

Steve O'Brien
Asst. Sports Editor

A&M deserves a better class of competition

Texas A&M athletic director John David Crow and head football coach R.C. Slocum have put together one of the best football programs in the country.

Dealing with some of the players this semester, I've found that a preconceived notion of mine was false. A&M football players aren't different from many of the regular students at A&M. They're just regular students who happen to be damn good athletes.

Slocum is just a regular professor, but his classroom happens to be Kyle Field.

When you put these two together, you get a winner. It's a combination that rivals any in the country. A&M can compete with any team in the country, on any field.

That's all the more reason for Aggie fans to be bothered when A&M plays a team like Tulsa. A&M lost 35-34 to the Golden Hurricane and plummeted out of the Top 25. The Aggies went into the game ranked 14th.

There's nothing to gain by playing a time like Tulsa. If you win, sports writers complain it was an easy victory and don't give you much credit. If you lose, no one sports writer can comprehend it and you end up sucking the scum of the unranked.

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Lady Aggies must find winning ticket

Volleyball team works through ups and downs of tough season

By Chris Whitley
The Battalion

The Texas A&M volleyball team has been on a roller-coaster ride through its first 20 games.

The Lady Aggies have had their ups and downs. They won seven of eight at one point, their blocking has improved, and they are above .500.

But they also suffered through a miserable 1-4 tournament in California, their serves have struggled of late, and the meat of the Southwest Conference season is yet to come.

A&M will try to make its way back up Sunday when they host the University of Houston at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 4 p.m. The match will be televised by Home Sports Entertainment.

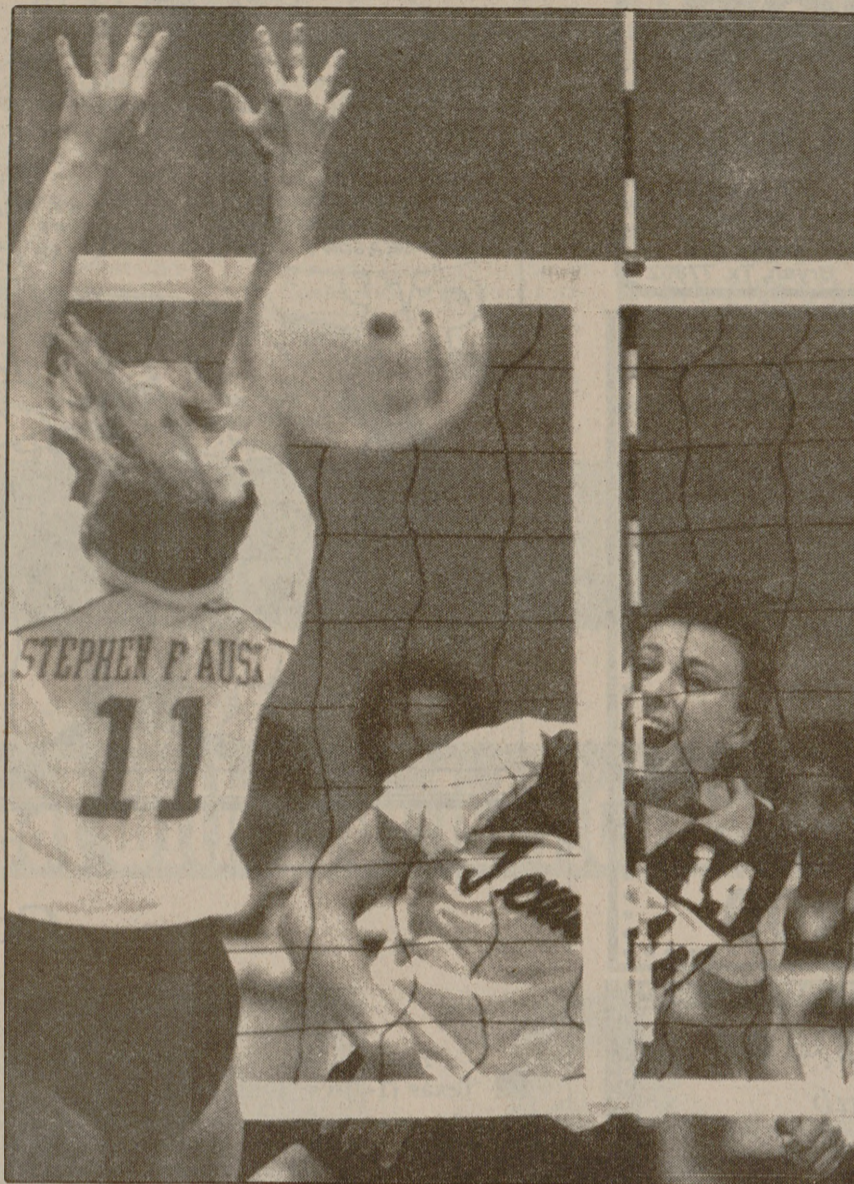
Head coach Al Givens said the key to the Lady Aggies' success is simply believing in themselves.

