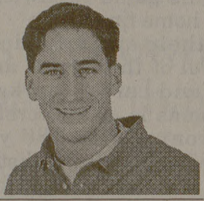


Title IX helps to boost women's athletic programs

STEWART DOREEN

Sportswriter



Gender equity in sports—I'm not talking about having female pickers like Kim McGuire and Heather Winch participating in the weekly picks. It's Title IX, and the process of making college programs more equitable for all athletes. The big problem is the equal distribution of scholarships to female athletes proportionate to the ratio of women to men.

In this area, Texas A&M has moved to the forefront of universities around the nation.

While some athletic departments are making drastic cuts in their programs and dropping some men's sports all together, A&M has found a new way to improve their women's programs and keep the cuts to the men's as low as possible.

It should be noted that I am adamantly opposed to the reductions in men's sports like men's basketball and baseball to give more scholarships to the women's teams. The fact is that football takes up 85 scholarships. The number may be high but is well-deserved. However, other men's sports should not be punished. That is reverse discrimination and not why Title IX was brought in.

Bringing in new sports like women's soccer and adding more scholarships to those existing is what A&M turned to thanks in part to the huge nest egg that exists in the athletic department. Now, all universities don't have the funds that A&M does, but the principle makes A&M an innovator in this area.

"It's ironic a school that was late to admit women to the school was the first to meet the requirements," senior associate athletic director Lynn Hickey said. "In our region, we're a role model."

The attitude to improve the women's athletics did not stop there. If you haven't noticed, women's teams are going places that were only a dream years before.

The A&M swimming team has combined an outstanding freshman class with quality returnees. Monday night they did something that is not too common in women's swimming. They took the fight to the No. 2 Texas Longhorns and came away with the victory over one of the dominant teams in the nation. It will take some time to see what benefits come from the win, but in the meantime, they could be on the verge of making serious waves in the conference.

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A&M netters to play double-header

Lady Ags look to keep momentum from UH upset

By Tom Day
THE BATTALION

After defeating 17th-ranked University of Houston Wednesday night, spirits were high at the Lady Aggie volleyball team's practice Thursday as the players prepared for another busy weekend.

On Saturday, the team travels to Springfield, Missouri, where they will play a pair of matches against Iowa State and Southwest Missouri State.

"In today's practice, everyone was kind of worn out because we played so hard (against Houston)," sophomore middle blocker Page White said. "The morale is high, and we all have high expectations for this weekend."

Senior outside hitter Jennifer Bronner said the team's intensity was a key factor in the win over Houston.

"We're really on a high right now," Bronner said. "In the past, we've had trouble keeping our intensity up, but last night we did a good job of it and it's a big booster for us."

Head coach Laurie Corbelli hopes to see more of the same dominating play this weekend.

"We're trying to challenge ourselves and see if we can maintain the aggressive type of play we had against Houston," Corbelli said.

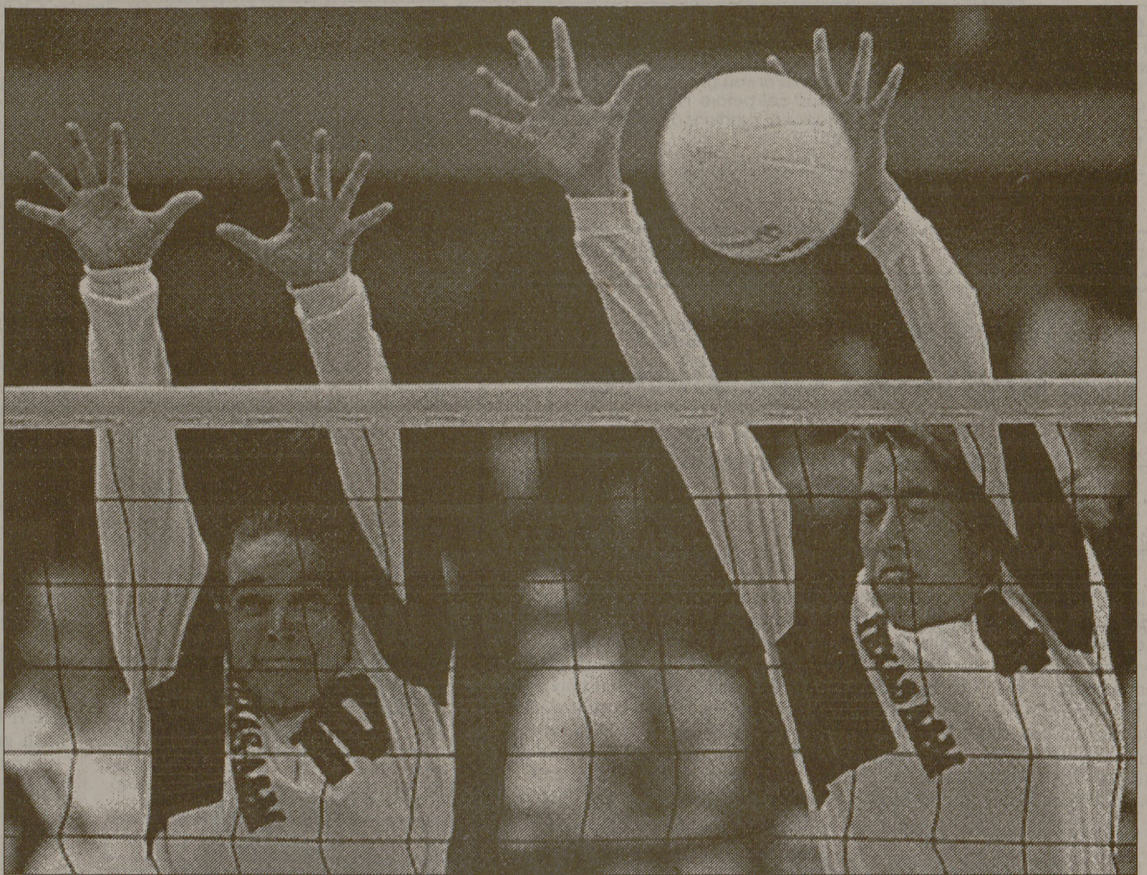
Bronner said finding consistency is a priority for the team.

