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Lady Aggies host weekend matches

By SCOTT WUDEL
Of The Battalion Staff

The Lady Aggies hope they have the same luck this weekend that they did two weeks ago.

The Texas A&M volleyball team will host the Lady Aggie Classic this weekend at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies face the University of Kansas today at 7 p.m. Saturday, A&M plays host to Sam Houston State University at noon and finishes the tourney with North Carolina State at 7 p.m.

The Lady Aggies are 7-12 and are coming off two hard fought losses to conference opponents Houston and Texas Tech.

Two weeks ago the Lady Aggies hosted and won the Texas A&M-Hampton Inn Invitational, losing only one game in three matches. The victories helped boost the Lady Ags' confidence after a long road trip.

A&M coach Al Givens says winning another tournament could greatly help the team.

"Definitely," Givens said. "I think we want to go out and have a successful outing this weekend, to prepare not only for the week to come, but just to get to the point where we are feeling good."

The Lady Aggies almost upset 12th-ranked Texas Tech Wednesday night. Givens said the match was a hard fought battle and that the team feels positive with its performance.

"That's the important part, to keep focused on the process," he said. "We're a much better team right now than we were three weeks ago."

"We're playing high-level volleyball, and I think we're starting to get consistent on our side of the court."

Kansas is 9-12 coming into the tournament. North Carolina State posts a 4-9 season record.

A&M will try to avenge a loss to Sam Houston State in September, which the Lady Aggies struggled through a three-game loss to the Bearkats on the road.

The Lady Aggies are 6-2 while playing in G. Rollie White.

"We need to pick up some W's," Givens said.

"Nothing builds success, like success."

Aggieland Pictures

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Letters to the Sports Editor

EDITOR:

Just a note to welcome all you poor Aggies to the Cougar Den this weekend where we'll kick your arrogant butts all over the floor. You won't be playing the Sisters of Poor this weekend — it'll be a real football team. Just like your lousy trip to LSU, we'll do even worse to you.

We also wanted to congratulate your wonderful 12th Man Kickoff Team for their great job with Tech. Now they're benched, and by Saturday afternoon we'll have the rest of you 12th men sitting down, benched and crying.

And don't think this year you can make enough noise to cause our QB to miss signals like last year. After your pitiful showing with Tech and LSU, most of you fans will stay home Saturday and we'll have the Dome to ourselves.

Good luck. You'll need it, now that the best paid players in the conference have left your school along with their outlaw coach, Shady Sherrill.

C. Srader, Diehard Cougar

EDITOR:

Those of us who have 'stood united' at Kyle Field (and scores of other stadiums) know what it is to be outscored. It was quite another thing to see coach Slocum refute 68 years of 12th Man Tradition last Saturday.

To publicly abandon those dedicated men of the 12th Man Kickoff Team should cause student outrage. I know many Ol' Ags will wonder, poised over their check books, if Coach thinks the 12th Man Foundation passe.

Van Redman, DVM '87
 P.S.: A note to John David Crow Please don't let R.C. scrap Dr. Gill's statue. It wouldn't bring enough to fund a scholarship kick off team.

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downs. Sophomore Marcus Grant also has 20 catches and sophomore Tracy Good leads the team with 30.

A&M cornerback Kevin Smith said the key to success against the Cougars is not in stopping their vaunted offense, just slowing it down.

"If the Run-and-Shoot is on, it's hard to stop," Smith said. "But it's not really stopping it, it's containing it. You keep the score low, keep the ball (offensively) and play real good defense."

"If they could get their defense to stiffen up a little more, it might be different."

In fact, if there is one weakness on the Houston team, it is in their defense.

Last year against Arkansas, the Cougars scored 39 points and racked up 571 yards. However, the defense yielded 45 points and 647 yards as the Razorbacks scored 28 second-half points to win.

This year Houston returned only two defensive starters and will enter Saturday's game with the second worst defense in the league, giving up almost 400 yards a game.

All offense and little defense could pose a problem for the Cougars. The Aggies have proven they're not so bad on offense either.

The A&M rushing game, led by center Mike Arthur, guards Mike Pappas and Keith Alex and tackles Matt McCall and Jason Rockhold, is averaging 312 yards a game — fifth in the nation.

The Aggies are coming off a 28-24 win over Texas Tech in which tailback Darren Lewis had a career-high 232 yards. Overall, the A&M offense averages 480 yards a ball-

Wudel

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rationale behind the kickoff team's possible demise.

"We are not dropping the 12th Man team!" Slocum cleared the air again with a smile on his face.

Slocum said the touchdown was merely a matter of football circumstance — a poor kick and poor coverage. As with anything else, it can be easily corrected.

So what kickoff team runs on to the field when A&M plays the Baylor Bears in its next home game next weekend?

Buy a ticket to the game and don't be late.

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