

Aggies need a better showing in football polls

Texas A&M head coach R. C. Slocum says he doesn't care what happens in the college football polls, and I believe him.

Furthermore, I'm glad he doesn't care since he has a lot of things to take care of that he can control and doesn't need to worry about the things he can't.

But I care what happens in the Associated Press Top 25 poll, and I'm willing to bet that University President William Mobley cares, too.

Some estimated that the difference in revenue between being in first or second place, is a cool \$10 million, and I'm sure Mobley could figure out where to spend it.

Three times this season, our fifth-ranked Aggies have been jumped in the poll because A&M was either unimpressive in victory or didn't play at all.

This past weekend, Alabama vaulted ahead of the Aggies into fourth place as we sat idle.

The coaches must like A&M because their poll didn't allow the Aggies to suffer this ignominy this week, moving them up to the fourth spot after our old friends from Arkansas shocked everyone, including themselves, by beating then fourth-ranked Tennessee.

But for the purposes of this argument, the coaches poll is as worthless as Confederate money since they



K. LEE DAVIS
Sports Writer

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Baylor up next for Lady Aggies

A&M tries to end current drought against Lady Bears

By DON NORWOOD

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

If you want to look up the definition of urgency, do not ask Webster. Just take a look at the situation the Texas A&M volleyball team finds itself in right now.

The Lady Aggies' (10-7, 1-3 in the Southwest Conference) hopes for postseason play hinge on tonight's 7:30 match in Waco against Baylor, a team that is making last year's fifth-place finish in the SWC a distant memory with a 17-6 record and a rank of 14th in the NCAA South Region poll.

If Baylor manages to defeat A&M tonight, that will leave them just two wins shy of last year's season total of 20.

A&M head coach Al Givens said Tuesday that although Baylor's schedule has not been on par with the Lady Aggies, the Lady Bears' record so far this season is nothing to take lightly.

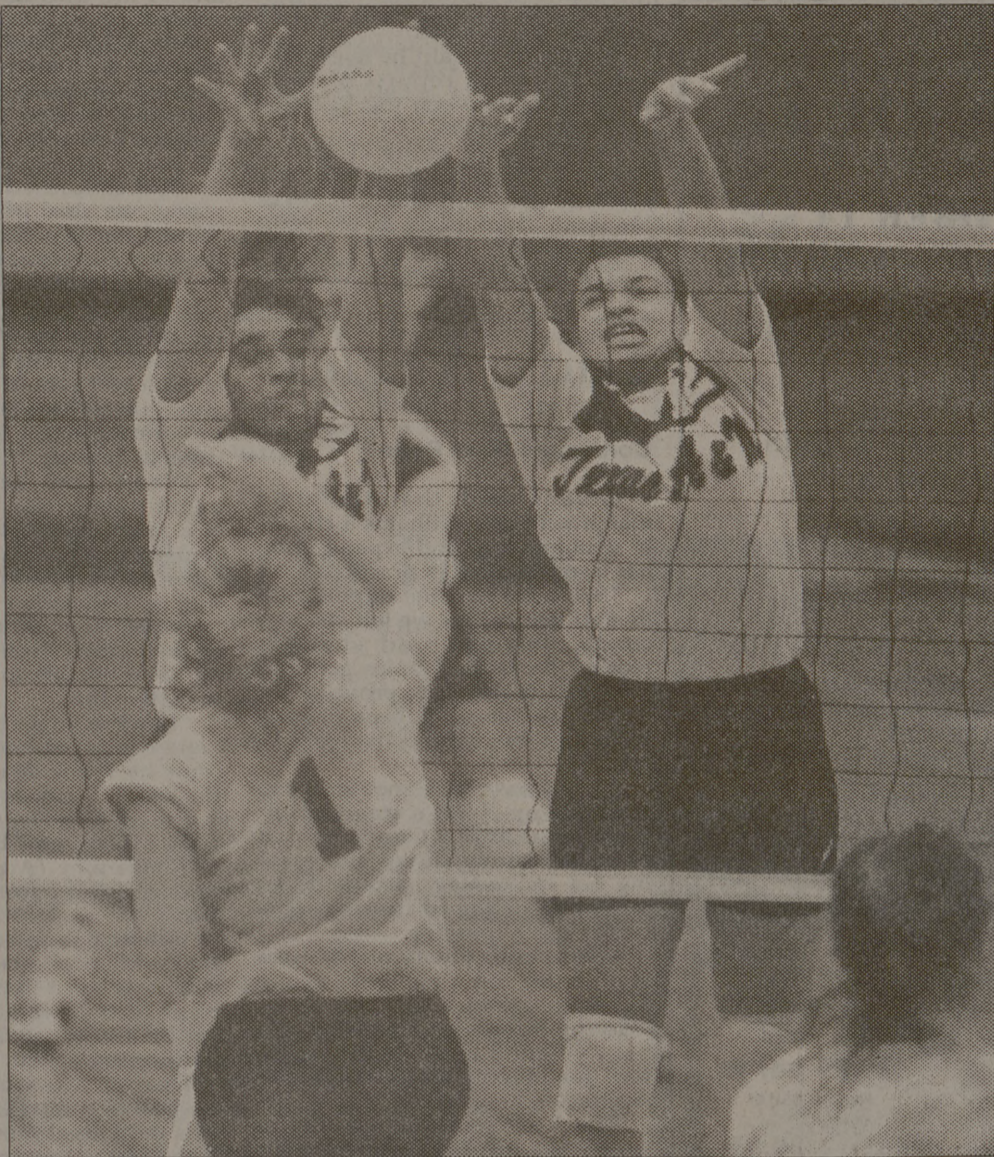
"They've not played the kind of schedule we have, but that many wins proves that they're pretty good," Givens said. "This is probably the best Baylor team they've had."

