

# Lady Aggies open season tonight

**A&M's goal is to win their first and the final SWC title.**

By Lisa Nance  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Women's Volleyball team made a preseason goal to win not only the Southwest Conference, but also to win every home game.

The first step toward their second goal begins tonight at 7:00 when the Lady Aggies of Texas A&M take on the Lady Aggies of Utah State at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Utah State comes to G. Rollie White with an 0-3 season record. Lady Aggie Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said the season is too young to tell

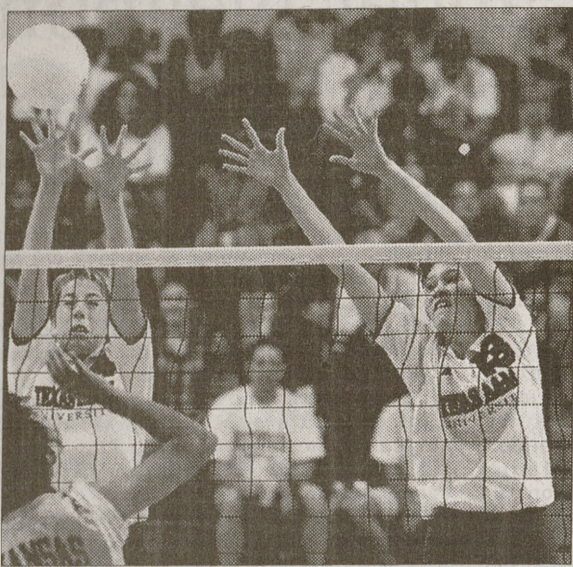
what kind of threat Utah State will be to A&M.

"They've played some really tough teams, so it's really hard to gauge," Corbelli said. "I think they're still in a growing program."

The Lady Aggies are returning six starters who helped direct A&M to a 6-4 Southwest Conference a 19-14 overall record last year. They also helped the team to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

Senior setter Suzy Wentz, a 5-foot-7-inch All-American candidate and sophomore outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud headline this season's starting lineup.

Senior Dana Santleben, who led the team with a 3.77 dig average last year, also returns as a starter. Santleben said she does not see



Battalion File Photo

Sophomore Lady Aggies **Page White** and **Kristie Smedsrud** defend the net in a game last season.

Utah State as having much of a chance.

"I don't see them as really being a threat," Santleben said. "Our team has been bonding really well lately.

We've been working on our passing and hitting and on our new offensive plays. I think we're going to come out pretty strong and ready for them."

## DAY

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battle between the A&M football team and the Colorado Buffaloes in Boulder won't take place for another three weeks, the quest to be there began last weekend for Aggie fans. In fact, the line for Colorado game tickets started forming during the middle of the A&M-LSU contest. Go figure.

I arrived on the scene around 3:30 Sunday afternoon with a card table, a chair, a sleeping bag, a Walkman and a cooler. I set up shop under the pavilion of G. Rollie White and signed my name in on a waiting list.

At No. 60 in line and supposedly just 250 tickets available for students, my prospects looked grim. If every person on the list bought his limit of six tickets, I wouldn't stand a chance.

However, my hopes were strengthened when the first of several roll calls took place. Every name on the list was called out, and if you or some-

one in your group wasn't there to answer, your name was scratched from the list. Three names were eliminated during the first roll call, and seven more would be scratched off during the course of the night.

It wasn't too hot in the afternoon as athletic officials were kind enough to leave the front doors open and let the air conditioning pour out on the crowd. Many people took advantage of this, using the indoor outlets to power televisions and stereos.

At 7:30, I was spelled by reinforcements in my group. I returned a couple of hours later to discover the crowd had doubled in size.

The atmosphere was festive. Some people kicked back in their couches and watched television while others set up tables for card games and bones tournaments. Footballs and frisbees screamed through the air as pizza delivery guys zigzagged through the crowd.

The well-prepared stuffed their faces with snack food, soft drinks and in some cases, alcohol. Some students even stooped so low as to study and do homework! All this activity seemed to make the hours pass faster.

As the night went on, you either grew quiet and dozed off or you got louder. My group got louder. With exhaustion setting in, everything said became funnier. My Spanish class translations got the most laughs.

Anyway, at about 6:00 in the morning, the feeling of camaradery among the crowd had played out. Arguments over roll call and the arrival of more students seeking tickets were jeopardizing our outing. If people didn't line up in order of the time they had checked in, all hell would break loose.

Fearing a riot and a free-for-all for tickets, I edged my way closer to the ticket window. But the move was unnecessary, as cooler heads prevailed and an orderly line was formed. Cheers followed when it was announced there were 390 tickets available. If all went well, we'd be home-free.

For the next hour-and-a-half, we waited patiently in line, praying there would be enough tickets. At precisely 8:37 a.m., my group hit paydirt. After 17 hours of sweating, eating, sleeping and laughing under the open sky, we now held five paper jewels in our hands.



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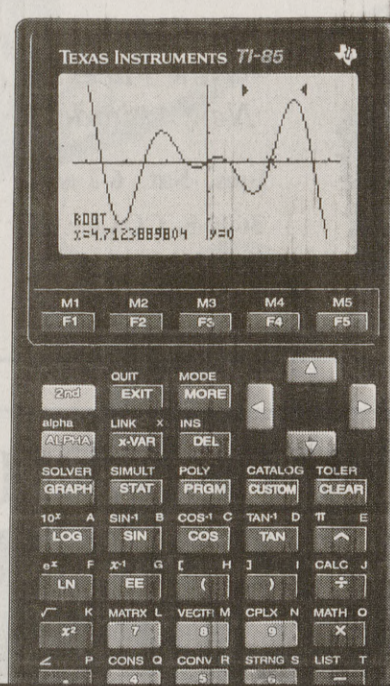
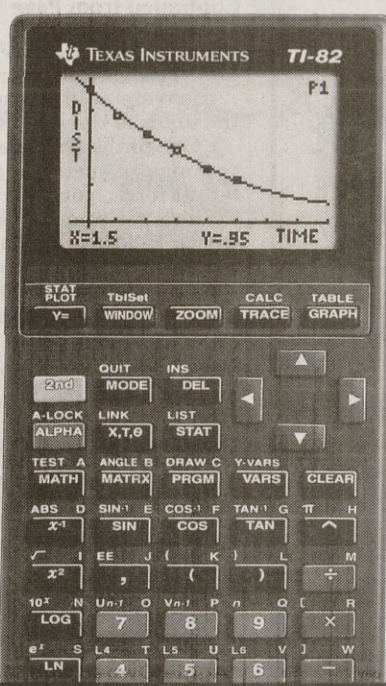
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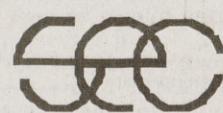
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