

Lady Ags at Texas

Volleyball team takes on defending national champions tonight

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

The Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team travels to Austin tonight to take on the Lady Longhorns in the Frank Erwin Center at 7 p.m.

A&M will be trying to upset the defending national champions. Texas has won 15 straight meetings with A&M and 46 consecutive Southwest Conference matches.

The Lady Aggies have lost two of their last three matches, including being swept by Houston in their only conference match of the season. Over the weekend, A&M beat North Carolina state, but lost to North Carolina.

Coach Al Givens said his team learned from the weekend loss.

"I think the loss to North Carolina shocked our players into realizing that tomorrow is now for our team," Givens said. "Our players were

disappointed with their effort against UNC, but they learned a valuable lesson and, hopefully, that will help them to be becoming more consistent."

Although Texas lost four starters from last year's team, they have rebounded well in 1989.

"Texas has a young team this year," Givens said, "but with their only losses coming against Top 20 opponents, they are obviously a very good team."

Texas comes into Wednesday's contest with a four-match winning streak, having beaten Baylor, Oklahoma, Rice and Texas Tech last week. The Lady Longhorns, who are 12-5 on the year, have won eight consecutive SWC championships.

Texas will be led by Errica Hibben, a freshman from Las Vegas, who leads the team with 186 kills and has 75 blocks. Nikki Busch leads the team with a .303 hitting percentage, while Janine

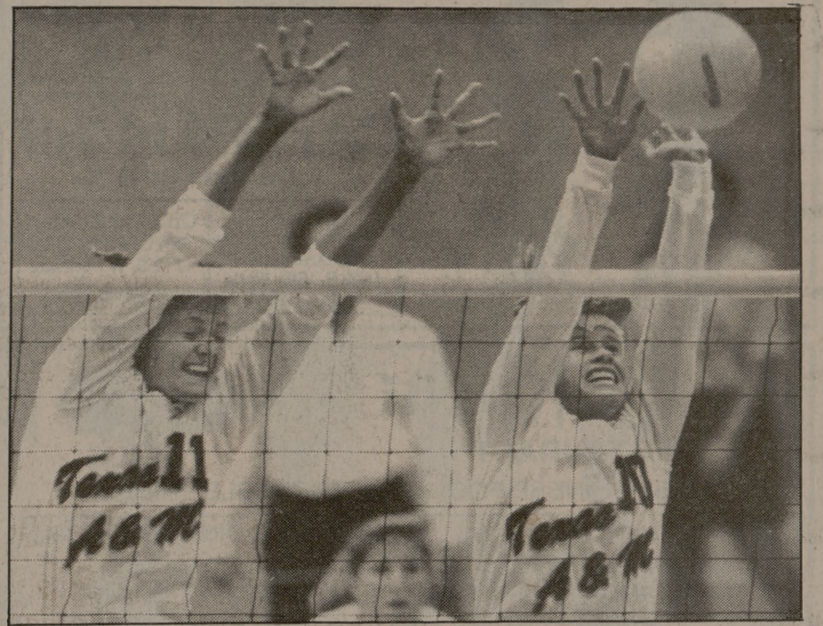
Gremmel has 189 digs to lead the Lady Longhorns.

Although the Lady Aggies had a rough week, they received some good individual performances.

Amy Cumings paced the Lady Aggies last weekend, with 13 kills and 6 blocks against UNCS and 12 kills and 5 blocks against UNC. Yvonne Van Brandt had 35 digs in the two matches, to pace A&M defense, while Elizabeth Edmiston had five blocks against UNC.

Givens said that his team will be ready for the contest against Texas.

"We don't have anything to lose in the match," he said. "We can put our inhibitions behind us and play without reservation since we aren't expected to win. The pressure is on their shoulders."



Slocum

(Continued from page 7)

ounting on this weekend is playing at home, where the Aggies have won 17 straight SWC games since losing to Baylor 20-16 in 1984. Since then, A&M has won 93 percent of its total home games.

"I would say playing here's an advantage to us," Slocum said. "It doesn't necessarily determine the outcome of the game, but we will play better here than we would on the road."

A&M is coming off a disappointing loss to Tech, but Slocum said the Aggies would be ready for the Cougars on Saturday.

"Those kind of losses linger with you," he said. "We lost a big game that was important to us. We face a tremendous challenge. I think these guys have to look and see they have a chance to make a statement about our team."

"We may not win, but we're not going to roll over and play dead. We're going to show up and we're going to give it a shot."

Slocum has to be hoping his young Aggie defense won't be shot by the Cougars' Run-and-Shoot. So far in 1989, everyone the Cougars

have faced haven't come up with an answer. But Slocum said that's what the Aggies have to do.

"It (the Run-and-Shoot) can be stopped," he said. "It's not invincible. My theory is that any offense, any scheme — it all goes back to personnel. You line up in an offense where you've got a good running back, a great offensive line, excellent wide receivers and one of the best quarterbacks in the country and they're going to score some points."

Still, the Aggies will be big underdogs at home for the first time in years. The Cougars will score a lot of points, but Slocum said A&M must score points to answer them.

However, it's been years since A&M has been humiliated at Kyle Field. That streak could come to an end on Saturday unless A&M finds an answer to the Run-and-Shoot.

