

# SPORTS

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THE BATTALION

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## A Longhorn's dilemma: Beat the hell outta who?

During my three years in college, I have eagerly participated in the countdown to the Thanksgiving Day showdown between Texas A&M and the University of Texas. This rivalry has been one of the highlights of my college career.

Sadly enough, Thursday's game will be my last as a member of the student body. However, I find myself in a rather ironic position. Although this is my third Thanksgiving Day clash, it will be my first as an A&M student.

Yes, burnt-orange blood flows through my veins. Just as there are no "former" Aggies, it is generally the case that once you're a Longhorn, you're always a Longhorn. But, I have the chance to view this great rivalry in a way few have: as a Longhorn and an Aggie.

Arriving on A&M's campus for the first time, I had the distinct impression of being alone on enemy soil. Then another thought entered my mind: how in the world will I be able to cheer on the Horns in the packed student section of Kyle Field? It became apparent that I would either have to learn the severe emotional control of a Hindu priest or begin funeral preparations in the likely event of my death.

But something else happened that I had never considered possible. I became an Aggie. Over the course of three semesters and one very emotional Aggie Muster, I found out what it meant to be an Aggie, and I fell in love with it.

I also became a fan of Aggie football and the traditions surrounding A&M. Even though I still hum my way through "saw Varsity's horns off ..." and find the experience of standing through an entire football game a little excessive, these traditions are fine examples of collegiate spirit and school pride.

But all of this only worsened my dilemma. Despite this new found love of Aggie traditions, I have remained a Longhorn. Although I have come to appreciate the A&M football program and love to watch the Aggies play, my loyalties have also remained at that other school in Austin.

To be an Aggie means far more than just being a football fan, but as a typical male, I have had a little difficulty separating the two. And as the day of the game draws nearer, my quandary has only become more pronounced.

So, I have resolved this dilemma the only way I know how. I plan to watch the game in a place where my division of loyalties will not result in instantaneous death — in front of the TV with my family and a plate of turkey and dressing. I will be content, whatever the outcome may be.

Gig 'em, Ags, and may the eyes of Texas be upon you.



ROY L. CLAY  
Sportswriter

## A&M spikers to end season - perhaps

Lady Aggies put to rest  
SWC tournament, await  
possible NCAA bid

By Nick Georgandis

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team's hopes of an automatic bid into the NCAA tournament came to an abrupt end Saturday afternoon, as the Lady Aggies were beaten by the University of Houston in the second round of the Southwest Conference tournament by scores of 12-15, 15-13, 13-15, 15-4, and 11-15.

The team was forced to play without the services of head coach Laurie Corbelli however, who was admitted to an area hospital earlier in the day with a case of food poisoning. Assistant coach John Corbelli took over the coaching duties, but said he believed the head coach's absence may have affected the game a bit.

"I think (her absence) had some effect, but we played a strong, even match," John Corbelli said.

"With two teams that have split (their games) throughout the year like we have, you figure it will come down to the last few points

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A&M Lady Aggie head volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli watches on as her team works out in practice. Corbelli was forced to miss the Southwest Conference tournament because of food poisoning.

## Aggie Men's club volleyball goes for three-peat in spring

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz

THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's club volleyball team is optimistic about its chances to capture a third consecutive conference championship after a second place showing at the Tennessee Invitational last week.

"The Tennessee tournament was very important because we got to see teams that we haven't seen this semester," senior outside hitter Dean Barberree said. "Those are going to be the teams that we are going to see at nationals."

Senior defensive specialist and head coach Jose Trinta said the key to Texas A&M's good showing in the preseason has been a dedication to teamwork.

"We strive on team effort," Trinta said. "All of our players play their specific roles well, as opposed to focusing on one person."

Junior setter Chip Probe said the Aggies tried to focus on building team unity by doing everything together.

"Because we want to win more than anyone, we try to stay close together with each other on tournaments," Probe said. "That way we can help each other stay pumped."

Most of the Aggies' points have involved sets by Probe, who averages 10 assists per game.

"Chip (Probe) is very consistent, smart and knows when to make plays for us on offense," Trinta said. "His enthusiasm helps keep the team together when the things get rough."

Trinta said that the talent on the Aggies' hitting corps is evenly spread, as evidenced by senior outside hitter Mike Hejl. He leads Texas A&M in kills and spikes not returned.

"Right now he is considered our main outside threat," Trinta said.

Yet Probe said that Trinta is the leader on defense for the Aggies.

"He seems to always be in the right place at the right time," Probe said.

"If he is in the back of the court no ball will hit the ground without him being relatively close. He has real great court knowledge."

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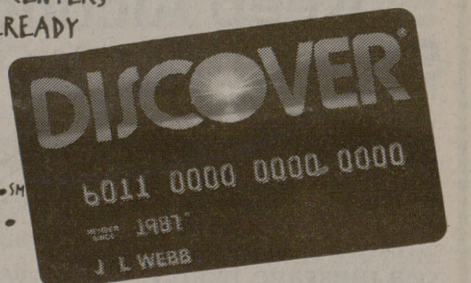
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