

SPORTS
BRIEFS

Kansas expects big turnaround against TCU

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Two weeks into the college football season, Kansas' plan to cure its passing ills has met with mixed success.

The Jayhawks' aerial game is revitalized, with more passes than since 1992. But the rushing attack, long a staple of Glen Mason teams, has fallen from No. 8 in the nation a year ago to No. 8 in the Big Eight.

Texas Christian University, which meets the Jayhawks in a 7 p.m. kickoff Thursday night in Lawrence, could likely see a very different offense from the one the Horned Frogs beat a year ago in Fort Worth, Texas.

TCU's most vivid memory of Kansas is a strong running game in which June Hentley alone netted 118 yards.

"I'm not pleased with the running game right now," said Mason, whose Jayhawks are 2-0 and bidding for national attention. "We've spent a lot of time on our passing game and it took away from the running game."

NBA trio booted from Waffle House

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — NBA players Gary Payton, Jason Kidd and Brian Shaw were kicked out of a 24-hour restaurant after waitresses accused them of being threatening and shouting obscenities.

Shaw conceded his group of eight people, which included Kidd of the Dallas Mavericks and Payton of the Seattle SuperSonics, was talking and laughing loudly during a 4:30 a.m. stop at the Waffle House restaurant. But he said waitress Marty Sharp was rude to him first and ordered the group to "shut up."

"She was nervous because we were all black, coming in at (4:30) in the morning," Shaw said. "We were laughing and talking loudly. I told her to go ahead and call police. We weren't doing anything wrong."

Police asked the group to leave the restaurant and they complied. Police spokesman Mike Holloway said a trespass warning should have been written, and Sharpe said she still wants a guarantee the players can't return.

Plan to keep Oilers in Houston takes downturn

HOUSTON (AP) — Attorneys trying to settle a Houston Oilers lawsuit came to court armed with smiles and confidence only to exit a judge's chambers Wednesday a little gray around the gills.

After failing to resolve the issue of the Oilers' lease at the Astrodome, U.S. District Judge Lynn N. Hughes gave the football team, the city of Houston, Harris County and Astrodome USA until late Wednesday to come up with a resolution.

The 4:30 p.m. deadline passed without an agreement.

So the lawyers will be back in court Thursday morning — this time with their clients, including Oilers owner Bud Adams, Houston Mayor Bob Lanier and Astrodome manager Drayton McLane Jr.

Officials on both sides were to have approved a tentative settlement knocked out by attorneys Monday night so that Hughes could sign a final consent decree.

Player reps approve NBA labor deal

CHICAGO (AP) — NBA player representatives today approved a deal that should ensure labor peace for six years, needing only the expected final approval from team owners.

The vote was 25-2 in favor of the deal, with a three-quarters vote needed for approval. Boston and Sacramento cast the dissenting votes.

"It looks like we're going to play ball this season," Shawn Bradley of the Philadelphia 76ers said. "The vote went well."

"We're happy we can go forward," Bulls player rep Steve Kerr said after the 35-minute meeting. "The vote was overwhelming."

NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik said he hoped the owners would approve the deal by Friday.

"We will promptly submit the deal to the owners for ratification, and we hope to have their approval by Friday afternoon," Granik said in a statement. "We would be able to lift the lockout and resume normal operations on Monday, September 18."

There is at least one other potential impediment, that from Sacramento's Mitch Richmond.

Richmond, who attended the meeting, has filed a charge with the National Labor Relations Board questioning whether players were coerced during their decertification vote in the past two weeks. The vote was counted Tuesday.

Tipton makes quick mark at A&M

The hard-hitting freshman has made a smooth transition to the collegiate level.

By Lisa Nance
THE BATTALION

Freshman Kim Tipton is looking to make a name for herself in her first year on the Texas A&M women's volleyball team. The 6-foot outside hitter from Arlington has begun making her mark already by completing the transition from high school athletics to the collegiate level with surprising ease.

"Kim has done a super job (on making the transition)," A&M Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "In the preseason, in practice, she was probably the most prepared freshman."

Nothing shook her, she was right there with all the drills. She was really complete."

Tipton, who was a three-year starter at Arlington High School, admits playing at the college level is different from what she was used to in high school.

"The only thing that is really different is that the pace of the game is a lot faster," Tipton said. "The speed and level of intensity are a lot greater also."

"The coaches ask more of

you than in high school. "The level has totally changed, you hit harder, you have people hitting harder at you and you have to put up a stronger block."

Tipton possesses a variety of shots, including a sharp angle shot, down the line shot, and a change-up that will allow her to make an immediate contribution to the team.

At Arlington High, she was a three-time, first-team All-District selection and was voted District 8-5A's Most Valuable Player for 1994. As a senior, she set a school record with 444 kills and posted 59 block shots, 92 block assists, 189 digs and 44 aces in her final season.

