

SPORTS

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THE BATTALION

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A&M receiver just a fly away from history

When Texas A&M senior wide receiver Tony Harrison catches his next pass, he will set the A&M record for most career yards receiving.



MATTHEW J. RUSH
Sportswriter

Unfortunately, his accomplishments have been largely overlooked and taken for granted amid the celebration of A&M's ground attack.

If one takes a look at who Harrison will top on the Aggies' record list, the names Bob Long and Shea Walker stand out.

Walker currently holds the record with 1,411 yards receiving, which he accomplished from 1983-86.

As for Long, who played at A&M between 1966-68, he is fifth on the all-time list with 1,298 yards and ranks first in career touchdown receptions with 19.

Harrison, coincidentally, is second on the career touchdown list with 12.

To put Walker and Long's accomplishments in perspective to those of Harrison, it is necessary to look at the quarterbacks that the two had throwing them the ball.

For Walker, he had the luxury of quarterback Kevin Murray tossing him the pigskin. Murray, who led the Southwest Conference in passing yards in 1985 and 1986, threw for a school record 6,506 yards in three years at A&M. Murray also holds Aggie records for career attempts and career completions.

During Long's stint as a wide receiver at A&M, he was aided in collecting his honors by the arm of quarterback Edd Hargett.

Hargett, who played for the National Football League's New Orleans Saints during the early 1970's, also chalked up some impressive numbers.

Among Hargett's most notable feats: He threw for 2,321 yards his senior year, including a record 374 yards in a single game, he was the 1968 Cotton Bowl Most Valuable Player, he threw for 3,379 career yards, and he earned All-SWC honors in his last two years as the Aggies' quarterback.

Between Hargett and Murray, the duo holds 13 out of the 15 passing records at Texas A&M. These two are also the top two individual passers in career yardage, amassing 11,885 yards between them.

Not to down play the accomplishments of Walker or Long, but Harrison has not been as fortunate to have a prolific passer to get him the ball.

Countless times Harrison has run down the field, only to see Greg Hill, Rodney Thomas, Darren Lewis and Leland McElroy carrying the ball.

That comes as no surprise because A&M has been a team that is historically known for grinding out offensive yards on the ground.

Lewis ran for 1,700 yards Harrison's freshman year. As a sophomore, he watched teammates Hill and Thomas run for a combined 1,510 yards. Again last season, he saw the same tandem run for 2,195 yards.

Needless to say, A&M's air attack has been less than flourishing over the past few years.

Overshadowed by the names of Long, Walker and current San Diego Charger Rod Bernstein, Harrison almost had his day of glory last Saturday against Southern Methodist.

When Harrison's 58-yard touchdown against the Mustangs was called back, I was kind of angry and sorry for him. Seeing him run up the steps of Kyle Field to give the ball to his parents, only to have the touchdown renege because of a penalty, made me more aware of just what this young man has done in his career.

But now, Harrison will have the ultimate spotlight when he presumably sets the record.

1. The game on Nov. 13 against Louisville will be held in the friendly confines of Kyle Field.

2. ESPN will carry the contest and his accomplishment will be seen nationwide.

3. His parents will again be among the 60,000 plus in attendance.

4. Most important, however, is that his historic moment will come against a nationally ranked team in the Cardinals, who could be ranked in the top 10, depending on their outcome this weekend against the seventh-ranked Tennessee Volunteers.

Let me be the first to give him an early congratulations.

Victory denied

Lady Aggie spikers fall to second-ranked Texas

By William Harrison

THE BATTALION

For one game, the Texas A&M volleyball team played like the arch-rival that it is against its nemesis, the University of Texas on Wednesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

However, for the next three games the Lady Longhorns played like the country's second-ranked that it is, taking the match and the possibility of a Southwest Conference co-championship away from the Lady Aggies.

A&M captured the first game against Texas 15-11 in front of a monstrous 3,197 crowd at G. Rollie White, but faltered for the next three games 5-15, 3-15, 4-15 to lose the match. A&M dropped to 23-5 overall and 7-2 in the SWC, while Texas improved to 21-2, 9-0.

The Lady Aggies were led by senior middle blocker Amy Kisling with 14 kills and sophomore setter Suzy Wente with 40 assists. However, Kisling had notched 8 kills and Wente had half of her assist total in just the first game.

