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# Morgan's spiking attack strikes deadly blow on opponents

By Matthew J. Rush

The Battalion

The Lady Aggie volleyball has a new coach and a different team outlook, but the team will be counting on an old stand-by to reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1986.

Senior outside hitter Sheila Morgan, a native of Houston and a three-year letter winner, said that she brings experience and physical strength to this year's squad.

"I try to bring height and power to the team," Morgan said. "I think the team would say I'm motivating and that I talk a lot on the court."

Morgan's exceptional ability spiking the ball has given the Lady Aggies a potent weapon in key situations - one that head coach Laurie Corbelli said is obvious in games against teams like Florida State.

"When we needed the big point, we went to her," Corbelli said. "She had some key hits in the match."

Morgan is currently ranked ninth in the nation for kill (a spike that is not returned) aver-

age, posting 5.19 per game. She has also recorded 20 or more kills in eight of her last ten matches and has led the Aggies in kills in each of their first 11 games.

Morgan's efforts were not overlooked when she captured Southwest Conference Player of the Week honors for her performance in the game against Lamar University and in the Sooner Invitational.

But Morgan said she was not aware of the SWC recognition from a week ago.

"It was quite a shock," Morgan said. "Actually, I'm not used to all of this. I had no idea that I was player of the week. In fact, coach Corbelli didn't even tell me until the middle of the week."

"I've always said that I wanted to do it once and I hope I can do it again. It was a nice honor."

In order for her to perform at this level of excellence, Morgan said, she must be under control on the court.

"For me, I have to be relaxed," she said. "Sometimes I get a little bit too intense, but if I just play my own game and stay relaxed, I can do a whole lot more for the team."

Morgan said her position will be made easier with the new coaching staff and a new attitude that has changed the team's mind set.

"With coach Corbelli and the new staff they have brought in a new philosophy to the team and just a whole new way of thinking."

The team is hoping that this new outlook will help them earn a NCAA tournament berth, but Morgan said she understands that in order to get to that point, the team's performance must be more consistent.

"If we keep playing the way we have been playing and we pick up the intensity a little more," she said, "I definitely think we will be there in post season play."

The Lady Aggies (8-3) face conference foe Texas Tech tonight at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Corbelli said the match will be hard fought, but she is confident of her squad.

"It will be a real fight," Corbelli said. "The match will definitely be a fight for one of the top spots in the league."

"We have shown for the past three weeks that we can play with the top teams and our confidence is rising."

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### Toledo

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"The effort hasn't been a problem, even in Oklahoma; our kids gave a great effort in that game," Toledo said. "It was the mistakes we made that hurt us. It was a total team failure in that sense."

"Most people end up losing games, not winning them. You've got to keep from losing games before you can win."

A&M erupted for 516 yards against Missouri, and A&M's balanced, pro-style offense showed validity with the return of Pullig's poise and the steadfast power of A&M's running game.

Toledo said he has tried to institute the pro-style offense at A&M since he arrived in 1989,

### Davie

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in his thinking and has a different plan for every sequence. He thinks of stuff on the spur of the moment.

"What he thinks of, it seems to work."

That has been evidenced this season as A&M shutout Louisiana State (24-0) and Missouri (73-0).

Davie said his coaching style is distinguished by his ability to make instantaneous changes.

"My job is to make the best of the situation and to go with the personnel we have on the field," Davie said. "We try to put guys in a position to be successful based on our strengths. As a team, we try to adapt to the style of offense on the field."

"To do that, I have to stay under control and see what is happening."

Coaches' temperaments vary. Some rant and rave while others control their emotions and correct mistakes by pointing out mistakes in a reasonable manner.

Senior linebacker Steve Solari said Davie

but he wouldn't at first because of the presence of former quarterback Bucky Richardson.

"The key is to do what personnel does best," Toledo said.

"When Bucky was here, we developed his running ability and ran more sprints and options than we do now."

Toledo installed the pro-style offense in 1992 which struggled under Jeff Granger and then flourished under Pullig, then a true freshman.

Junior backup quarterback Tommy Preston said that after a slow start by Pullig, Toledo simplified A&M's offensive formations for the Missouri game, and Pullig and the rest of the offense responded well.

"In the Missouri game we had a balanced attack," Preston said. "We had 60 percent run reliability and hit 55 percent of our passes - that's what we want out of every game."

"It was a wake-up call at the OU game, and I think the guys found themselves against Missouri."

Senior offensive lineman Dexter Wesley said rushing was still A&M's first priority in Toledo's offense.

"The first thing we like to do always is to establish the run," Wesley said. "We can always get the pass going after that."

But Wesley said opponents concentrate on A&M's running emphasis and stack their defense to flood the offensive line with too many players to block. Wesley said the key to beating these defenses is to not abandon the run, pick passing opportunities carefully, make a lot of audibles to throw defenses off-guard, and listen to the coach's game plan.

"The past few weeks we really haven't been executing until (Missouri)," Wesley said. "(Toledo) had a great game plan - he

### Winder

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the Oilers 18-17 loss to the Chargers last Sunday.

After holding the Chargers all day, the Houston defense let the pathetic Charger offense drive on them for the winning field goal. A defense that spends a lot of time on the field will not have its legs late in the fourth quarter.

combines both.

"The first two times you mess up, he is all right," Solari said. "But the third time you screw up, he lets you know. He usually does not yell and scream but he lets you know what you need to do."

Solari recalled an instance from his sophomore year when he expected the worst, but was surprised when he reached the sidelines.

"We were playing the University of Houston (in 1991) and they ran an option to my side," Solari said. "They scored a 63-yard touchdown because I did not take the pitch man."

"I had to come out for a couple plays but instead of screaming and yelling, he just asked me what went wrong and told me how to correct it."

The Southwest Conference, Davie said, is undergoing a facelift on the offensive side of the ball. Teams are moving to more wide-open offenses that stretch across the field, like San Diego State and Brigham Young in the Western Athletic Conference.

England said the new passing emphasis should play right into Davie's hands as a coordinator.

"He is a prototype NFL coach in the way

that he coaches - (it) is oriented to the pros," England said. "After a team runs a different pass play, he has already thought of a way to stop it. He is brilliant."

Being called an NFL-type coach is an honor, Davie said, but that label can change in an instant.

"Saturday against Missouri, I was that type of coach," Davie said. "Against Oklahoma, I went from being a NFL coach to a CFL (Canadian Football League) coach. But you take the bad with the good."

"When things go good, people jump on the bandwagon."

The past three seasons Davie has had a chance to jump off A&M's ship and take a head coaching job. While the temptation has been there, Davie said he is extremely happy in his present position.

"TCU was interesting in 1991 and the (Cleveland) Browns have made a couple of offers but it is hard to leave A&M," Davie said. "I would have to be 100 percent certain to leave. And each time a job has come open, like Baylor last fall, there have been doubts in my mind."

"I know what my role is here, and I am not just here to be a head coach."

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