

Home Sweet Home

Lady Aggies move to 2-0 at home with victory over Southwest Texas

By K. LEE DAVIS

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Lady Aggies salted away a sloppy victory and a measure of revenge against rival Southwest Texas State Wednesday in front of a boisterous G. Rollie White crowd of 385.

The Bobcats defeated A&M last season in a five game match that the A&M players say they believed they should have won.

The Aggies were victorious this time despite 20 serving errors and just 5 serving aces.

Lady Aggie Head Coach Al Givens characterized the match as a victory, although it was not an attractive one.

"It's a 'W.' It's ugly, but we're 5-1 and we haven't been 5-1 since 1986," Givens said.

SWT head coach Karen Chisum said here squad had opportunities to take the match away from the Lady Aggies, but that they couldn't put it away.

"They tried hard to give us the match," Chisum said. "I never saw any team miss as many serves, but we couldn't take advantage."

The Aggies struggled throughout game one, trailing 7-3 at one point before rallying for eight consecutive points to an eventual 15-11 victory to go ahead in the match 1-0.

"It was almost a labor out there today," Givens said. "It was an effort to even make a move."

Givens was also quick to give credit to the Bobcats.

"They dug balls and just kept coming at us," Givens said. "They pursued balls that were going off the court, but if you look at the long rallies, I'd say we won 60 or 70 percent of those."

"And those long rallies can be major momentum points, because you work so hard, and if you come up empty, it just takes the wind out of your sails."

The Bobcats jumped out to a quick 8-0 lead in the second game before the Lady

Aggies could storm back to tie the score. The comeback effort was wasted, however, when the Aggies were buried under a seven point onslaught as SWT took the game, 15-8.

The Lady Aggies were beginning to show their frustration as they headed to the locker room during the ten minute intermission before coming out for the third game and re-establishing dominance in the match.

With A&M ahead 5-4 and still struggling under the weight of errors, junior setter Genny Wood served for three consecutive points, including an ace as the Aggies gathered their confidence.

"We didn't want to go five games with them definitely," Wood said. "We didn't want to put ourselves in that position. We shouldn't have even gone four games."

Senior outside attacker Elizabeth Edmiston recovered from earlier problems to nail the game ending kill as A&M went on to a 15-6 victory in game three.

"We broke down individually, some of our individual players ended up not doing as good a job as what they had been," Chisum said. "Physically, they beat us tonight, because they are in better condition than we are."

"But we are going to go home and take care of that."

Freshman setter Suzy Wente, just four months removed from her high school graduation from San Antonio Clark, spurred the team on with inspired play by setting 29 assists and digging 16 balls.

"We just had to start playing at the level we should be at," Wente said.

The Lady Aggies went on to dominate game four by scoring 11 of the final 13 points to win the game 15-8 and the match 3-1.

Givens was pleased with the way his team is maturing this year over past ones.

"All factors being the same, if this had been last year I don't know that we could have had enough mental toughness to find a way to win."

Don't think Aggies aren't after revenge

They say revenge is not on their minds.

After a stunning 35-34 upset at the hands of the Tulsa Golden Hurricane last season which proved to be Texas A&M's only loss, the Aggies could never quite gain the national respect they deserved.

Even nine straight wins and an 8-0 cakewalk through the Southwest Conference schedule didn't grab the attention of Associated Press vote-casters.

The Aggies claimed the nation's number one defense, a high powered offense, and the best tooth-rattling hit in the entire universe laid upon a TCU receiver by one A&M defender.

Yet when respect was deserved, the cries came out. "What happened in Tulsa?" the doubters chanted. "How could A&M have possibly blown that lead?"

The statements came all year. Yet, they say revenge is not on their minds.

"They're Patrick Bates, Marcus Buckley, R.C. Slocum, Jeff Granger and the rest of the 1992 A&M squad, who are looking to make this season an unblemished one."

Luckily for the Aggies, Tulsa proved to have a pretty solid team in 1991 after all. They reeled off seven straight wins, including a Freedom Bowl victory over San Diego State and possibly the most dangerous back in the nation, Marshall Faulk.

The Golden Hurricane even opened



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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Junior Amy Kisling spikes the ball past the Southwest Texas State defenders in the first game of A&M's victory Wednesday night. The Lady Aggies defeated SWT 15-11, 8-15, 15-6, 15-8.

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