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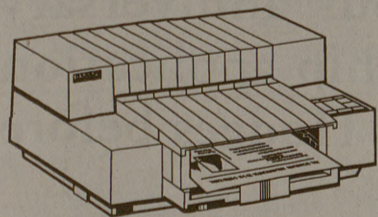
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Senior Kisling paces A&M by blocking the competition

By Drew Diener

THE BATTALION

Senior blocker Amy Kisling has improved her game and played a major role in the Lady Aggie volleyball team's 7-1 start, A&M head coach Laurie Corbelli said Tuesday.

"At first we were taking her out (when she rotated to the back row), then she started proving she could dig some balls," Corbelli said. "She's one of our better passers."

Although her passing has improved, blocking remains the major strength in Kisling's game and she leads her team.

"She knows her role well since she has done it three years," Corbelli said. "She runs the quick plays in the middle and knows her assignment is crucial for our defense."

Her nine total blocks in the Sooner Invitational led the team and helped A&M win the tournament. For her efforts, she earned a spot on the All-Tournament squad.

Having recorded 230 total blocks in her career, Kisling feels she has come a long way since her freshman year.

"I've become smarter," Kisling said. "I was so dumb my freshman year. I made the dumbest mistakes."

But her years in an Aggie uniform almost did not occur because Kisling originally made a verbal commitment to Virginia before she visited A&M.

"I came here and I just pictured myself here," Kisling said. "I wasn't shooting for an incredible program. I was just excited to play

in college."

Hailing from Los Olivos, California, Kisling is not as fortunate as most of her teammates who are from Texas. She has had to deal with things like homesickness and limited contact with her parents.

"For the first two and a half months I'm fine but by the third month I get really homesick," Kisling said.

Many of the players' parents attend a good deal of the matches but Kisling is not as lucky.

"It's so nice to have your parents there," Kisling said. "It's kind of sad when everyone goes to see their parents after matches and I just go home."

But Corbelli said that Kisling's efforts and intensity on the court are not affected despite her parents' not being there.

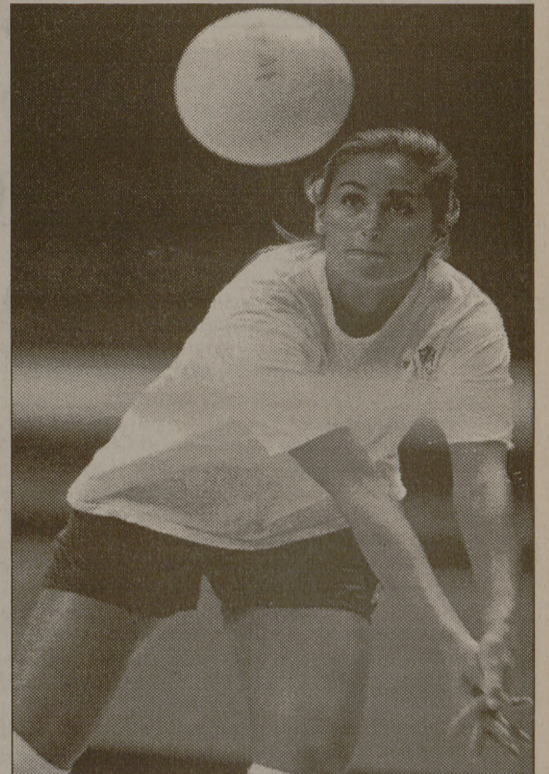
"You can tell she loves the game and she loves to win," Corbelli said. "Her game face is definitely on before a game."

Off the court, Corbelli said Kisling provides personality and comic relief for her teammates.

"I think she lends a sense of humor to the team that you really wouldn't notice just watching her play," Corbelli said. "I've heard her come up with some one-liners just out of the blue that are pretty funny and the team likes that a lot."

Kisling said she wants herself and her team to achieve high honors but she realizes they will have to work at it.

"I really want to earn All-SWC and for the team I want to win the SWC and go to the NCAA (tournament)," Kisling said. "I think we can do it, we've just got to play smart."



Kyle Burnett/The BATTALION

A&M senior middle blocker Amy Kisling prepares for a dig during a practice session.

Pullig

Continued from Page 5

has created a vicious circle out of his desire to play the game well, but said Pullig remains determined to learn Toledo's offense.

"He wants to keep doing what we're doing; he said it's not the system that's the problem," Toledo said. "He just wants to be so perfect in everything he does and so good, that in turn it's backfiring on him."

"Instead of just cutting loose and playing, he's thinking and not reacting. He's trying to see things that are not there."

Toledo said he and Slocum are

committed to their scheme and developing Pullig.

"I still feel we'll be able to pass and I still think he's a good passer. He's our quarterback," Toledo said.

