

Sports

Lady Ags return home, beat SHSU in 3 games

By Jerry Bolz
Sports Writer

The Lady Aggie volleyball team came back to Texas with a bang against Sam Houston State Wednesday night.

A&M downed the 5-6 LadyKats 15-5, 15-3, 15-9 after losing two out of three in California last weekend. Their season record is now 7-5.

Coach Al Givens said the road trip wasn't hard on the team with the exception of a few minor injuries. The team had good practices this week and was ready to play, he said.

Ready as the Lady Aggies were, they started the first game slowly. The offense was cold and flat, as they allowed Sam Houston to score the first three points of the game. It wasn't long, though, before the offense gained its form back and they won the next 12 straight.

Givens said he wants the team to play the same way no matter who is across the net.

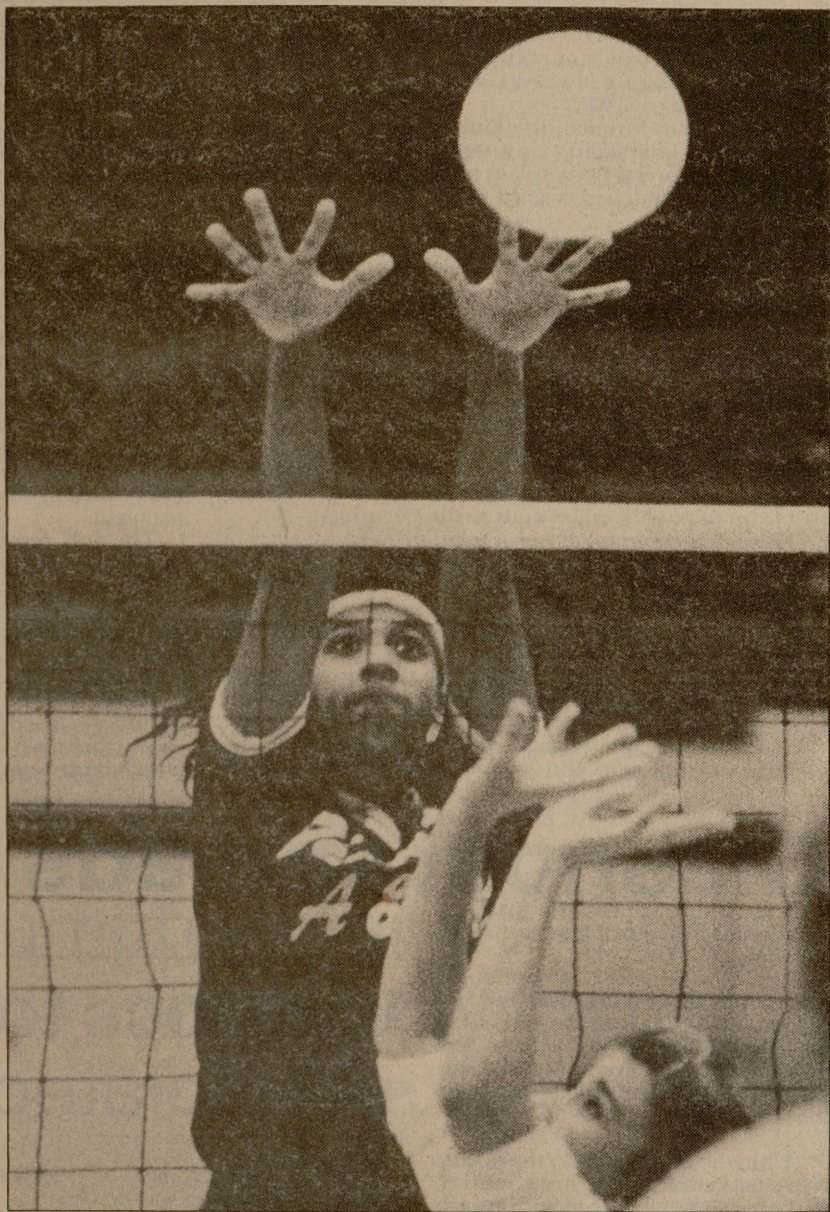
"We want to earn points as opposed to the other team giving us points," he said.

