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**Volleyball team heads for Norman**

By Drew Diener and Nick Georgandis

The Battalion

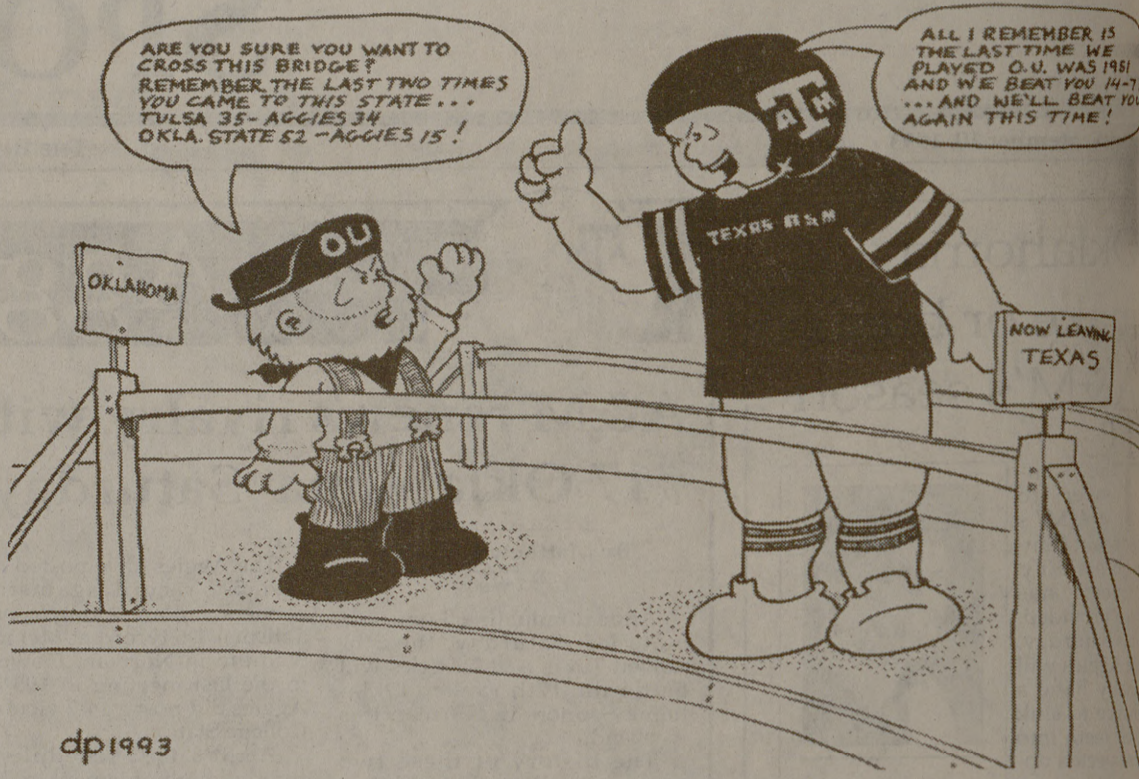
The Lady Aggie volleyball team travels to Norman, Oklahoma to take part in this weekend's Sooner Invitational.

A&M senior middle blocker Amy Kisling said A&M needs to raise its level of play in order to be successful this weekend.

"We're going to have to keep working as a team," Kisling said. "When we played well in California (at the Dan Gamel Invitational), we really pulled together."

The Aggies open up against Mississippi on Saturday and then Aggies will match-up against Southwest Missouri State before entering their Sunday finale with Oklahoma.

"Oklahoma is probably the toughest team there," senior outside attacker Genny Wood said. "That will be a real challenge for us."



dp1993

**Oklahoma's Gibbs accuses A&M of negative recruiting**

By Julie Chekowski

The Battalion

Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum said Wednesday that he is not concerned with accusatory comments made by Oklahoma head coach Gary Gibbs, regarding A&M's NCAA investigation and supposed negative recruiting tactics by A&M.

"He did not call me, I have not talked to him," Slocum said. "That's why I said (it is not) a big deal."

The Sooners' coach first commented in February 1992 that the Aggies were guilty of practicing negative recruiting and "they're fairly persistent in how they try to sell their program."

Earlier this week, Gibbs told the Associated Press that his comments were true.

"During the recruiting period, those things took place," he said. "That's history now. I don't remember any negative recruiting per se this year. We had a couple years in there where there was a lot of negative recruiting. I made the comments because I was asked about it."

Gibbs also mentioned the NCAA investigations currently plaguing A&M during a speech to alumni last month.

"We haven't taken any shortcuts at Oklahoma," Gibbs said last month. "We don't have the NCAA looking down our backs. We're not going to do some of the things that some of the people have been doing recently - i.e. A&M."