Slocum said he expects no mercy from the Cougars or their coach — former Aggie All-American line-backer Jack Pardee. Pardee may be a former A&M student, Slocum said, but now he's the coach of an opposing team with the offensive firepower to score a lot of points.

"He's got a player there that's outstanding and they're bringing attention to their program," Slocum said. "They can get as many points as they can get. I'm not going to have any ill feelings. It's our place to keep the score down, it's not his job."

Gill, Veasey named SWC Players of Week

LUBBOCK (AP) — Jamie Gill's pair of fourth-quarter touchdown passes propelled Texas Tech to a 27-24 upset over 19th-ranked Texas A&M and earned him honors as the Southwest Conference offensive player of the week.

After two consecutive sacks, Gill tossed a 35-yard pass to Travis Price in the end zone with 50 seconds remaining to give the Red Raiders their first lead in Saturday's game. Gill passed for 139 yards in the fourth quarter, which began with the Aggies leading 24-14. He completed 19 of 30 passes for 237 yards and three touchdowns and no interceptions.

"He completed 12 of the last 13 passes he threw. He grew up a lot," Tech Coach Spike Dykes said of the sophomore quarterback.

The Southwest Conference defensive player of the week is Craig Veasey of Houston. The defensive end recorded a sack and eight tackles and recovered two fumbles that led to touchdowns in Houston's 66-10 shellacking of Baylor.

Houston also got fine offensive performances from Andre Ware, who threw six touchdown passes before leaving with 4:05 remaining in

the third quarter, and Manny Hazard, who caught five touchdown passes. Ware completed 33 of 53 attempts for 514 yards, with one interception.

Though his statistics weren't as spectacular as Ware's, Gill's fourth-quarter heroics against Texas A&M got the home crowd of 50,743 about as excited as it could get. A 23-yard pass to Price with 5:44 left to play got the Raiders within four at 24-20, and the fans went into a frenzy after the go-ahead touchdown less than five minutes later.

"Travis made a great move and all I had to do was throw the ball," Gill said of the winning score. "It's easy when you have great protection and great receivers."

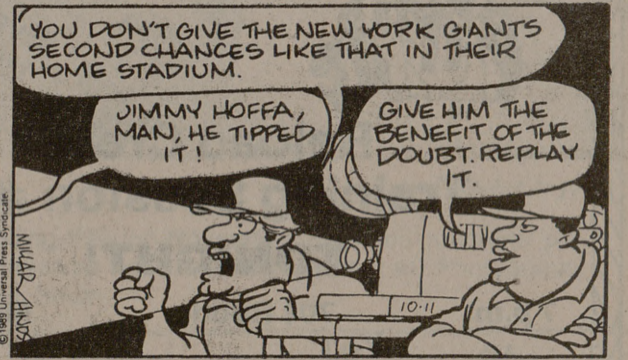
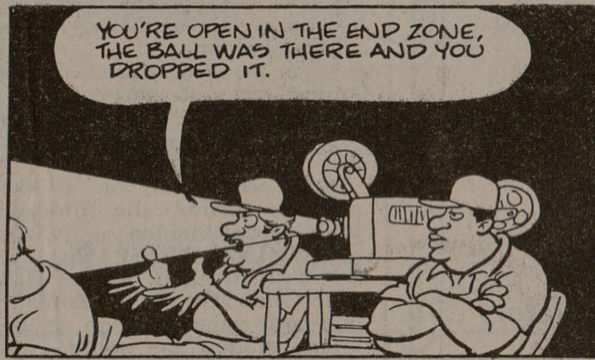
Gill said he felt calm and self-assured on the play, even though he had just been sacked twice in a row for 23 yards in losses.

Dykes said: "The deal I'm impressed with is he got two big sacks and he had the poise to go back in there and throw that touchdown pass."

pass." Veasey was a key catalyst in Houston's 23-point explosion in the final 2:53 of the first half. During that short time, he recovered a fumble, caused a fumble and recovered another fumble.

"We knew we had a task ahead of us," Veasey said after the game. "They came in ranked high in offense. They never seemed down, especially in the first half. I never saw the hurt in their eyes until the third quarter."

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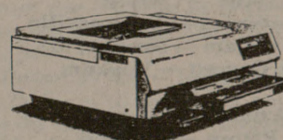
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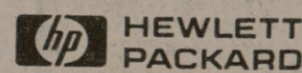
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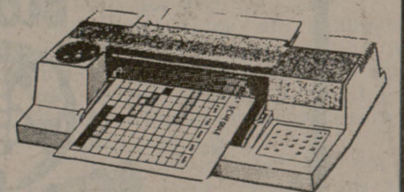
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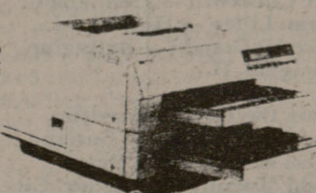
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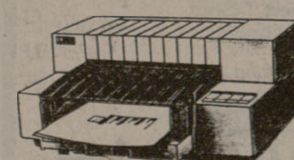
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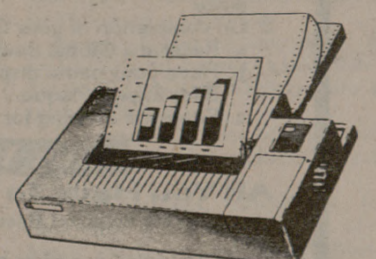
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