The Lady Aggies continued dominance over the LadyKats in the second game. With a combination of good offense and defense, A&M took a 7-0 lead. Junior setter Yvonne Van Brandt had two quick tap-overs to surprise the defense and excite the small, vocal crowd.

Killing the ball was the order of the game. Hermesmeier had several well-placed spikes down the stretch and Sophomore attacker Melanie Mother slammed a couple more and had the game-winning kill. Hermesmeier also had some great digs on a fairly relaxed defense.

The Lady Aggies open their southwest Conference slate Friday against Texas Tech. Givens said the Red Raiders have played some good teams and should come in ready to play.

Friday's match is McDonald's Shout Night and the first 250 fans will get a mini megaphone. The loudest group of fans will win other prizes.



A&M's Vivian Viera goes up for a block against Sam Houston's Suzanne Pedalino. The Lady Aggies won the match in three games.

Photo by Jay Janner

Hargett revived 0-3 Aggies against Tech with star outing

Tim
Stanfield
Flashback

The last time Texas A&M lost its initial three football games was in 1967, only the eventual Southwest Conference champions dropped a fourth contest before ripping off seven consecutive wins.

After dropping its SWC opener to SMU (20-17) when backup quarterback Inez Perez tossed a short touchdown pass to Jerry Levias with 0:04 to play, the Aggies lost to Purdue (24-20), LSU (17-6) and Florida State (19-18).

Coach Gene Stallings' third A&M squad had been picked to fight the University of Texas for the SWC title and a berth in the Cotton Bowl.

Before a record crowd of 48,240 (almost 7,000 more than Jones Stadium's seating capacity), the Aggies were merely looking for a win to break their five-game losing streak that dated back to their 22-14 loss to Texas on Thanksgiving Day, 1966.

"My coaching staff went to work each day before the sun came up and rarely left before it had set," Stallings said earlier this week.

Junior quarterback Edd Hargett had already broken most A&M passing records, including game, season and career marks for passing attempts, completions and yards, and had tied the school record for career touchdowns.

But, on October 14, 1967, the youngster from Linden-Kildare began a journey during which he would lead the Aggies to one improbable victory after another one, including wins over Arkansas, Texas and Alabama.

After a scoreless first quarter, Tech scored first on Ken Vinyard's 45-yard field goal and with 2:54 left in the second quarter had lined up a 51-yard attempt by Jerry Don Sanders when A&M linebacker made the play that caused the game to literally explode.

Hobbs blocked Sanders' kick, igniting the Aggie offense to two quick touchdowns before halftime. To that point Hargett's troops had gained 36 net yards in six possessions.

Three plays later A&M was on the scoreboard, as Hargett completed passes to Tom Buckman (19 yards), Bill Sallee (25 yards) and Bob Long (14 yards and a touchdown).

Charley Riggs kicked the extra point, giving the Aggies a 7-3 lead—but not for long.

Playing on defense for the first time in his college career, defensive halfback Ross Brupbacker intercepted his second pass of the quarter, setting A&M up on the Red Raider 24 yard line with a little more than one minute before halftime.

Hargett wasted no time, again producing the touchdown in three plays but with a little different twist.

After passing 12 yards to Long on the first play, Hargett ran for 8 yards, then tossed a 4-yard touchdown pass to Barney Harris.

The touchdown pass was Hargett's 14th at A&M, breaking the old record set by Dick Gardemal (1949-50).

Tech Coach J.T. King, who had earlier said that "Hargett's going to be a real fine quarterback," rallied his troops during halftime.

Tech held A&M to eight yards on eight plays during the third quarter, regaining the lead 17-14.

Quarterback John Scovell led a devastating Tech running attack, gaining 78 yards on 19 carries. Fullback Kenny Baker rushed 21 times for 64 yards, while tailback Mike Leinert picked up 117 yards on 24 carries.

