

Richard Tijerina
Assistant Sports Editor

Butkus, Lombardi candidate talented; Snow will not fall

Texas A&M linebacker Aaron Wallace is just about an All-Everything for the Aggies in 1989.

So far, he has been. Wallace was named to several preseason All-American lists, and was mentioned as a possible candidate for the Butkus and Lombardi Awards, given annually to the nation's top collegiate linebacker and lineman, respectively.

But those preseason hopes have faded somewhat. Wallace has already been named as a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award, but on Monday was not included in the list of finalists for the Butkus.

Wallace may not have made the final cut, but there's no doubt the list of five finalists have shown they're the best linebackers in the nation.

• Keith McCants (6-5, 246; Alabama). McCants is cut out of the same mold as former Crimson Tide linebacking greats Cornelius Bennett and Derrick Thomas, both of whom were first round draft picks in the NFL Draft.

• Percy Snow (6-4, 240; Michigan State). In 1989, McCants has recorded 81 tackles and three sacks. Heading into the season, Snow said he had two goals: One, to win the Butkus. Two, to be known as the best linebacker ever to play at Michigan State. He's got the ability to accomplish both.

• James Francis (6-4, 245; Baylor). In 1989, Snow has 121 tackles, including 23 against Illinois. He's also made one interception and one fumble recovery.

• James Francis (6-4, 245; Baylor). Francis is an extremely talented player, and is the premier linebacker in the Southwest Conference. He has been impressive this season, leading the Bears' defense.

• Andre Collins (6-3, 240; Penn State). In 1989, Francis has 90 tackles, six sacks and one fumble recovery. He also has six blocked kicks, one short of the national record.

• Coach Joe Paterno really had some big

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Lady Ags break streak, Owls

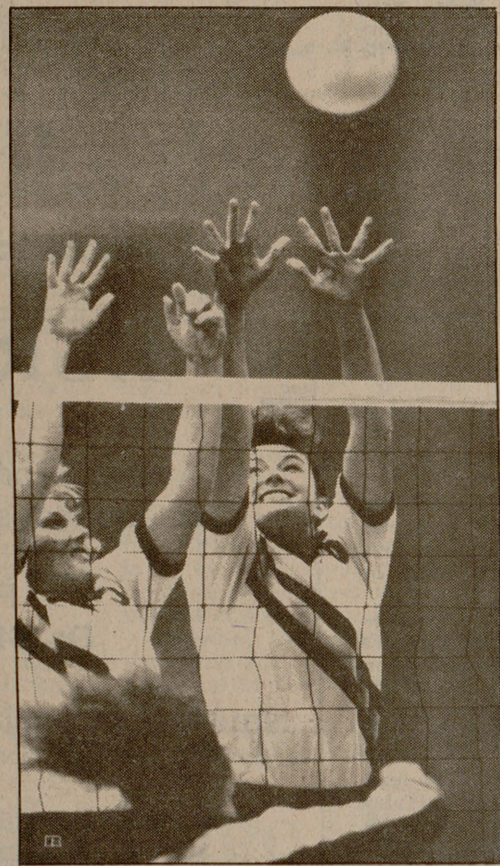


Photo by Frederick D. Joe

Krista Hierholzer (6) and Amy Cumings (5) block a Rice shot.

By Alan Lehmann

Of The Battalion Staff

Trying to break a five match losing streak and avenge an earlier loss to Rice, the Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team quickly "blocked" out any chance of falling to the Owls Monday night.

The Lady Aggies used a strong defensive showing to beat the Owls 15-8, 15-5, 1-15, 16-14, at G. Rollie White Coliseum, avenging an earlier loss Rice in Houston.

A&M outblocked Rice 13-2 on its way to upping its Southwest Conference record to 2-5, and 10-14 overall. Rice drops to 2-5 and 18-9.

Kelli Kellen had seven blocks, including five solos, and eight kills to lead the Lady Aggies. Amy Cumings had 11 kills and two blocks, one of them solo. Redshirt fresh-

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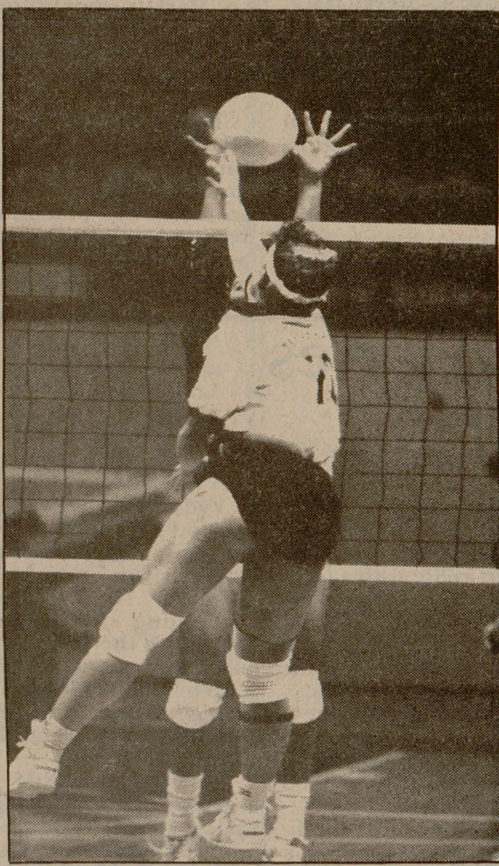


Photo by Chuck Squatriglia

Sheri Hermesmeyer (10) slams past a Rice defender in A&M's win.

