cardinals controlled the tempo for a big part of the second game. Givens said Lamar lulled the Lady Ags to sleep. During a timeout, he told the team they should be controlling the tempo and not the other team.

"The level of our opponent shouldn't effect our performance," Givens said.

In game three, the Lady Cardinals jumped to 3-0, but A&M filled its defensive holes to surge ahead 14-5.

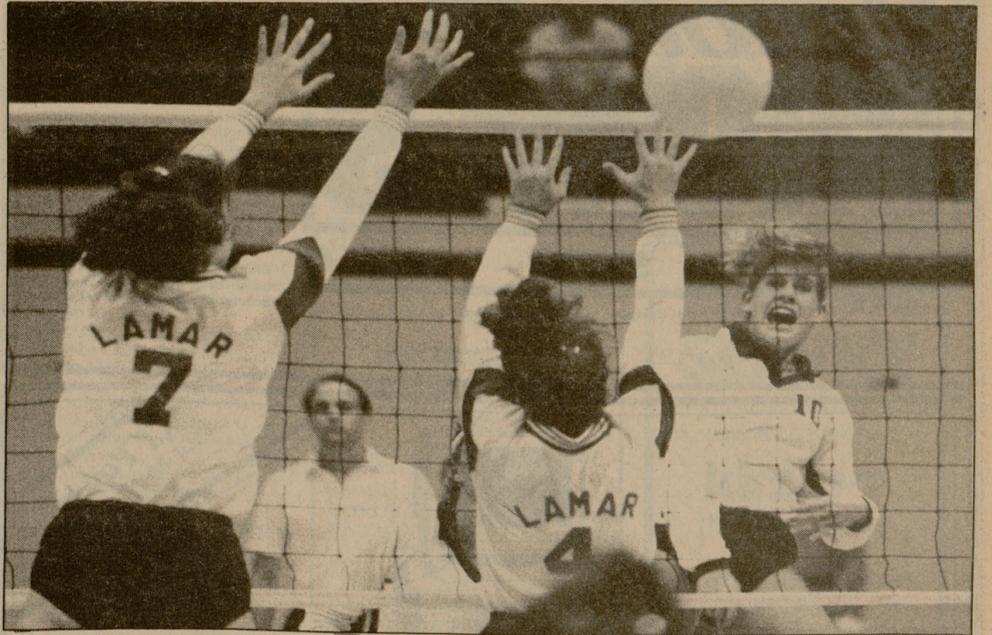
However, the Lady Cards came together and ran off seven straight points against an A&M side with three freshmen and two sophomores before losing.

Givens was impressed with Gonzalez's play. "I saw good things with Alysia," he said. "She really came to play."

Gonzalez said she was surprised to start and play the entire match.

"My adrenalin was pumping," she said. "I wasn't really nervous, I was more pumped."

Cumings paced the Lady Ags on defense with eleven digs, and added a service ace on offense.



A&M freshman Sheri Hermesmeyer spikes past Lamar defenders Lisa Kachel (left) and Michelle Walker during Wednesday's match.

Photo by Jay Janner

'Getting caught' is a result, not a problem

The NCAA's recent decision to place the Aggie football program on probation for two years has raised many questions regarding the fairness of the ruling in comparison to the penalties received by the University of Texas.

In the past week there have been several articles in various newspapers concentrating on student reaction to the penalties.

Most students, when asked for a reaction to the ruling, said they believe the football program got what it deserved.

However, there are some who, ignoring why the ruling went against A&M, felt A&M was being used as an example and the ban on post-season bowl competition was unfair.

There seems to be an attitude on this campus that the

only thing wrong with the probation is that A&M got caught.

One student, when interviewed for *The Battalion* said, "The penalties were not fair, especially the bowl game being taken away. It's a matter of getting caught and we did."

With this attitude you can justify anything. "Need some extra cash? Go rob a bank! Just don't get caught!"

Aggies like to point with pride to the things that make Texas A&M a unique university. Aggies also like to talk about the honesty and integrity of Aggies.

Yet I recall, when the investigation began hearing some people try to justify the violations by saying, "Everybody does it."

People seem to be ignoring the fact that some representatives of Texas A&M were found to have knowingly violated the rules under which they are governed.

Another student said: "The penalties are totally unfair. A lot of other schools, like t.u. (The University of Texas), had just as many violations, if not more, and the penalties were not as harsh."

It should not matter what others do. Texas A&M prides itself as an institution that produces honest, loyal people who contribute positively to society. Loyalty shouldn't go so far as to blind a person's judgment of right or wrong.

Every school is under the same rules and the rules were made to be followed.

The fact that the University of Texas was found guilty of more than twice as many violations as A&M and didn't lose the chance to compete in a bowl game should not be viewed as the main issue.

Each student attending this institution should be angry and ashamed of what has happened. The football team, for better or worse, is the most visible representative of this school.

The violations draw attention from the research and academic worth of the university and make A&M look like a "football factory" along the lines of Oklahoma, Florida or Clemson.

But this doesn't seem to bother some Aggies. They're just upset because their holiday plans for a trip to the Cotton Bowl have been ruined.

He must never have heard of the SMU scandal.

Talk about examples! The SMU "Death Penalty" ruling was supposed to be the example of where continual cheating in the recruitment of college athletes will lead for every NCAA school.

It's simple. Once a school is found guilty of major recruiting violations that school may not be allowed to compete in football if more major violations are found within five years of the first ruling.

Texas A&M now faces the possibility of going the same route as SMU if more rules are found to have been broken in the next five years.

If our attitude as students is that it is all right to break the rules as long as we win. Or, that the rules should continue to be broken because other football powers are doing it we are just as guilty as coaches who buy players, and we should not be angry when our team is penalized for these actions.

We should not only condemn the coaches responsible, but we should examine our own attitudes to see why we have made winning at all cost more important than competition.



Doug Walker

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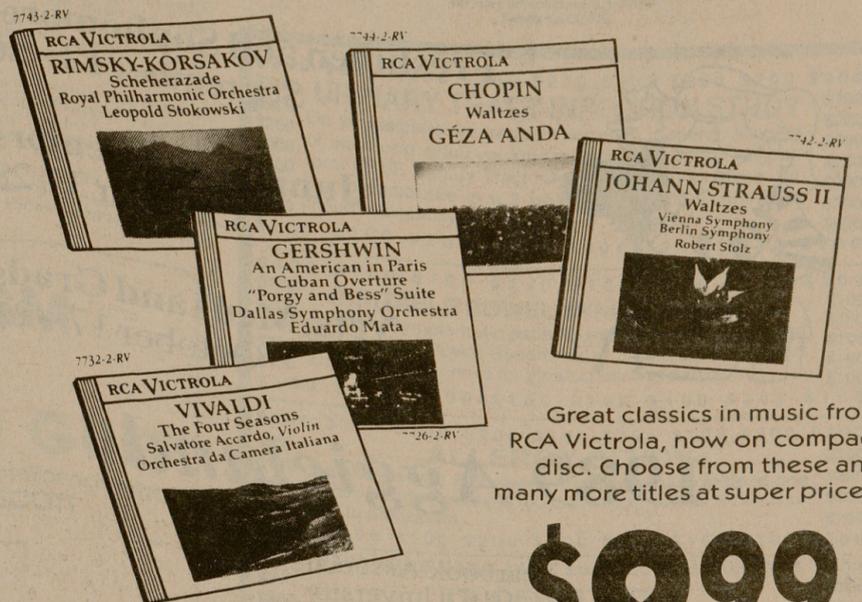
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