After starting out hitting .206 to Texas' .137 in the first game, A&M equaled a season-low for the game with a .075 hitting percentage against the highly-touted Texas team. The Lady Aggies also had 11 total team blocks, its lowest total for the season.

A&M head volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli gave credit to the Lady Longhorns, who feature All-America and National Player of the Year senior middle blocker Katy Jameyson, as well as junior outside hitter Samy Duarte and senior setter Heather Pfluger - both All-America candidates.

"Texas executed what they practice daily - nothing super-fancy, but solid and disciplined, and with players like that it's going to work and make you the second-best team in the nation if not the first," Corbelli said. "Some of our opponents have not been as tough as Texas, and it's made us ease up in those areas."

"We didn't show the discipline that we haven't really had to show in a lot of matches."

Corbelli said that frustration and a breakdown in execution exhausted the team's chances for a win.

"It was like 'what happened?' Every-

one's question mark was all over their faces - 'Why?'" Corbelli said. "You can't ask that in the middle of a game - you already need to know what's going on."

A&M started the first game on a 7-2 run, but Texas fought back to tie at nine points and take the lead at 11. A&M eventually inched out a win after both teams swapped the ball for 47 side-outs.

But the Lady Aggies' success was fleeting as the Lady Longhorns changed sides of the court and switched gears, opening a 9-0 lead. For the rest of the match, A&M did not lead except for a 3-0 start in the fourth game. After the good start, a 14-point run by Texas put it out of reach.

Corbelli said A&M's major flaw was its struggling passing game that forced sophomore setter Suzy Wente away from the net.

"In game two before it was 6-0, there was not one pass to Suzy where we could execute a play," Corbelli said. "We had to go outside for a pass that went 10 or 12 feet off the net, (and) you can't do a whole lot with that and put pressure on a team like Texas."

Despite the success of the team's record and its second-place mark in the SWC, Corbelli and her players said they were puzzled over a season-long trend of inconsistent play.

"It's very frustrating," senior middle blocker Kim Mitchell said. "Something inside just breaks down on the team. We just kind of disappear for a while, then come back and disappear again."

"But we have made some strides this year, (and) I think everyone tried very hard."