"Lately, we've been on kind of a roller coaster, and we want to try to keep it steady and try to maintain the intensity we've had lately," Bronner said.

Corbelli said this weekend's competition will provide a test for the Aggies.

"Iowa State is holding their own in the Big 8," Corbelli said. "They haven't beat the top teams, but they've played solid games against them, which to me,

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Junior Suzy Wente (left) and sophomore Page White block a spike during Wednesday night's game against No. 19 UH Lady Cougars.

Injured Oliver yearns for return to gridiron

By Stewart Doreen
THE BATTALION

Fall workouts. A time when freshmen get their introduction to the world of college football. It should not be a time when major injuries occur.

Freshman wide receiver Aaron Oliver found that some things do not always go as planned. A simple movement like breaking off the ball ended his season before it really began. A torn Achilles tendon and the worst pain he ever experienced was his only reception for this season.

"It's been hard to deal with," Oliver said. "I've played football for nine years without missing games. It's hard watching. I don't like sitting out that much."

The injury marked the end of the year for the highly-touted freshman from Arlington Lamar High School. Through it all though, he has stayed positive about the ramifications of the injuries.

By redshirting this year Oliver will be eligible to play four more years. Oliver also said the injury has helped him make the adjust-

ment to the college scene easier with a good start in the classroom. Oliver is motivated to get back on the field and prove to those who doubted he could come back at 100 percent from such an injury.

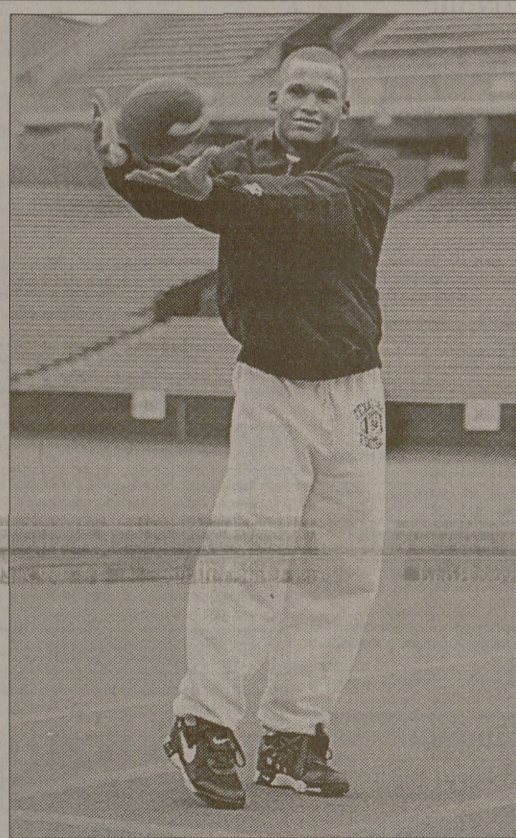
"Once it happened, I keyed my mind on trying to get back," Oliver said. "I can't wait to the field. I had a few people say 'you wouldn't get your speed back'. I'm looking to prove those people wrong."

Wide receiver coach Les Koenning, Jr. said that the recovery from the torn Achilles can make Oliver better.

"What you find out with young athletes who have injuries is if they can fight back through adversity," Koenning, Jr. said. "It makes them that much better when they face it on the football field or in the classroom. When things aren't going right, they may have grown a little bit."

Oliver came to Texas A&M rated as one of the top receivers in the nation. The decision to come to A&M followed a recruiting trip to College Station that his mother told him to go on despite Oliver's

See Oliver/Page 6



Freshman wide receiver Aaron Oliver is motivated to get back on the field and prove his worth.

Four recruits sign with A&M hoops

Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M men's basketball team came up smelling like roses in the second day of the early signing period of recruiting, signing three high school players and a junior college transfer.

The four recruits are 6 foot, 6 inch guard Gary Nottingham of Otero Junior College in Lajunta, Colorado, 6 foot, 8 inch forward Calvin Davis of Killeen High School, 6 foot, 11 inch center Brad Stricker of Devine (Texas) High School and 6 foot, 6 inch guard Joel Ockey of Payson High School in Utah. All three of the high school players are rated as prep All-Americans in Blue Chip Illustrated magazine.

"The bottom line is that this class is going to play in the Big 12 Conference," A&M head coach Tony Barone said. "We had to understand that in the recruiting process we had to bring in players we felt could play in the Big 12. That was paramount."

"We had to recruit kids who would be able to compete in that league, and we think we did with this class."

Nottingham averaged nine points,

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