Gibbs said last week at a press conference that the past problems will have no effect.

"That plays no factor in terms of this game," Gibbs said. "I mean, this is the football season, not recruiting season."

**Oklahoma**

Continued from Page 7

up there and win, we'll get a lot of credit."

Slocum admitted that Oklahoma is no Tulsa or SLU, but added that tough games are what make college football exciting and meaningful.

"When you play Oklahoma at Oklahoma, you know you've got a chance to lose," Slocum said. "It is a challenge, but we will gain status if we can go up there and win it."

"This kind of a game is the most fun," Slocum said. "If there is no chance to lose, winning doesn't mean much."

Senior defensive end Eric England is also looking forward to the interstate rivalry game and the chance to play a highly ranked team.

"This game will mean something for everybody," England said. "People say we never play anybody so it will help us look good if we go up there and win."

As far as playing in Oklahoma, England believes that it is no real factor.

"It doesn't make a difference that we're playing there," England said. "We are the only ones that can make us beat ourselves."

Sophomore Ray Mickens, who will be starting in his second game on A&M's defense, is also excited about playing the Sooners on Saturday.

Mickens had an outstanding debut against

LSU, but knows he has got to step it up a notch against Oklahoma.

"They pass a lot and they've got a good offense with good receivers," Mickens said. "I just want to play a solid game. It is a big game for us and I know we didn't play as good as we looked against LSU."

Come Saturday, the Aggies will look to put two long streaks on the line. A&M has scored in 61 straight games as well as having won 22 straight regular season games.

Coincidentally, the last time the Aggies lost a regular season game was in the state of Oklahoma when they lost to Tulsa 35-34.

The Aggies do, however, hold a career 24-19-1 record against Big Eight opponents.

**Plumer**

Continued from Page 7

to A&M defesnsive coordinator Bob Davie and his secondary.

"This is not the typical Oklahoma offense people are used to seeing because they sure don't run the Wishbone anymore," Davie said. "They are trying to diversify some from the pass actually."

"Last year, they passed the ball so much they forgot about the run. Now, Oklahoma wants to have a balanced attack by running the ball more."

And that should play right into A&M's hand, right coach?

"Not really."

How come?

"Because the running back they have is a

small, darty type who is good at breaking tackles and making long runs," Davie said. "Those kind of guys have given us trouble in the past."

Davie is referring to true freshman James Allen, who had 90 rushes on 18 carries in first ever game Saturday. An impressive debut for sure, and it caught the attention of a least on Aggie.

"Allen is a good back who we will have to contain for us to win the game," junior cornerback Ray Mickens said. "If we don't, it could be a long day."

Mickens might have a long day anyway running up and down the field covering Oklahoma's fine receivers: Albert Hall and Corey Warren. Davie said Gundy is excellent at getting the ball to the open man and he should remind some of another quarterback A&M has played against.

"Gundy is a lot like (former Texas quarter-

back) Peter Gardere," Davie said. "He threw the ball real well and when he gets rolling, it can be very difficult to stop. He has a lot of good receivers that can catch the ball."

"But we like the challenge and I think we match up well."

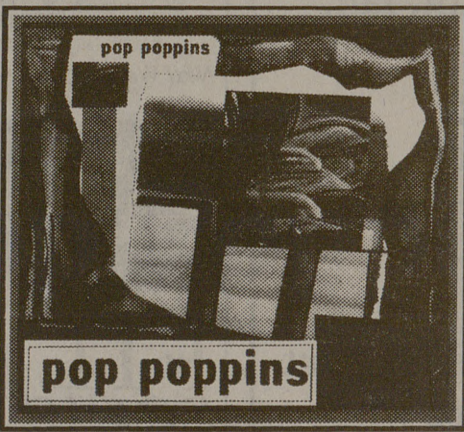
Davie is correct. A&M can offset the receivers the Sooners possess because of its cornerbacks. Mickens and senior Aaron Glenn proved that notion correct last week. While Glenn suffers from Kevin Smith Syndrome (nobody throws to his side), LSU attempted to make Tigerbait out of Mickens.

They failed, but expect the same thing this week. Oklahoma will attempt to isolate Warren on Mickens and if the Sooners are successful, it will be a very long day for A&M.

"We will play a lot of good technique and hopefully things will work out for us," Davie said. "If not, well..."

...A&M could lose its second game in the state of Oklahoma in the last three years.

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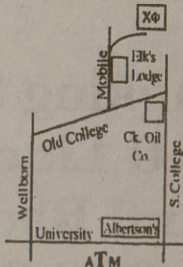
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