"The thing that we need more than anything is probably self-confidence and the belief in ourselves that we are a good ball club," Givens said. "I think that's the only thing that's missing."

The Lady Aggies have lost two consecutive matches and now hold an 11-9 record. They lost last Saturday to Florida State University and Wednesday night at the University of Texas. A&M stands at 1-1 in conference play.

Senior Alysia McMath and junior Elizabeth Edmiston have led the team this year on paper and on the court. McMath leads the Lady Aggies in kills with 254, while Edmiston is second with 241.

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HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Senior volleyball player Alysia McMath must help the Lady Aggies find confidence when A&M faces the University of Houston on Sunday at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 4 p.m.

Braves even NL series

Atlanta slips past Pittsburgh 1-0

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Steve Avery is too young to know the Braves aren't supposed to win in October.

The 21-year-old again pitched with poise and Atlanta bounced back Thursday night to beat the Pittsburgh Pirates 1-0 — with a chop, naturally — to send the NL playoffs south tied at one game each.

Mark Lemke's two-hopper eluded sure-handed third baseman Steve Buechele for an RBI double in the sixth inning, and that was enough, barely. Avery and Atlanta stopped the Braves' 10-game postseason losing streak, one short of the Philadelphia Phillies' record skid.

Avery gave up six hits in 8 1-3 innings, struck out nine and, unlike Tom Glavine in the opener, shut down Pittsburgh's middle of the order for the most part. Plus, he was at his best when it really counted.

Avery retired Game 1 hero Andy Van Slyke on a grounder with runners on first and third to end the eighth inning. Then in the ninth, Bobby Bonilla led off with a double, making him 6-for-12 lifetime against Avery. That brought up Barry Bonds, and with the Pirates' star showing no signs of bunting, popped up to shortstop.

Braves manager Bobby Cox felt that was enough for Avery and summoned Alejandro Pena from the bullpen. Pena put himself in further trouble with a wild pitch that sent Bonilla to third, but then showed why



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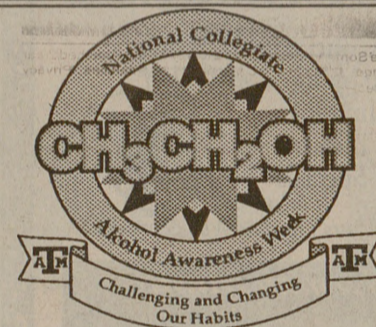
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National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness Week 1991

Date	Event	Time	Location
10/14	Spencer Haywood: Choice of a Lifetime* Former NBA star speaks on dangers of alcohol and drugs Sponsored by Athletic Dept., Center for Drug Prevention, MSC Black Awareness Committee, Div. of Student Services, and the Dept. of Multicultural Services	8:00 p.m.	201 MSC
10/15	Mocktail Madness Party* Free refreshments, games, prizes Sponsored by Off Campus Aggies	6:30 p.m.	201 MSC
10/16	Sleuth (Death by Alcohol)* Solve the mystery and win a prize Sponsored by Aggies Advocating Designated Drivers		
10/16	T-Shirt Night at Aggie Volleyball* White Wear your NCAAW T-shirt and get FREE admission to the game and a FREE soda Sponsored by the Athletic Dept.	7:00 p.m.	G. Rollie
10/17	Hall-y-wood Squares* Cheer on your favorite residence hall Sponsored by Residence Hall Association	3 - 5 p.m.	Davis-Gary Quad
10/19	T-shirt Day at the Baylor Football Game Wear your NCAAW '91 T-shirt (on sale at various TAMU campus locations) to the game for a special appreciation activity Sponsored by the TAMU and Baylor NCAAW '91 Planning Committees		Waco, Texas

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