

## No. 12 Tech trips Lady Ags

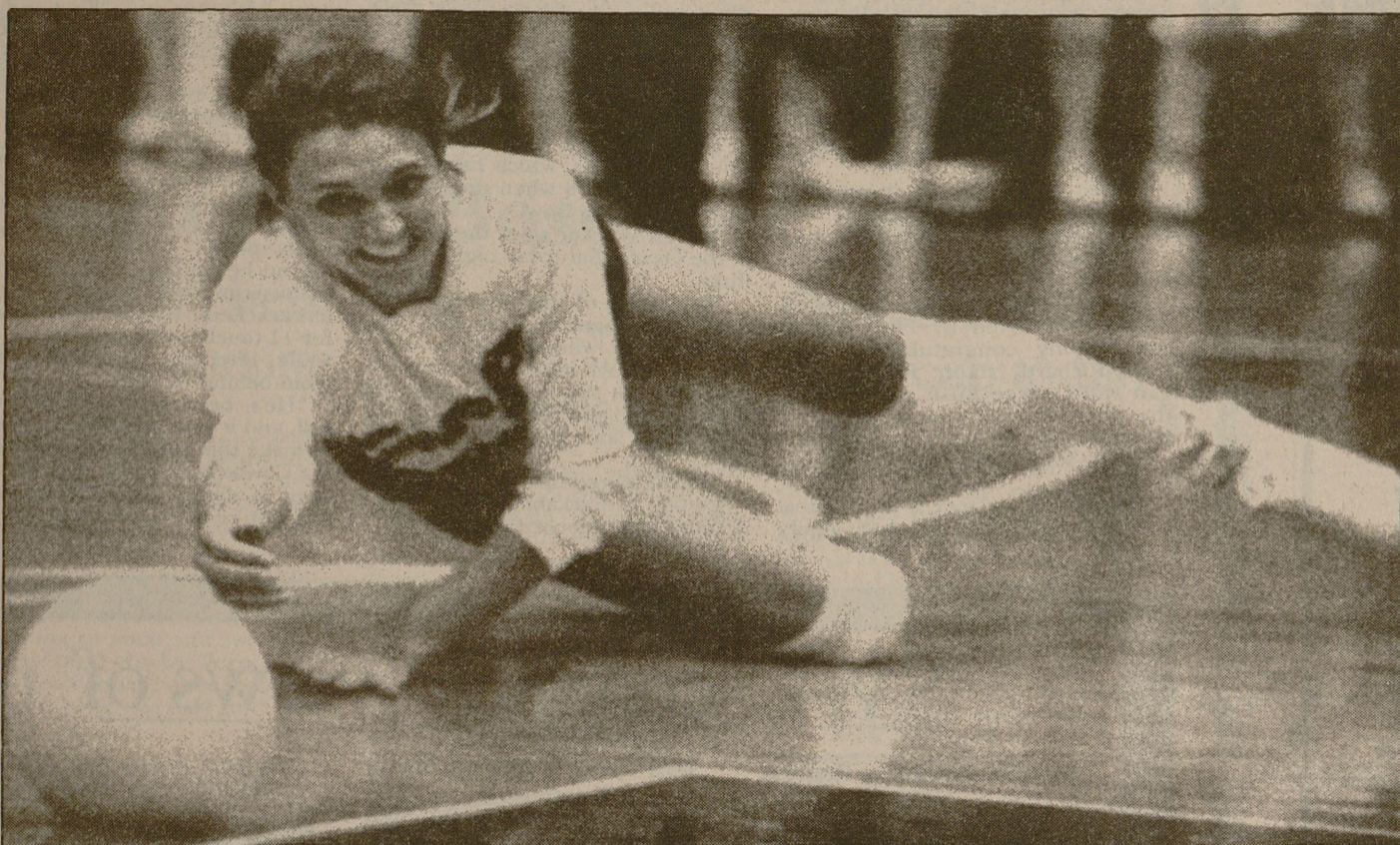


Photo by Jay Janner

A&M's Amy Cumings dives for a spiked ball in the Lady Aggies' loss to Texas Tech Wednesday night.

By SCOTT WUDEL  
Of The Battalion Staff

The Lady Aggies gave 12th-ranked Texas Tech all it could handle Wednesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The A&M volleyball team forced the Red Raiders to four long games on the way to their second conference loss, 10-15, 15-11, 15-17, 10-15.