Overall the Red Raiders rushed for 324 yards, and King later noted that had he kept the ball on the ground the Aggies wouldn't have had any time left to mount another comeback.

But they did have the time and made another comeback—in fact, they made two more.

After another Hargett touchdown pass gave A&M a 21-17 lead, Scovell moved Tech 82 yards for what appeared to be the game-winning touchdown.

From the Aggie four yard line, he pitched out to Baker, who sprinted into the end zone with only 53 seconds left to play.

Remembering Dan McIlhane's 103-yard kickoff return with less than a minute to play that had given A&M a 7-3 win over Tech in 1962, King ordered Vinyard to squib the ball on the ensuing kickoff.

Vinyard mishandled the assignment, booting a little, rolling kickoff to A&M's 41, where the omnipresent Brupbacker fell on the ball.

"It wasn't supposed to be an onside kick," King said. "It was supposed to be what we call a 'squibber' that bounces along the ground to about the opponents' 20. Those are kind of hard to get an organized return on."

Yet all appeared lost when A&M faced a fourth down and 15 on the Tech 43 with 11 seconds on the clock.

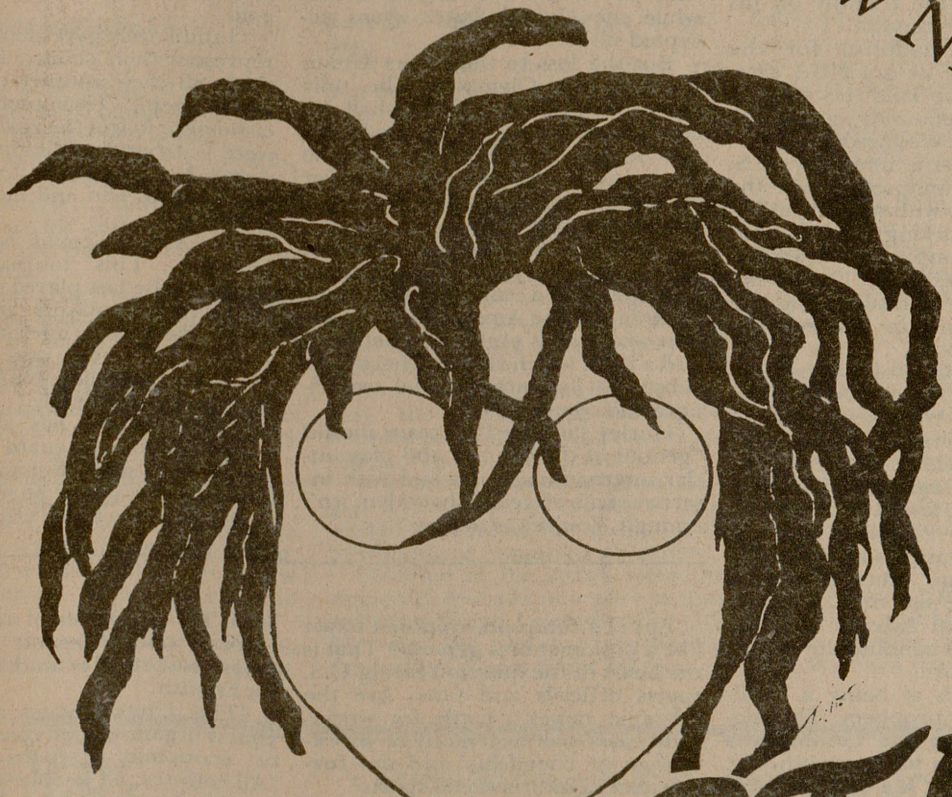
Undaunted Hargett tossed a long pass down the middle of the field that Long caught among three Tech defenders at the Red Raider 15.

"I didn't even see anyone else," Long said. "All I saw was the ball coming and put up my hands. It was right there."

Not only did Long make a miracle catch, he also had the presence of mind to call a timeout with three seconds on the clock.

Stallings put his arm around place-kicker Riggs,

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