

Despite recent struggles, SMU has storied past

Your Texas A&M football team travels to Dallas this weekend to play a contest against a team that has no speed, no running game, quarterbacking by committee and little chance of staying within a touchdown of the Aggies past the first quarter.

But things were not always so dismal for the Southern Methodist University Mustangs, who less than a decade ago walked across the Southwest Conference landscape like marauding giants playing games against so many scattered children.

There were great teams on the Hill-top, and the 1982 squad finished second in the nation despite the fact that they didn't lose a game. Unfortunately, SMU didn't play very well while winning a squeaker at the Cotton Bowl against the Dan Marino-led University of Pittsburgh.

On the same day, Penn State dominated Herschel Walker and the Georgia Bulldogs at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans to leapfrog the Mustangs and take the fabled national championship.

The '82 Mustangs could probably give a lot of good advice to this year's Aggie team on how to keep from being jumped in the polls.

But the Mustangs already had won a national championship, way back in 1935, four years before A&M was able to claim the same.

A pretty fair running back by the

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K. LEE DAVIS
Sports Writer

Lady Aggies get another shot at UT A&M volleyball looks for revenge against archrival

By DON NORWOOD

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

If hindsight is 20/20 vision, then Texas A&M head volleyball coach Al Givens is seeing things very clearly today.

The last time Givens and the Lady Aggies met up with the University of Texas back on Oct. 7 in College Station, the Lady Longhorns rolled over A&M, 15-5, 15-4, 15-4, in a match that was really not even that close.

Talk about your rude awakenings.

With tonight's rematch against the Lady Longhorns in Austin, Givens is not looking through rose-colored glasses at the Texas powerhouse. Instead, he is fully aware of what Texas is capable of and what it will take to beat them.

"I feel real confident that we will play better than we did in the first meeting," Givens said Tuesday. "They (Texas) played awfully well the first time, but if we limit our errors we'll be OK."

"But I don't think you can totally shut them down."

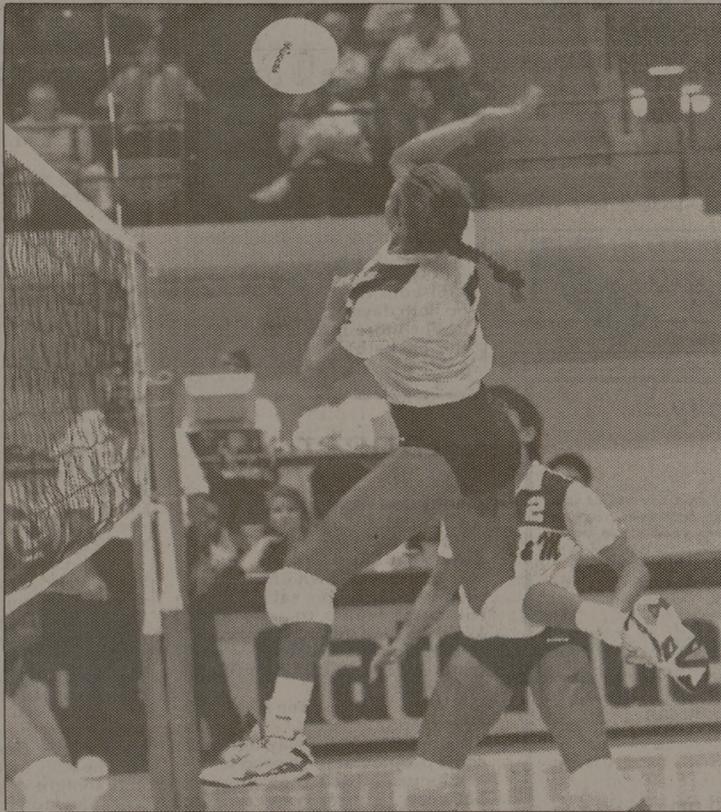
The last two days of practice have been pretty much status quo for the Lady Aggies as Givens has refrained from shaking things up specifically for Texas.

"We got some things accomplished Monday," Givens said. "We got a few more things accomplished today."

One of the accomplishments Givens does not have to worry about is his team's setting. Freshman setter Suzy Wente put in the best match of her young college career Saturday in A&M's 15-2, 8-15, 15-11, 15-2 win over Rice, when she notched 47 assists, the highest individual total in that category for the Lady Aggies this season.

Wente chose to deflect any praise directed her way while echoing Givens' non-nonsense approach to the team's preparation for Texas.

"I thought I could have played better defensively," Wente said. "And there's still things we need to work on. But it was the kind of match we needed. It let us know that we can go out and play



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

A&M's Amy Kisling spikes the ball over to Rice in Saturday's four-game win over the Lady Owls. Kisling and the rest of the Lady Aggies face Texas tonight.

well.

"(In practice,) we're just working on our shots, and I'm trying to work on my sets. Just the basics mainly."

As far as the basics for Texas go, the Lady Longhorns seem to have those down pat. Texas is ranked 11th in the country with a 17-3 record overall. The only conference loss for the team came Oct. 24 when fellow top 25 member Texas

Tech took five games to defeat the Longhorns in Lubbock. That match marks only the fourth SWC loss for Texas in the past 10 years.

As a team, the Lady Longhorns carry a .263 hitting percentage and an average of 14.9 kills per match into their contest with A&M. Middle blocker/hitter Katy

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Granger retains starting QB job against SMU

By K. LEE DAVIS

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

Texas A&M head coach R. C. Slocum announced Tuesday that sophomore Jeff Granger will continue to hold the starting quarterback position on Saturday against Southern Methodist University.

Granger has finished every game this season, with the exception of the Rice contest on Oct. 17, where backup Corey Pullig entered the game in the fourth quarter after the game was well in hand.

Pullig had his problems moving the Aggie offense in the team's 19-13 win last week against the Baylor Bears, posting seven points in nearly an entire half of play.

"Jeff will start Saturday, and we will play Pullig," Slocum said at his weekly press conference. "What I'm looking for is consistency out of Jeff, and out of Corey."

Slocum also said that Granger's starting status was not permanent and that if either quarterback starts to excel over the other, he will start and play more.

"If Jeff doesn't get more consistent, then I think we will see more of Corey," he said.

Pullig said that he is getting more comfortable with the A&M offensive system even though he has only been exposed to it for a little over three months.

"I think it has gotten a lot easier each time I play," Pullig said. "I was very comfortable in the last game."

Pullig further stated that he was content with Slocum's decision.

"Whatever coach says needs to happen, that is what needs to happen," Pullig said.

Granger said that he realizes he must be more consistent to keep his starting job and that improvement starts in practice.

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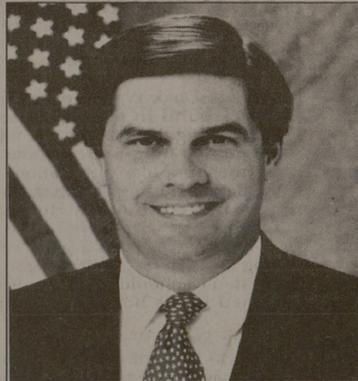
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