

Give it your all, win one for the Gipper

DAVE WINDER

Sports Editor



Some things need to be changed in this country. There should be laws against Melrose Place spin-offs, No Fear T-shirts and 80s compilation albums. But the thing I feel that needs to be outlawed before any other, is the over use of sports cliches.

Truisms like "It ain't over til it's over" and "I'm just going to do the best that I can do" have no place in our society. But everyday, they are used by coaches, athletes, doctors, lawyers and other people having nothing to do with sports.

Since a law will never be passed to save us from ourselves, the following alternatives should be used to cut down on sports cliché abuse.

1) "I try to give 110 percent everyday"

I'm out there giving it my best, eight days a week.

I might have broken my ankle, but I've still got two good legs left.

I stopped giving 110 percent every day because I never got my dime back.

2) "We took what they gave us"

We took what they gave us, but we needed XXL and they only had XL.

We took what they gave us, which is why we're robbing you.

We took what they gave us, which is why the city has a massive penicillin shortage.

3) "I just go out there and do what the coach tells me to do."

I just go out there and do what the coach tells me to do because he's reprogrammed my brain to that of a trained killer.

I just go out there and do what the coach tells me to do because he's still got those pictures of me and the athletic director's wife.

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Lady Aggies' comeback falls short

Volleyball team goes distance but drops fifth game to U.T.

By Nick Georgandis THE BATTALION

In the interview room of G. Rollie White Coliseum after the Texas-Texas A&M volleyball marathon Wednesday night, Lady Longhorn head coach Mick Haley leaned forward on the press table and sighed, "This is one of the reasons I don't have any hair left."

Haley was referring to a game that saw the Lady Aggies drop the first two games of the match, come back to win the next two games, then finally drop to the 12th-ranked Lady Longhorns in five games, 15-13, 15-12, 10-15, 7-15, 17-15.

Lady Aggie head coach Laurie Corbelli refused to allow her team to be disappointed, saying that the young A&M squad took a huge step forward in the match.

"I am extremely proud of the effort put forth by this team tonight," Corbelli said. "I want our players to feel like we won tonight because in many ways we did. For a while there, I wanted to put on a jersey and get out there."

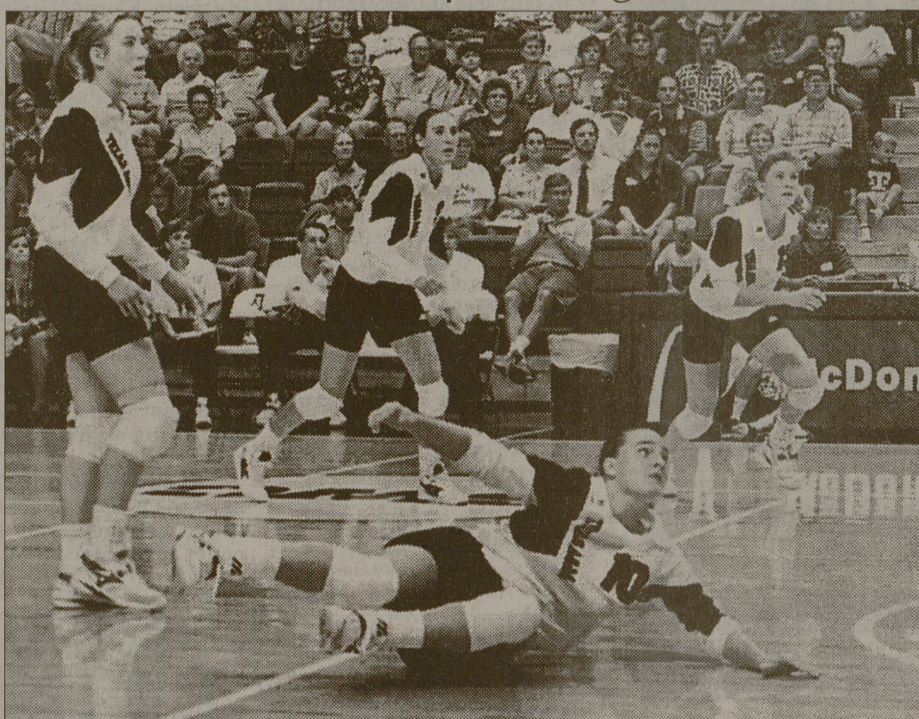
The Lady Aggies were led by junior setter Suzy Wentz, who recorded 72 assists, a mark that was good for second place all-time for sets in a match.