The team was treated to a pep talk before Tuesday's practice by former A&M softball pitcher Shawn Andaya, a person that knows a little bit about teamwork after having led the Lady Aggies to the 1987 national championship.

Judging from the attitudes of the players themselves, Andaya's encouragement could not have come at a better time. The team lost valuable senior leadership this week after outside attacker Raychelle Michalke announced her retirement due to chronic knee problems.

Also, freshman middle blocker Andrea Williams will take the place of Amy Kising in the starting lineup against Baylor. Williams said the team has started to raise its level of intensity.

"Everyone is pushing harder, more so now that we're in this bind," Williams said. "Everybody is realizing where we



DARRIN HILL/ The Battalion

Senior Elizabeth Edmiston and freshman Andrea Williams will start Wednesday in the Lady Aggies' match against Baylor in Waco's Ferrell Center at 7:30 p.m.

stand."

Williams has had little playing time in the past few matches, but she said she has felt the pressure of being thrust into the limelight.

"I feel a lot of pressure, but I feel a lot

before any game, really," Williams said. "I'm just trying to play my best."

"I'll go into it (the Baylor match) the same way I go into any game."

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Offensive line brings intensity to A&M football

By J. DOUGLAS FOSTER

Sports Editor of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M tailback Greg Hill said if his team needed a few yards for a first down, he had no doubts that his offensive line would give him the hole he needed to have a chance to make the yardage.

And the Aggies' most recent win over Texas Tech proved that Hill's confidence in his line may be justified.

During that game, the A&M offense, led by linemen Dexter Wesley, Chris Dausin, John Ellisor, Tyler Harrison and Jason Mathews, amassed 467 yards of total offense, 381 of those coming on the ground. Those totals were good enough to rank as A&M's top offensive game of the season, returning the Aggie running game to its 1991 Southwest Conference championship form.

One of the biggest sparks to the play of the line was the return of Ellisor, the only senior on the unit. Ellisor, who provides experience at the right guard position as well as emotional support to the rest of his squad, was sidelined since the Sept. 5 contest against Louisiana State with an injured knee.

Hill said having Ellisor back meant more than just having his physical abilities on the line.

"He's one of our team leaders, and all the linemen look up to him because he's the only senior there," Hill said. "He came out pumped up and ready to play, and the rest of the team got pumped and played at that level."

Dausin, a junior from San Antonio's Roosevelt High School, said having Ellisor back on his right wing gave him confidence as well as adding comfort to the gameplan.

"It was great having John back against Tech," Dausin said. "Since he plays next to me, it helps me a lot because we're used to each other, and I usually know what he's going to do."

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