

'Role players' do not deserve big money

DREW DIENER

Sportswriter



Sedale Threatt wants more money and so does Vernon Maxwell. Between the two, they are slated to make \$4.2 million this season. That's a lot of money.

Now you're probably asking yourself, "I've heard of this Maxwell guy, plays for the Rockets, name shows up more on police blotters than in box scores. Guy is making a hell of a lot of money. But wait a minute, who's this Sedale Threatt dude?"

Sedale Threatt is a journeyman guard who happens to play for the lowly Los Angeles Lakers. Prior to coming to L.A., Threatt claimed residence in Seattle, as a member of the then mediocre Seattle SuperSonics. He's by no means a franchise player, he's what sports people call a "role player." Like Maxwell, he plays a role on his team, a minor role in comparison to that of the franchise player(s) on his squad. Sometimes role players get called on to deliver in critical situations, but for the most part, their job calls for them to merely help provide an ample supporting cast for their teams' franchise player(s).

Now that sufficient background information has been provided, allow the focus of this column to return to the main point—salary and discontent.

Threatt walked out on the Lakers Monday, claiming that \$2.5 million is not enough cash to keep him playing on the hallowed basketball court of the Great Western Forum. Who does Sedale think he is? Magic Johnson? Think again, Sedale. Michael Jordan, without argument the greatest player to ever set foot on any basketball court, would, under terms of his contract, only be making three million dollars if he was playing this season. Granted, MJ makes trillions off of endorsements with Nike and Gatorade, however, I don't see any mega corporations banging down Sedale's door asking if they can pay him big bucks to pitch their product.

Know what that means, Sedale? That means that you are not God's gift to basketball and the sporting world. Translation: No one, save maybe your family and friends, feels sorry for you or frankly cares if you hold out or not. Sure it probably pisses off the Lakers. They have been counting on you to suit up, contribute like a role player should, and smile all the way to the bank with your big, fat, undeserving paycheck in hand. But Sedale Threatt's come and go. The Lakers aren't going anywhere with you, and I'm sure they would just as soon dump you and your inflated contract off on some other team. But Lakers' general manager Jerry West knows that given your limitations as a player, no team in their right mind, not even the Mavericks, would be willing to swallow your salary.

Please don't take this as a personal attack against Sedale Threatt's game. I have no personal vendetta against him. He is a role player, not a superstar. Superstars make bones about being paid 2.5 million dollars a year. Role players keep their mouths shut, and enjoy every penny they earn. Two point five million dollars is a

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Netters prepare for Tech rematch

By Tom Day
THE BATTALION

After playing three nationally ranked opponents in six days, the Lady Aggie volleyball team could definitely use a break. But there's no rest for the weary as A&M will take the court again tonight in a Southwest Conference showdown against Texas Tech University in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Earlier this season, the Lady Aggies were swept 3-0 by the Red Raiders in Lubbock.

"The last time we played them, their middle attack was really sharp and difficult for us to stop," head coach Laurie Corbelli said. "We're going to have to really work on defending that attack."

In their heartbreaking loss to Duke University on Monday, the team discovered a new weapon. Middle blocker Cindy VanderWoude recorded a career-high 17 kills and the freshman is eager to contribute more.

VanderWoude said excellent teamwork was the key to her

solid performance.

"The passes and sets were sharp right off the bat and we finally connected and it helped me out," VanderWoude said.

Junior setter Suzy Wentz said the team will look to VanderWoude to provide a spark against Texas Tech.

Corbelli says the freshman is improving everyday and is already becoming an integral part of the team.

"We need her on the front row right now," Corbelli said. "She's got enough experience now to go out on the court and do some good things."

The Aggies will be looking to end a three match losing streak against the Red Raiders. All three of the setbacks have come at the hands of nationally ranked teams.

Although the losses are hard to swallow, Corbelli says that playing top-caliber competition helps in the development of the team.

"It has been tough, but I hope it elevates our level of play a little bit," Corbelli said. "I don't know if we'll see immediate results, but I hope we see some improvement in certain areas where we really need it."

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—Laurie Corbelli,

head coach for the Lady Aggie volleyball team

"She had a really great game (Monday) and we're going to look a lot to her," Wentz said. "She's been working her tail off at practice and it's really paid off."

Defensive specialist relishes role

By Jason Holstead
THE BATTALION

When the 1993-94 Texas A&M Lady Aggie volleyball team lost four starters to graduation last spring, the opportunity for increased playing time presented itself to several returning lettermen this fall. One of the returning members of the Lady Aggies challenging for a spot in the starting lineup is junior Joni Keister, a 5 foot, 11 inch middle blocker from Amarillo, Texas.

Keister has been a quality spot contributor off the bench so far this season, playing in all but one of Aggies' 16 matches this season. Despite having to come into many game situations cold, Keister ranks high on the team with a 2.23 digs per game average and leads the team in total blocks per game with a 0.79 average.

Keister said even though the Lady Aggies are struggling, she feels the team can still have a successful season.

"I think we are definitely in the position that we could do that (make the NCAA tournament)," Keister said. "With a lot of teamwork, really pushing hard in practices and playing some good teams, we are getting better. Positive things are going to happen."

With her increased role on the court as a team leader, Keister said her personal strengths on the court are passing and defense, while her main weakness is attacking the ball in the front row.

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Junior Joni Keister ranks high on the team with a 2.23 digs per game average.

Adjustments to line-up step up offense

By Stewart Doreen
THE BATTALION

Change is good. Just ask the South's eighth-ranked women's soccer team. After hitting a lull midway through their season, the Texas Aggies, 9-2-2, have made some changes that has brought back winning ways to Guerrieri's gang.

"We've been looking for the magic formula to put everything in place," coach G. Guerrieri. "We hit a bit of a lull at the Greensboro game. Since we have gotten back from the trip to North Carolina, the girls have come into it with a new attitude, which is what we needed."

The changes in the Aggie line-up are the product of many factors.

Freshman Bryn Blalack's move to the front line has been a big reason for the rise in the level of play. Blalack, a Parade All-American, has come back from her August 24th knee surgery (her third of her career) and moved to the front line, the squad giving added scoring punch. Blalack has accounted for five goals in the last four games.

"We wanted to bring Bryn in to aid us in finishing aspects of the attack," Guerrieri said. "Since we moved Bryn up to the front line, our game has changed and the level of play has improved."

It is a move that is helping the Aggies put the ball in the net and take the scoring pressure off

other forwards.

"The way Coach (Guerrieri) has us lined up now has had a positive effect on the team," sophomore forward Kristen Koop said. "We've been putting a lot more emphasis on finishing the play. When the opportunity comes up, we're converting better."

A stress fracture to the ankle of freshman sweeper Diana Rowe has also been a factor in the line up changes. The injury forced Guerrieri to move junior Corie Hammers from the midfield to the sweeper spot. It is a spot, Guerrieri said, Hammers has moved into nicely.

"Corie Hammers has been doing a great job and has solidified us in the back," Guerrieri said. "She has a cool hand under pressure and distributes the ball very well."

Hammers' move to sweeper spot opened up the midfield line for the return of sophomore midfielders Jamie Csizmadia and Sandy Edwards. The two are both coming off spring anterior cruciate ligament surgery and giving the team support in the middle.

The team's mindset has also been an object for improvement since the loss at Greensboro. The loss at Greensboro gave the young team a mental lesson they have carried into the latest winning streak.

"It was an eye opener," Koop said. "It really caused us to be focused before the game."



Sophomore forward Kristen Koop (left) drives the ball past sophomore marking back Allison Buckley.

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