A&M running back Rodney Thomas said he was not concerned with Pullig's play.

Thomas shook off the controversy surrounding his quarterback.

"I'm not worried about him - I know what kind of person he is and what kind of player he is," Thomas said.

"He's a winner, and that's one of the things that separates him from a lot of people in his position. He had a bad game, no doubt about that, but you can only just go on from there and I think he's going to get better from

that situation.

"Nothing's changed at all. We just had a bad game and everything's going to be fine."

Slocum benched Pullig in the third quarter in favor of backup Tommy Preston, but said he is committed to his quarterback and bristled at the talk of a quarterback controversy.

"There won't ever be a quarterback controversy as long as I'm the coach because I decide who's going to play and that's the way it's going to be," Slocum said.

"I had a two-fold purpose of taking (Pullig) out of the game: I wanted him to know that that level of play was not acceptable and I felt like I owed it to Tommy."

"Tommy had some of the same problems and had some things happen to him, so you come back

the next week and you've got your two quarterbacks that both recognize that they need to go to work and neither one of them had the answers last Saturday."

Pullig said the pressure of dealing with the irony of disillusioned fans after losing once and ending a streak of 22 consecutive victories would not be difficult to cope with.

"(The fans) expect us to go out and win every Saturday; that's what I like about this place, and I'd like to spoil them again," Pullig said.

"Each week we've got to get better and we haven't done that in the past couple weeks. We've got to start from this past Saturday and keep going."

"We want to get into a groove this week."

White

Continued from Page 5

the defensive line can put pressure on the quarterback, we can take care of our business."

White said that he wants opponents to think of him as a player who never gives up.

"I want to play every play hard," White said. "I want to play 100% all of the time, no

matter what."

White said that he doesn't concern himself with statistics. Instead, he concentrates on being a team player.

"I don't really worry about individual goals," White said. "Once we accomplish the team goals, the individual goals will come."

Defensive back coach Trent Walters has been pleased with White's play thus far and is expecting more of the same from the junior this season and next.

Walters said that since White had played

cornerback, it was not hard for him to switch to free safety.

"He is like a cornerback playing safety and that makes it easy for him to adjust to the formations," Walters said. "In that, he is equal to Patrick Bates. He knows what he needs to work on and the only difference between him and Bates is that Bates was more of a physical hitter."

"Overall though, I am extremely pleased with Junior."

Winder

Continued from Page 5

that you wake up each morning. I love you, Artie. Please don't let our love die. Signed - Your loving girlfriend, Cindy.

Dear Cindy: How many times have I told you to never write me at this address? Do you want the whole world to know about our affair? Think about what it would do to Susan and the kids. I promise I'll call you sometime next week.

Dear Artie: Even though the Australian Open is four months away, me and the boys were wondering what female you liked to win it. Signed - Bubba

and the boys.

Dear Bubba: In women's tennis, I always root for the player who grunts the loudest.

Dear Artie: So her name is Cindy, the little tramp's name is Cindy. Artie, how could you after 23 years of marriage go to another woman? You'll be lucky if you ever see the kids and me again, you heartless pig. You'll be hearing from my lawyer in the morning. I'm gonna clean you out. Signed - Your divorcing wife, Susan.

Dear Susan: Don't leave me honey. I promise it'll never happen again. (Sob) I only love you. Please don't leave me, I'll give you anything you want. (Sob) ... (Sob) She never meant anything to me.

Dear Artie: Here's a trivia question that my friend Benny

and I have always wondered about. In 1981, what was Alan Ashby's batting average against left-handed pitchers, on Astro-turf, between noon and 3 p.m., on weekends, when there was less than 10,000 people in attendance and his kids were in bed by ten o'clock? Signed - No life in Houston.

Dear No life: Ashby received no official at-bats in that time frame. It seems Alan's wife would always have to read Dr. Seuss' Green Eggs and Ham three times to their children, which went way past their bedtime. Most of the time the kids didn't make to bed until 11 p.m. and were late to school the next morning.

Dear Artie: How can you call yourself my father after you went and had an affair with that

woman. I guess you'll expect me to attend the wedding and call her mom, too. Well Dad, I ain't going for it. I hope you and the little tramp have a nice life. Signed - Your Former Son.

Dear Former Son: Why did you send this to me? I have three children and they're all girls.

Dear Artie: Cindy and I just wanted to let you know that we're emptying out all of your bank accounts and are building a house together in Aspen. By the way I told your boss all those bad things you've said about him. He's says you're fired. Have a nice life. Signed - I hope you have a miserable life.

Dear Artie: I'm working at my college paper and I was wondering if you had any pointers for a young reporter. Signed - Dave
Dear Dave: Don't get married.

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