After her standout 1994 season, Tipton was named to the all-state second team by both the Texas Girls Coaches Association and the Texas Sportswriters Association, and she was selected to play on the TGCA West all-star team.

Her experience in high school has helped her to make a solid impact as a freshman.

"Her most immediate contribution as a freshman has been her ball control and her knowledge of the game," Corbelli said. "In the recruiting process, she was identified as one of the best ball handlers and is a very smart player."

In addition to her high school play, Tipton played club ball for the Mid-Cities

Black. Her team took first place at the 1994 Tour of Texas, a statewide tournament of semipro teams.

As a club player, she was a three-time, all-tournament selection at the Tour of Texas and was also named to the all-tournament team at the 1993 Lone Star Classic.

Tipton, who is now back in full force after an injury to her quadriceps, is ready to begin competing for a starting position.

"I want to see a lot of playing time," Tipton said. "I want to work hard for a spot. If it's not a starting role, I at least want to go in a few games. Right now, Andrea (Williams) is playing right side, so we'll be competing."

Corbelli said that Tipton will see some playing time as a freshman, especially on defense.

"I used to think her strength would be her power behind the net, but now I think it's her back row," Corbelli said. "It's a lot stronger than I thought it would be, and she will probably be one of our key passers. We usually receive with three players, and she'll probably be in at one of those three positions. She has a very good feel for the ball."

Tipton, who saw some playing time against Utah State, said that she was scared but was glad to get the jitters out of the way.

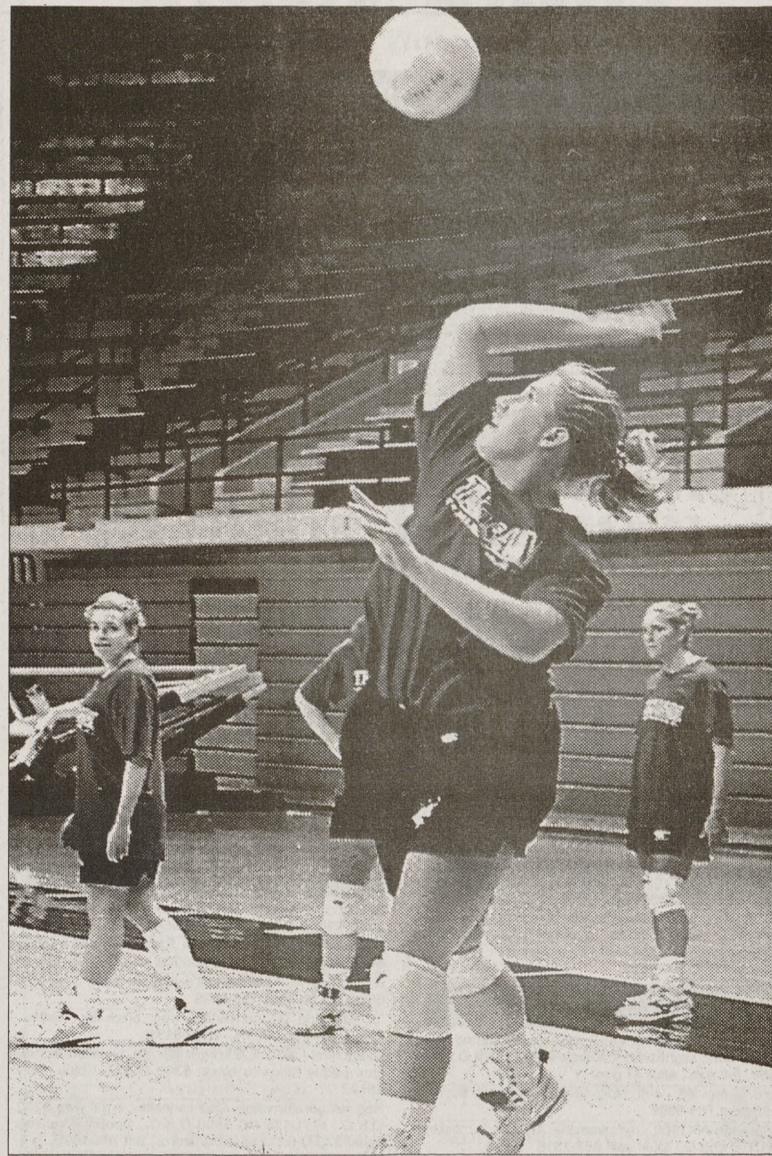
Tipton credits the veterans of the team for making her transition a smooth one.

"We all get along so well," she said. "The upperclassmen really make us feel like we belong. They really help us out a lot."



"In the preseason, she was probably the most prepared freshman."

— Laurie Corbelli
A&M Volleyball Coach



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Lady Aggie freshman Kim Tipton works on her jump serve during a recent A&M Volleyball practice.

A&M faces tough road in North Carolina

The volleyball will play North Carolina, Duke and LSU this weekend.