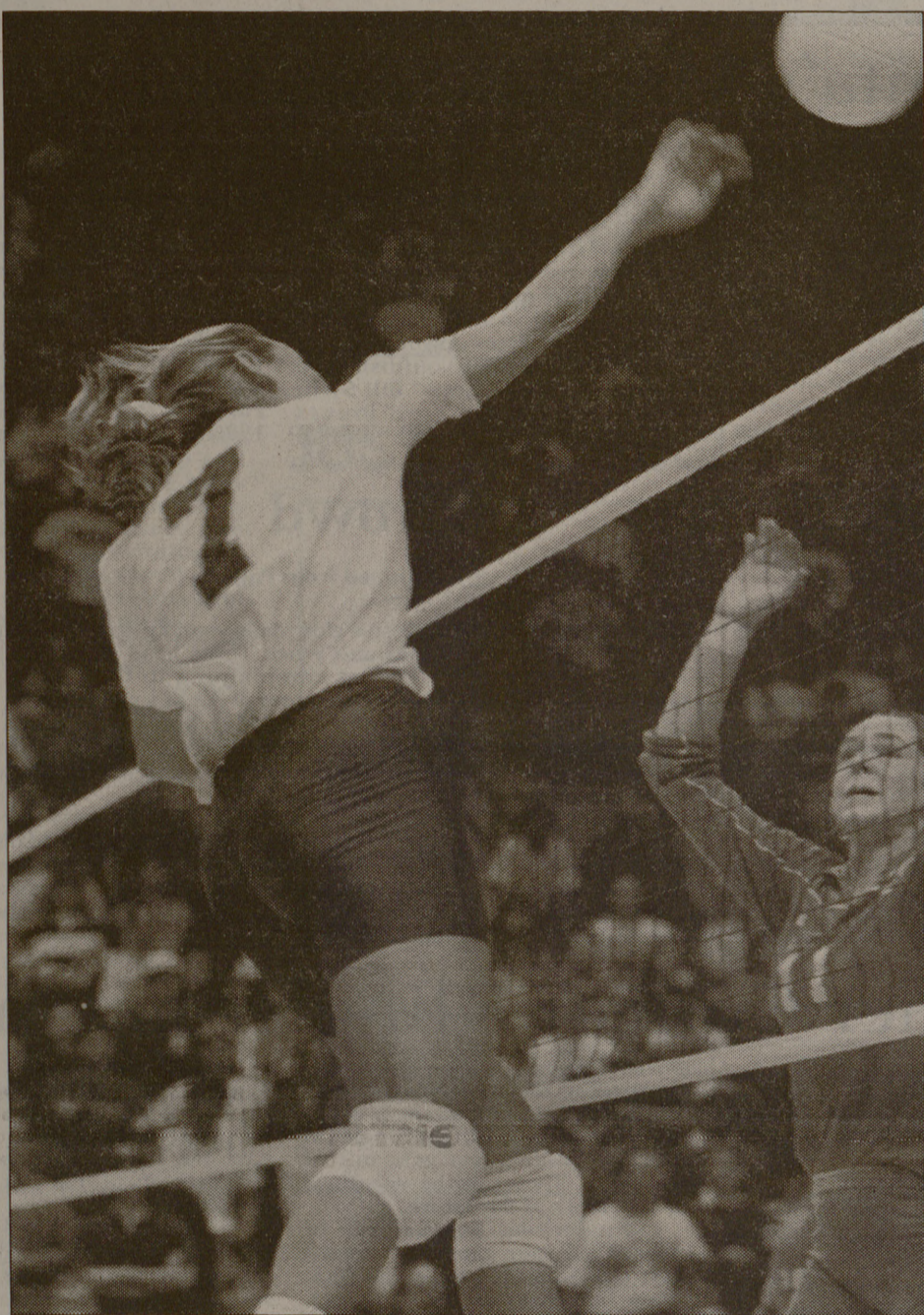
Corbelli said the change of momentum for A&M and some adverse officiating made it easy for the team to lose its focus.

"When you were able to do something 10 minutes earlier, and it just isn't happening, it's kind of contagious," Corbelli said. "When the players start getting frustrated and the coach gets up and screams about a call, it can become contagious and easy to fall into being frustrated."

"That's something we did discuss. We need to keep our composure."

Corbelli said that the loss would not hurt A&M's chances for an NCAA

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Texas A&M senior middle blocker Amy Kisling (7) nails a shot against the University of Texas' outside hitter/middle blocker Angie Brientenfield (11) during the Lady Aggies' loss to the Lady Longhorns Wednesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Kisling led all players with 14 kills for the match.

Despite defeat, packed house gives cause for celebration

By Nick Georgandis

THE BATTALION

The scenario was perfect.

With nearly 3200 Aggie faithful rocking G. Rollie White Coliseum, with the Texas A&M volleyball team having just scored a first game 15-11 victory over its second-ranked rival Texas, the scene was set for an upset.

The Lady Longhorns, coming in with a unblemished Southwest Conference record of 8-0, appeared stunned by the biggest crowd to see a SWC game since 1985, as the Lady Aggies jumped out to a 7-2 first game lead. With every Lady Aggie kill, the yell leaders and fans unleashed a foot-stomping BOOM! that rattled the bleachers and the Longhorns themselves.

But then came the second game, and a regrouping effort by Texas, which translated into a momentum-shifting 15-5 win. With that, Texas never looked back as they took the next two games with relative ease, 15-3, 15-4.

A&M volleyball head coach Laurie Corbelli said she believed that an emotional let-down may have contributed to the team's demise after the first game.