The loss drops A&M's conference record to 7-12, 1-2 in Southwest Conference play. The nationally ranked Red Raiders improved their record to 18-1, 2-1.

A&M coach Al Givens was pleased with the competitive play of the Lady Aggies against a team of Texas Tech's caliber.

"Tech's a good ball club, they're not 18-1 because they're bad," Givens said.

"But I think we showed that we're a good team. And we've made progress. We're moving in the right direction."

He says it didn't take long for his team to rise to the occasion in the match.

"We started out a little bit not wanting to make mistakes, because they are a pretty good ball control team," he said.

"Once we realized that if we put a little pressure on them, they could make mistakes as well," he said.

"Then I think we raised it to another level."

Both teams started the match tentatively, but the Lady Aggies were a bit slower. A&M

was down 7-2 before its "mad-dog" defense started coming alive. Seniors Amy Cumings and Krista Hierholzer led an Aggie defense that crawled back to take the lead 8-7 in the first game.

The two teams dueled it out from that point on before the Red Raiders were handed the game on four straight A&M errors that gave the last four points to the Raiders.

If there could be a time of possession statistic in volleyball, it would have showed an even amount for each team in the match. Neither team could get a long scoring rally going, as the teams traded endless numbers

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## A's eliminate Sox, Clemens on way to AL pennant

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — First the umpires got rid of Roger Clemens, then the rest was easy for Dave Stewart and the Oakland Athletics. They swept the Boston Red Sox for the American League pennant and their third straight trip to the World Series.

Stewart followed up his first-game heroics with an even better effort. He beat Boston 3-1 Wednesday and won for the eighth straight time in head-to-head matchups with Clemens.

The only real question in Game 4 was how long Clemens could hold off Oakland. Pushing his tender shoulder on three days'

rest to the bewilderment of much of Boston, the answer was not long at all.

In the ultimate sign of Boston's failure and frustration, Clemens was ejected in the second inning for arguing balls and strikes with umpire Terry Cooney, triggering a wild scene that left water coolers, players and coaches strewn across the field.

The Red Sox were already down 1-0 at that point and without the lone hope, they were helpless. Especially against the take-advantage A's, and it showed when Mike Gallego met Tom Bolton with a two-run double that sent Oakland to its 10th straight victory in the postseason.

These mighty A's became the first team in 71 years to win a postseason series without hitting a home run, but it didn't matter. They became the first team to reach the World Series three straight times since the 1976-78 New York Yankees.

The Athletics will begin defense of their World Series championship Tuesday night in either Cincinnati or Pittsburgh.

Boston, meanwhile, lost its 10th straight game in the postseason and extended its record of consecutive playoff defeats to eight.

The Athletics, the winningest team in baseball this year, swept Boston from the 1988 playoffs and won last year's World Series in four straight. Oakland's fans also are accustomed to such success: By the final inning, a procession of about 100 green-and-gold clad fans carrying brooms marched around the Coliseum stands shouting "Sweep! Sweep! Sweep!"

Stewart, who held Boston to one run on

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## Clemens' boot shouldn't happen in playoff game

In the end, no one will really know what effect pitching ace Roger Clemens' ejection from

Wednesday's 3-1 Oakland win had on the Boston Red Sox. When the two-time Cy Young award winner got the boot in the second inning, the A's were ahead 1-0 with two men on base.

Richard Tijerina

Clemens, pitching on just three days of rest and suffering from shoulder tendinitis, was throwing hard. The Red Sox eventually did score the run that would have tied the game in the ninth inning had Clemens gotten out of the jam in the second.

Reliever Tom Bolton and the rest of the Red Sox bullpen did what was asked of them. They kept Boston in the game. It was the Red Sox offense, or lack thereof, that should be blamed.

With two outs, Bolton came in and surrendered a two-run double to Mike Gallego. Both runs were credited to Clemens, who spent an inning or two sipping Gatorade in the Red Sox dugout, shaking his head.

Clemens had plenty of reasons to be confused. His ejection by home plate umpire Terry Cooney was absurd, no matter what Clemens muttered from the mound. American League rules say you can't argue balls and strikes with an umpire. The only thing is, everyone does.

AL umpire Don Denkinger told CBS that umpires will let a pitcher question balls and strikes, but won't let him get personal in his complaints. Fine. But I say Cooney's decision still was wrong. You don't eject a Roger Clemens from Game 4 of the AL Championship Series.

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