By Tom Day
THE BATTALION

They may have been the defending national champions and the No. 1 ranked team in the country, but to the Lady Aggie volleyball team, the Stanford Cardinal was a victim.

A&M's five-set victory over the nation's top-ranked team last weekend sent a clear message to its future opponents: Look out.

"Hopefully (the win) got us a little more respect nationally," A&M Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "For those who think it was a fluke, we're planning to prove it wasn't for the rest of the season."

Lady Aggie setter and team captain Suzy Wente

said the team not only overcame Stanford's powerful play, but a little prematch intimidation as well.

"With their height advantage and the way they were hitting balls in warm-ups, we were intimidated," Wente said. "But we went out there and executed, and it all came together. (The win) gave us a lot of confidence."

The win was one of the most important and dramatic in Lady Aggie history.

It was also A&M's first win over a ranked team since their defeat of Michigan State last season in the first round of the NCAA Volleyball Tournament.

The Aggies went on to lose to fourth-ranked Ohio State in the next round.

Corbelli said the team can always refer back to the Stan-

ford victory during the season if the team suffers a drop off.

"It gives us a reference point for our confidence level and our ability," Corbelli said. "At any point during the season we have doubt or we're lacking motivation or inspiration, we can always look back to the Stanford match."

One of the keys to the Lady Aggies' win was the play of outside hitter Andrea Williams. The senior led the team in digs and kills against the Cardinal.

"She was completely unstoppable," Wente said. "Their players looked totally frustrated. Everything she hit was a

kill." "Andrea was out of this world," Corbelli said. "I had never seen her practice or compete that way for that long of a time or at that high of a level. She has really raised the expect-

tations she has of herself this season."

The Lady Aggies will need more of the same solid play from Williams this weekend as the team embarks on a three-game road trip to North Carolina.

On Friday, A&M will travel to Chapel Hill to take on North Carolina.

"North Carolina is a big, strong, offensive team and we'll have to be careful of their size and ability at the net," Corbelli said.

On Saturday, the Aggie netters head north to Durham to play Louisiana State and Duke.

"LSU is young and spirited and probably one of the most athletic teams we'll see this season," Corbelli said. "Duke is in a rebuilding year and may be down, but when you're the visiting team, it's always tough."

Last weekend against Stanford and Illinois, the Lady Aggies built commanding two-

game leads, only to lose their composure.

That problem cost the team a victory against Illinois, and is something Williams said the team will need to improve on this weekend.

"We need to learn to start strong and stay strong through the whole match," Williams said. "We need to work together from the beginning, keep our momentum going and not dwell on mistakes that we've made."

"I think that will be a real plus for us this weekend."

Corbelli said the team is meeting its early-season expectations.

"I really believe we are at the point where we thought we'd be," Corbelli said. "We realized early in the season that we were going to be quicker and a little bigger, and we'd have a lot of spirit. That's showing in our play right now."

A&M soccer team ready to turn back Tide

The Aggies are ranked 14th in the nation.

By David Winder
THE BATTALION

When the Texas A&M soccer team steps onto the field of the Aggie Soccer Complex this Friday, it will be playing the University of Alabama.

When the Crimson Tide steps onto the field, they will be playing the 14th-ranked women's soccer team in the nation.

After upsetting fifth-ranked William & Mary and losing to fourth-ranked Duke University 2-1, the Aggies moved up from No. 19 to No. 14 this week in Soccer America.

The jump gives the Aggies their highest ranking in the program's history and is the first time the Aggies have been ranked in the Soccer America poll.

The only other Southwest

Conference team ranked higher than the Aggies is Southern Methodist University, which checks in at No. 9.

"Now, we have to keep winning and moving up in the rankings," forward Yvette Okler said. "We've got No. 6 Massachusetts and ninth-ranked SMU (Southern Methodist University) coming up."

But before the Aggies start playing the rankings game, they have to play Alabama.

"We expect them to come out and play us straight up," A&M Head Soccer Coach G. Guerrieri said. "We feel we will have a lot more team speed than they will."

"It should be a pretty good match-up in that we will be looking at mostly A&M's attack mentality compared to Bama's defensive priorities and their ability to

counterattack."

Alabama is 1-2 this season, with its only win a 2-1 victory over the University of Georgia. Ashley Kirkland leads the Crimson Tide with two goals.

"We're going to have to dictate the speed of the game," A&M midfielder Allison Buckley said. "We can't play at their speed."

The Aggies are 3-1 this season with victories also over the University of Arkansas and Marquette University.

Junior forward Kristen Koop leads the team with seven goals followed by sophomore forward Bryn Blalack.

"We came into our first game a little bit lax," Guerrieri said.

"We have to dictate the pace of the game and keep possession of the ball for the majority of the match. That in itself will determine the outcome of the game."



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore midfielder Sonia Ibanez kicks the ball past Marquette's Danielle Henion at the Aggie Soccer Complex.