Also providing sparks for A&M were freshman outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud, whose 34 kills tied the Lady Aggie all-time match record, and whose .397 hitting percentage was tops among all players, and senior outside hitter Jennifer Bronner, who added 20 kills and a .286 hitting percentage.

Bronner, who has on the team the last time they beat Texas three years ago, said despite their great comeback, the Lady Aggies were not satisfied.

"We played so well, and we had great eye communication," Bronner said. "It's my last year, and the girls and I really pushed hard to beat them, but we just came up a little short."

A&M had a chance to jump out in front early in the match, starting the first two games by jumping out to quick leads. However, the Lady Ag-



Robyn Calloway/The Battalion

Junior Suzy Wentz, outside hitter, dives for the ball as her teammates look on.

gies could not hold the lead in either game, and fell into an 0-2 hole.

The third game appeared to be going the same route after A&M jumped out 9-3 lead, only to watch UT come back to tie the game at 10. But instead of faltering as in the two previous games, A&M rallied to score the last five points of the game, and narrow the lead to 2-1. After a rather easy 15-7 A&M victory in the fourth game, the stage was set for a classic UT-A&M finish.

Under NCAA rules, the fifth game of a match has different scoring rules. Unlike in regular play, where a team has to be serving to be able to score, the fifth game is known as a "rally score game."

In the fifth game, side outs count as points, generally making the game go by much quicker.

In the final game, A&M fell behind 4-1, but finally caught the Lady Longhorns at 12, as the G. Rollie White

crowd reached a fever-pitch. A&M took its first lead of the fifth game at 15-14, but could not put UT away, as the Lady Longhorns scored the final three points of the game to take the match, 3-2.

Corbelli said she was disappointed, not in the way her team played in the final, but in the way the match was decided.

"My biggest concern is that you battle it out there, and then suddenly it's a crapshoot to decide who wins," Corbelli said. "It's like making a free throw worth three points in the last two minutes of a basketball game. It's frustrating, but it's in the NCAA rules, and you've got to do what the rules say."

The Lady Aggies will travel to Boulder, Colorado this weekend to take place in the University of Colorado Tournament. Their next home game will be Wednesday, September 28 at 7:00 p.m. against Baylor.

Freshmen starters help Lady Ags stay in match

By Jason Holstead THE BATTALION

Even though the Texas A&M volleyball team lost Wednesday night to the 12th-ranked University of Texas Lady Longhorns, the play of two freshmen kept the Lady Aggies in striking distance throughout the match.

Farah Mensik and Kristie Smedsrud, two highly recruited players out of high school, both started for the Lady Aggies in the annual "war" against the University of Texas.

Smedsrud tied a Texas A&M volleyball match record with 34 kills while adding 22 digs. Mensik chipped in with 11 kills and 8 digs.

Smedsrud, a 6 foot, 1 inch outside hitter from Grossmont High School (La Mesa, California), was a two-time all-CIF first team selection and a one-time Grossmont League Most Valuable Player. She registered over 1,000 kills in her final three seasons.

Despite her own outstanding performance, Smedsrud was more impressed with the crowd at the "Holler House" Wednesday night.

"The crowd was unbelievable and it helped us tremendously," Smedsrud said. "It seemed when we got stuck in those mental lapses they (the crowd) kept cheering louder and it really helped us. It was something I'll never forget."

Coming from Katy High School, Mensik, a 5 foot, 8 inch outside hitter,

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On this day in Aggie football...

September 15, 1901: A&M announces a schedule comprised entirely of collegiate competition with five games against only two schools, Baylor (three) and Texas (two).

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