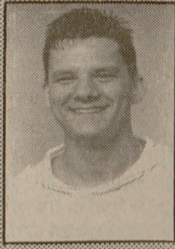


# Sports



**Anthony Andro**  
Sportswriter

## Texas lacks winning pro sports teams

The state of Texas is a great state to live in. But why does it have to have such lousy sports teams? It's such a big state, you'd figure at least one of the professional teams today could be championship-caliber - Wrong.

California is a big state like Texas, and it's professional teams win games.

Texas cities with pro sports franchises have been living with futility for too long.

Look at Houston, one of the biggest cities in the nation, and what do they have to show for it? Nothing, nada, zero.

For the Astros and the Oilers, the reason is pretty obvious - The Astrodome.

The so-called "Eighth Wonder of the World" reminds me more of a cave than a monument. Isn't this the same dome they tried to put natural grass in?

But, it's not only the dome. It's the teams playing in the dome.

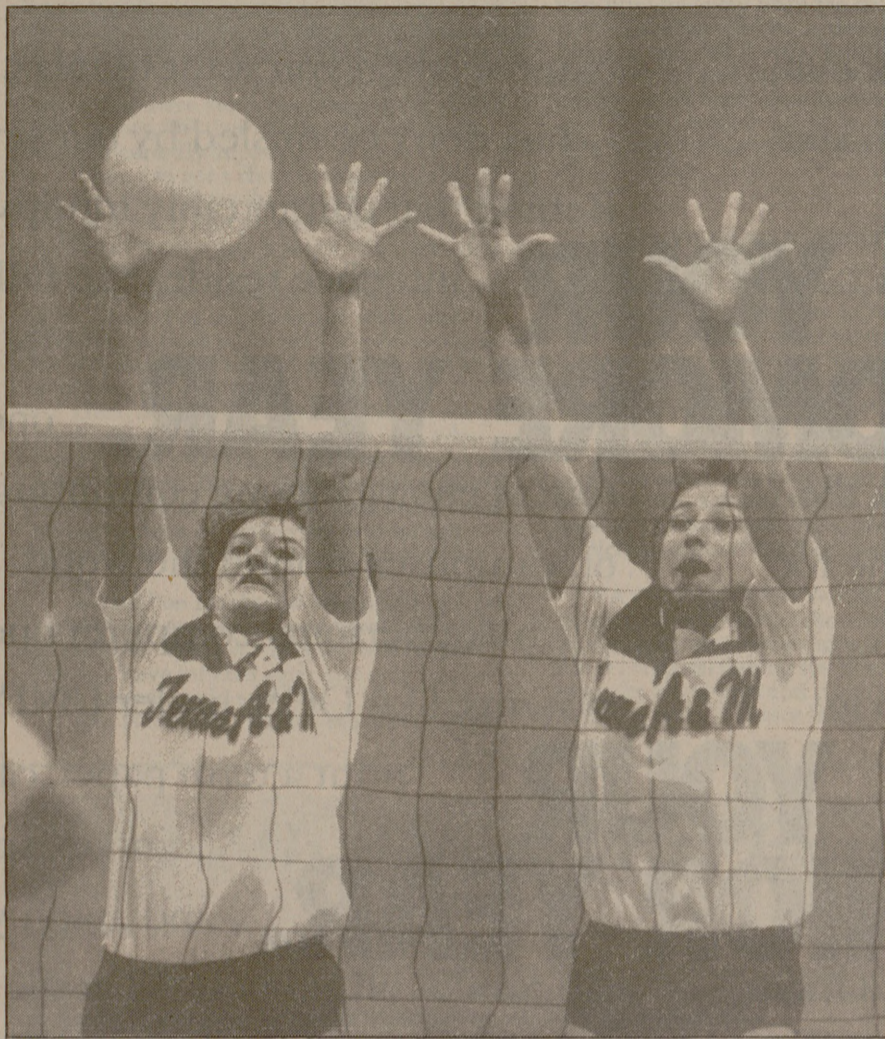
The Astros are one of the worst team's in major league baseball. And it doesn't help matters when they get rid of their only two drawing cards - Remember Nolan Ryan and Glenn Davis?

Ryan, the great public relations machine, draws nearly 30,000 fans every time he steps on to the mound for the Rangers in Arlington. The

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## A&M cuts down Ladyjacks

### Lady Aggies bounce back on homecourt



TED ALBRACHT/ The Battalion

Senior outside attacker Alysia McMath and freshman middle blocker Toni Keister work together to provide a wall of defense in A&M's victory over Stephen F. Austin on Wednesday

night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies won the match 15-5, 15-7, 15-11 and improve their record to 5-6. A&M travels to San Antonio this Friday to compete in the UTSA Invitational.

By Chris Whitley  
The Battalion

As far as the Lady Aggies are concerned, it's nice to be back home.

They came back from a disappointing road trip to defeat the Stephen F. Austin Ladyjacks Wednesday night in three straight games, 15-5, 15-7, 15-11.

The Lady Aggies improve their record to 5-6 while SFA falls to 4-5.

A&M's win comes after losing four out of five games in the J.M.N. Premiere Tournament in Fullerton, California last weekend.

Head coach Al Givens said the team had a difficult time recovering from the road losses.

"It took us through almost the end of practice yesterday (to recover)," Givens said. "Finally, I said, 'Ladies, enough is enough. That's history. Right now, we've got to prepare for Stephen F.'"

The Lady Aggies came back strong posting big leads early in each game. In the first game, A&M took the first eight points, five of them off the serve of senior Alysia McMath.

In the third game, the Lady Aggies had a tough time closing the game out. After going up 14-5, the Ladyjacks scored six consecutive points until freshman Joni Keister served the game-ending point.

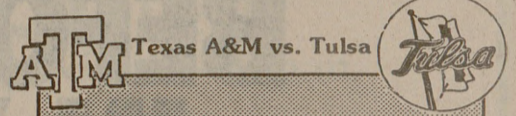
"I don't think it was so much a lack of ability, maybe they were just trying too hard," Givens said. "They wanted to hurry up and close it out."

Junior Kim Mitchell, who made some important kills in the third game, said playing in front of the home crowd helped the team.

"After this weekend, we felt like we had to prove that we could play well," Mitchell said. "We were glad to get back home. We like to be at home, and we just wanted to have fun and beat SFA."

Serving plagued the Ladyjacks. The

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## Thomas runs out of Hill's shadow

By Steve O'Brien  
The Battalion

Freshman tailback Rodney Thomas tried to leap out of Greg Hill's shadow during A&M's victory over Louisiana State Saturday. It's just that the shadow is awfully big.

Thomas rushed for 81 yards on 12 carries, including one touchdown in his first ever college game. The touchdown came on a

third-and-one play from LSU's 9-yard line. Thomas took a handoff from

quarterback Jeff Granger, ran left and then decided it was time to fly.

Thomas' jump covered about four yards and lasted a little over a second. When he landed, he had given the Aggies' their final touchdown of the game and earned himself the "Take it to the house award."

The award is given to the player who best puts the ball in the end zone, A&M offensive coordinator Bob Toledo said. And leaping isn't something Aggie coaches teach.

"That's just instinct," Toledo said. "We give a little award called 'take it to the house' and Rodney got it. The



Thomas

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# Who do you say Jesus is?

Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man comes to the father but through me.

John 14:6

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				Gayle Schmidt Health and Kinesiology	

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