By Alan Lehmann

Of The Battalion Staff

man Raychelle Mickalke had three aces, despite playing only sparingly. Rice's Tricia Bowen led all players with 16 kills, and teammate Nicci Yarber had 11.

A&M Coach Al Givens said it was great to finally snap the losing streak. "We've played two great matches back-to-back now, and it feels great to win this one," Givens said. "Our record is still not where it should be, but we're coming along."

He also was pleased with his team's defensive performance, he said.

"This was our best defensive showing of the whole season," Givens said. "Before the match, we wanted to block and pass well. I think we blocked the best we have all season and with the exception of the third

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Murff wins scooter in weekend match

By Alan Lehmann

Of The Battalion Staff

The most exciting sporting event on campus last weekend didn't happen on Kyle Field. It occurred Saturday night in G. Rollie White between the second and third games of the A&M-Nebraska volleyball match.

When Jim Murff, a freshman from Fort Worth, stepped to the serving line in the Whataburger Serving Contest, he tried to serve a volleyball over the net and into a plastic garbage can on the opposite side's back line.

His serve drifted across the net in a rainbow arc, and landed directly in the middle of the can.

For his serve, he received a Yamaha Razz motorscooter, and a standing ovation from the crowd.

Whataburger sponsors the competition for all Southwest Conference volleyball teams.

For every A&M home match, ten game programs are signed by the featured Lady Aggie on the cover. The programs are free, and are distributed randomly as fans enter the Coliseum.

Fans who have the autographed programs are given a chance to serve between the second and third games of the match.

Along with the grand prize trash can, contestants can win other prizes by serving on four plastic circles, including money, T-shirts and a year's supply of Whataburgers.

This was the first time that anyone has won the grand prize.

"I go the the volleyball games because they're fun to watch," Murff said. "I've always thought it would be nice to win something (in the contest), but I didn't expect it."

Murff, who captains a volleyball team for Aston Hall, had time to modify his strategy after many of the contestants fail to clear the net on overhand serves.

"I serve overhanded when I play, but I'd been having trouble lately, so I decided to try an underhanded serve," he said. "The arc on the underhanded serve seemed like it would be easier to sink."

Sink it, he did. Who says that being a spectator can't be profitable?

Ags No. 16 in AP's 25

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

Texas A&M jumped to its second highest poll ranking of the year Tuesday, as the Aggies (7-2) moved four spots to No. 16 in the Associated Press college football poll.

The Aggies routed Southern Methodist 63-14 and were helped by losses by four teams ranked ahead of them in last week's poll. The highest the Aggies have been ranked this year is 15th, in the second week of the season after beating then No. 6 Louisiana State.

A&M has the next two weeks off to pre-

AP Top 25 Poll

Team	Last Week
1. Notre Dame	1
2. Colorado	2
3. Michigan	3
4. Alabama	4
5. Florida State	5
6. Nebraska	6
7. Miami	7
8. Illinois	8
9. Southern Cal.	9
10. Arkansas	11
11. Tennessee	10
12. Auburn	12
13. Penn State	16
14. Pittsburgh	14
15. Houston	17
16. Texas A&M	20
17. Clemson	21
18. Virginia	24
19. West Virginia	13
20. Florida	19
21. Brigham Young	23
22. N. Carolina St.	18
23. Texas Tech	25
24. Fresno St.	—
25. Arizona	15


pare for No. 10 Arkansas on Nov. 24. The Aggies sit atop the Southwest Conference with a 5-1 SWC record. Arkansas (4-1) and Texas (3-1) are behind the Aggies in conference play.

The Aggies' last two games of the season are against the Razorbacks and the Longhorns, and Coach R.C. Slocum said A&M is right where he wanted it to be at this point in the season.

"I would have really been disappointed if we went into these last two games without a chance to play for the championship," Slocum said. "This is where we wanted to be way back in the summer. The conference championship is within our control. We can be the conference champions."

Although A&M may end up as SWC champions, the national championship is startin to appear like it won't be resolved until a bowl game between the No. 1 and

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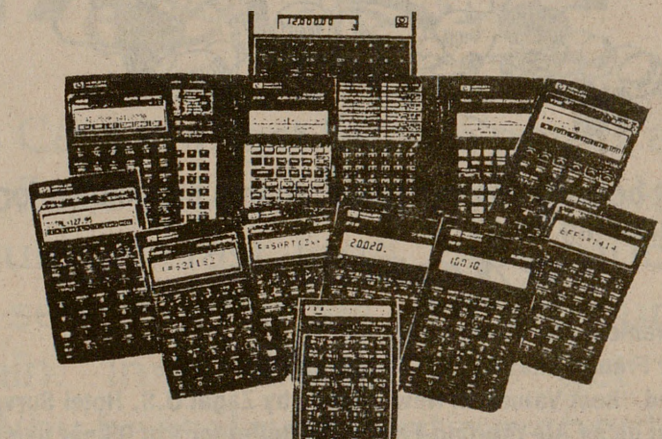
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