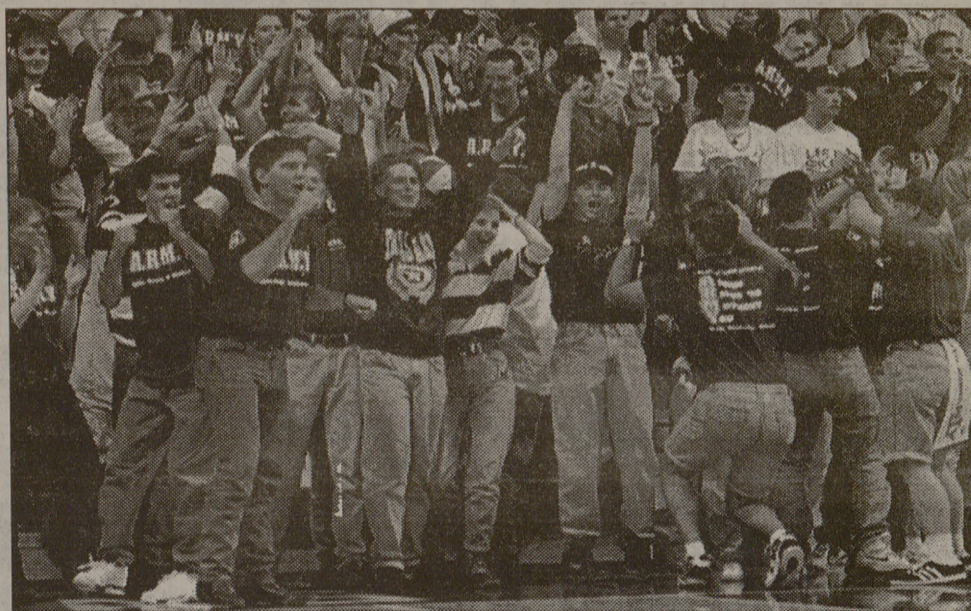
"It's hard to get into a player's head, but I think after game one we might have let it slip a little," Corbelli said. "Maybe, mentally we thought game two would be as easy as the first game, but it was our mistakes that really cost us."

Despite the disappointment of the loss, senior outside hitter Sheila Morgan said she thought the fan turnout for the game really meant a lot to the team.

"I have never heard G. Rollie as loud as it was tonight," Morgan said. "This was the biggest crowd since our opener with Louisiana State my freshman year, but we just lost the momentum after (the first game)."

Despite the Longhorns' three straight victories, the crowd never lost its level of intensity. The attendance was actually at its loudest in the third game when

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Mary Macmanus/THE BATTALION

A crowd of 3,197 celebrates after A&M took the first game against Texas. The crowd was the biggest in Southwest Conference history since a UT- A&M game in 1985.

Family atmosphere important for basketball success

"Teamwork is the essence of life." You will find that quotation painted on the wall of the Texas A&M basketball team's locker room.

Our program has been on somewhat of a roller coaster ride in recent years, and we are ready to begin the new season with an attitude that has changed dramatically over the last two seasons. All of us are team players, whether we realize it or not.

Our significance arrives through our vital convictions to other people, no matter the team in our lives. Family life is a central team experience.

Our basketball team is a family trying to gain credi-



TONY BARONE
Head coach

bility in the very competitive world of sports.

Teamwork isn't easy to develop; it is a frustrating and elusive commodity. In order for a team to develop, everyone must be on the same page.

Feeling good about yourself tends to give you a chance to help others feel good about themselves. We tell our guys that the best way to cheer yourself up is to cheer up everyone else.

In our agreement to develop a team concept, we demand of ourselves so that we can demand of each other.

The dynamics of a team evolves in a number of ways. Our team is in a stage of development that has grown from simple survival to meeting new and challenging expectations.

This is a new arena for us and we are growing with the process. We are working to get everyone's effort flowing in a single direction.

We want our players to understand the significance of his contribution to the big picture. Our players trust each other and are looking to sacrifice for the good of

the team.

This might mean less playing time for some, but I believe that many of our guys will raise their production level because fewer minutes means less fatigue.

The choreography of this team's attitude about teamwork is in the hands of our veteran players. Experience is absolutely the greatest teacher.

I firmly believe that our veterans - Damon Johnson, David Edwards, Corey Henderson, Chuck Henderson, Tony McGinnis, Lance Broderson, Brett Murry, Michael Smith and Tony Barone, Jr. - are unique people. We expect them to lead us into the world of championships.

This roller coaster will have a series of exciting bumps and we'd love for each of you to join us for the ride.

We hope to see you at our games.

-Tony Barone is the men's head basketball coach at Texas A&M. His column will appear frequently throughout the semester.