Two Lady Aggies earn academic honors

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

For the second consecutive year, outside attacker Elizabeth Edmiston and middle blocker Kim Mitchell of the Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team have been chosen to the six-member GTE Academic All-District VI Volleyball Team. The team was selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America in District VI which includes all colleges and universities within the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana.

In order to be eligible for Academic All-District honors, an athlete must have at least a 3.20 cumulative grade-point ration on a 4.0 scale, must be a starter or important reserve and have achieved at least sophomore status.

Edmiston, a senior kinesiology major from Kingwood, sports a 3.92 GPR. Last year she went on to be named to the Academic All-America third team. On the court this season, she is started all 32 matches and played in 116 of 121 games. Edmiston was recently named to the All-SWC second team and to the SWC All-Tournament team. She has led or shared team-high honors in kills in 24 of 32 matches and currently leads the team with a 3.36 kill average and a 0.28 ace average. Her kill average also ranks second in the SWC. She is second on the team in dig average (2.85) and hitting percentage (.210).

Mitchell is a junior accounting major from Marshall. Her 3.95 GPR is the highest of all female scholarship athletes at A&M. She has received numerous academic awards including the ORYX Energy Award, a scholarship given to outstanding accounting students. She is enrolled in accelerated honors degree plan and will earn her BBA and MBA at the same time. Mitchell has started all 32 matches and played in all but six games this season. She leads the team with a .212 hitting percentage. She is averaging 1.8 digs and a team-best 1.0 blocks per game. Her career-setting performances include a .643 hitting percentage at Rice, 20 kills against Mississippi, 13 digs in both regular-season Baylor matches, eight block assists against Rice and five service aces against Georgia.

Aggies

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"He's a great perimeter shooter, an excellent post-up player, and I think the key to the game," Barone said. "We have got to contain him."

Sophomore guard Tony McGinnis agreed Williams was the key to victory for the Aggies.

"It's going to be very important stopping him (Williams)," McGinnis said. "So the key to the game is stopping Ike."

McGinnis also said that he believes the Aggies can compete against UNM and the rowdy home crowd.

"It's going to be tough but I feel like if we go into the game aggressively and play good defense, we have a chance to win," McGinnis said.

Cox

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His pace picks up when asked to recall the series in the third quarter of the Texas game when the Longhorns had the ball and a chance to turn what was once a 14-point deficit into a three point lead.

The drive was stymied when Aggie linebacker Steve Solari recovered a Curtis Jackson fumble on the Texas 37-yard line. The Aggies capitalized with a field goal and never looked back.

"We (the defense) had to turn it up a notch and we did," Cox said about the crucial third quarter defensive stand. "Once we turn it up, the "Wrecking Crew" kicks in.

"It also helps that the offensive gives us a lot of rest. Rodney Thomas, Greg Hill, Corey Pullig and our receivers are doing a great job."

Cox and the rest of the Aggies are sitting pretty with their perfect 12-0 record. But lady luck has not been with the Aggies as far as being in a position to play for the national championship.

The three teams ranked ahead of the Aggies—Miami, Alabama, Florida State—also convincingly won their respective games over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Cox admitted to waiting for something to happen over the weekend that would allow the Aggies to step up in the Associated Press Top 25 poll.

"I did a little hoping that something would roll our way," Cox said. "But coach (R.C. Slocum) tells us not to worry about the polls and that we need to go out and win all of our games."

Don't worry? Easier said than done.

However, football fans and players in Aggieland need not worry about Jessie Cox. The future for the linebacker-rich Aggies looks to be even more prosperous.

Foster

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top five and actually has an outside shot at the national championship. When the host is 9-2 and ranked 12th in the nation, it really doesn't matter if the visiting team ranked third or fifth.

But when your host is 12-0 and ranked fourth, it becomes top priority to get the highest-ranked team you can. When this is the case, television means nothing. The Cotton Bowl owes it to the Aggies to bring in the best team there is.

If Alabama beats Florida Saturday, as they should, then it is all but in stone that the Crimson Tide will meet top-ranked Miami in the Sugar Bowl. Then, the Cotton Bowl gets next choice of a visiting team. Let's see, there's third-ranked Florida State, and there's fifth-ranked Notre Dame. If your host is ranked fourth, who do you invite? You prove nothing by beating a team ranked lower than you. Even if it does mean a rematch between last year's two Cotton Bowl participants, that game has to be scheduled.

Just say Florida beats Alabama in the SEC Championship game this weekend— the Cotton Bowl would have the highest-ranked host of the teams in the coalition. Then there would be three possible teams to invite. That decision should be made without even having to stop and think. If the No. 1 team in the nation is available, invite them. If Miami decides they want to go play Florida State in the Fiesta Bowl, then let them go. At least give them the invitation.

If the Tide does win, then the Seminoles are the obvious choice.

Beating the almighty Fighting Irish meant something to an up-and-coming Texas A&M program on Jan. 1, 1988. That's because they were, as usual, ranked higher than the Aggies. But now we're looking at an A&M team that hasn't lost a conference game since December of 1990. Ranked fourth in the nation, the Aggies have now established themselves as a national power. They deserve shots at the best. Not to say Notre Dame is not usually the best, but this year, there are better teams available.

Another thing the Cotton Bowl execs don't understand is that not making a national-title caliber game available for A&M is just the type of thing that could drive a national power away from the conference. Why should the Aggies stick around if they can go 12-0 and their own bowl won't give them a shot at the best? Then, the Cotton Bowl staff would get themselves into the position of having to watch the Baylor/Rice game to see who the host team would be.

And wouldn't that serve them right?

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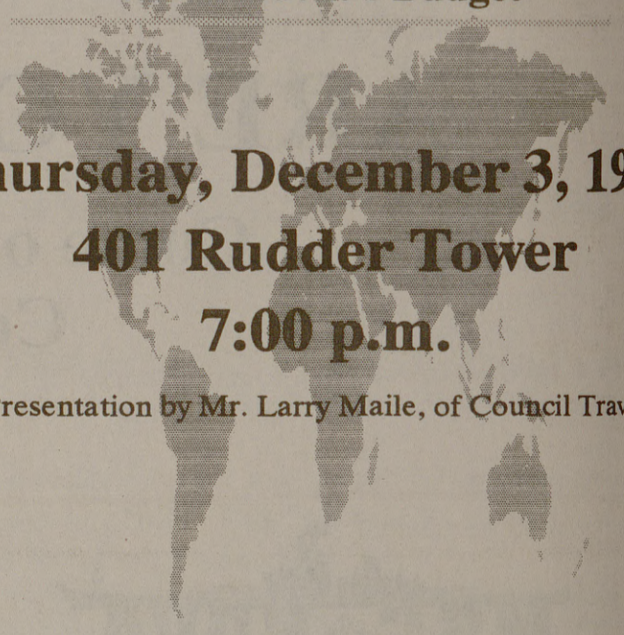
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