

Thursday  
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# Lady Aggies lose in close match

□ The Lady Aggies lose to the University of Texas, 6-15, 15-8, 9-15, 15-8 and 15-10.

By Tom Day  
THE BATTALION

The atmosphere was just right Wednesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The crowd was rocking, the cameras were rolling and the University of Texas was paying a visit. But the Lady Aggie volleyball team wasn't quite up to the challenge, as the Longhorns won the heart-breaking match 6-15, 15-6, 9-15, 15-8 and 15-10.

A&M Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said the Aggies' inconsistent outside hitting ultimately cost the team in the hard-fought five game match.

"We had more mental problems than physical problems," Corbelli said. "There was no stopping our middle attack, but we went outside too often when our passes were off and our outside hitters struggled. I think we were intimidated by the size of Texas' blockers."

Entering the match, riding a ten game winning streak, A&M (12-2 and 4-1 in the SWC) played up to its capabilities in the first game. The Aggies ran off eight straight points with a series of kills that energized the crowd and had the Longhorns on their heels.

"In the first game, we were fired up and poised to beat them," Corbelli said. "After we got that under our belt, we took a deep breath and got started again and lost our momentum. After that, it was hard to figure out how to get back into it."

Texas (10-4, 5-0 SWC), took complete advantage of A&M's wavering intensity in the next game, firing back to even the match at a game apiece.

"They served us deep and we didn't adjust very well to that," A&M setter Suzy Wente said. "We got caught up trying to get our passing going and that threw our offense off."

Receiving a jump start from freshman outside hitter Stacy Sykora in the third game, A&M came back strong to temporarily reclaim the lead. The freshman's intense play and three kills helped to relight a fire under the Aggies and get the



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Outside hitter Andrea Williams digs the ball as #14 Dana Santleben and #4 Page White look on during the game against the University of Texas last night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

crowd back into the game.

"I loved (the crowd noise) and it was great being out there," Sykora said. "It was tougher communicating with the setter, but it was just like a regular game."

Just like before, however, the experienced Longhorns were able to shift the match's momentum back in their favor. After winning the fourth game and tying the contest back up, Texas was in position to take the match.

"(A&M) socked it to us early," Texas Head Coach Mick Haley said. "But we changed the tempo of the game a little bit, bought time and got in a rhythm."

"It was a pretty good battle. A&M always leaves it out on the floor."

The Aggies were paced by Kristie Smedsrud's 16 kills while Cindy VanderWoude and Page White finished with 15 and 14 kills respectively. Wente contributed 59 assists to the Aggies' cause.

"Texas plays very consistent and steady and has a great team," Corbelli said. "But tonight, I don't feel they were as big a factor in our loss as we were. There was a question mark in our minds and I don't think we made an all-out effort."

"Our thinking on the court was not as sharp as it has been lately."

Corbelli said despite the Aggies' disappointing effort, she still has complete faith in the team.

"We had a great opportunity to win, but we handed it over to Texas," Corbelli said. "We know we could have won the match. I'm disappointed about tonight, but I'm definitely not disappointed with this team."

"I think we're a fantastic team." The Lady Aggies return to action Friday night against Baylor at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7 p.m.

# Aggie crowd noise deafening for tough Lady Longhorns

□ Freshman Sykora led the enthusiasm of the crowd at G. Rollie.

By Nick Georgandis  
THE BATTALION

To hear University of Texas Head Volleyball Coach Mick Haley tell it, the Texas A&M crowd made quite a difference Wednesday night.

Unfortunately for the Lady Aggie Volleyball Team, it was not quite enough.

"I think our freshman were startled," Haley said. "They did a nice job in the first game, and we never got into a rhythm. Our freshmen got baptized tonight, didn't they?"

A season-high crowd of 2,136 showed up at G. Rollie White Coliseum to root on the 19th-ranked Lady Aggies try to snap a three-game regular season slide against the Lady Longhorns.

But it was not only the Lady Longhorn freshmen who were playing their first game in a raucous G. Rollie White Coliseum. A&M freshman outside hitter Stacy Sykora played extensively in three of the five games, and said she noticed a definite difference because of the crowd.

"It was a great crowd, and I loved it out there," Sykora said. "But we couldn't here very well and it was very hard to communicate with the setter."

Sykora's emotions showed at both ends of the spectrum during the game. Rapidly becoming a crowd favorite along the lines of Lady Aggie basketball player Bambi Ferguson for her hustle and verbal expressions, Sykora frustrated the Lady Longhorns several times with her unnerving jump serve.

She also bumped bodies with

several of her teammates however, ending up with six errors and a .133 hitting percentage.

In that first game, A&M limited UT to a -.081 hitting percentage while taking a 15-6 victory. As the Lady Aggies poured on the points, including eight straight at one point to expand a 4-3 lead to 12-3, the crowd became louder and louder, making it difficult for players on both teams to hear each other.

"We always know coming in here how loud the crowd's going to be," UT senior setter Carrie Busch said. "It's beginning to sink in that this is my last time playing here. It's always been fun here playing with such great fans and such a high level of intensity."

Although the Lady Aggies were able to convert the crowd's energy into a dominating attack in Game One, the Lady Longhorns were able to adjust and throw A&M's strategy off in later games.

"The noise level actually started helping us," UT freshman outside hitter Demetrie Sance said. "It made us see how much they wanted this game, and made us want it that much more."

Although the Lady Longhorns heavy outside hitters were finally able to pound A&M into submission by the end of the five-game, two-hour, five-minute game, Haley said he sees an increase in A&M's home attendance and win total.

"I'm sorry everyone didn't want to come to this game," Haley said. "We played hard, they played hard and the fans rooted hard. When you have fans that come out and root for you like this, you know you'll be back and they'll be back. There ought to be three or four thousand people out to see this team next time."

# Aggie soccer blows out Lady Longhorns, 6-0

□ The Aggies shutout their second South-west Conference opponent in a row.

Staff and Wire Reports

The No. 13 Texas A&M Soccer Team scored three goals in a seven-minute span in the first half and cruised past the University of Texas 6-0 Wednesday in Austin.

The Aggies outshot the

Longhorns 17-4 in the first half while moving to 10-3-0 on the year with a 3-0-0 in the Southwest Conference.

Junior forward Yvette Okler opened the scoring at the 11:09 mark as she capitalized on a 2-on-1 breakout.

Forward Kristen Koop took a clearing pass from defender Emily Elias and Koop and Okler took midfield advantage of the long-distance break.

Senior midfielder Corie Hammers followed with another goal at 12:32.

Finally, Diana Rowe capped

off the scoring outburst as she and Koop combined to make it 3-0 at the 17:35 mark.

Sophomore Bryn Blalack finished off the first-half scoring at 30:09 as she took a corner pass from Jaime Csizmadia.

The four goals by A&M in the first half and the six overall were the most goals Texas has allowed in the past two years. The loss dropped the Longhorns to 4-10-0 overall and 1-2-0 in the conference.

"The score did not indicate the toughness of the match," Aggie Head Coach G. Guerri-

eri said. "Except for the last two goals, they made us earn everything we got."

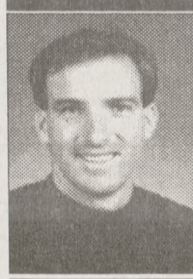
Unlike the rapid-fire first half, the second half was a scoreless battle until the 81:04 mark when Csizmadia converted a penalty kick for the Aggies.

Freshman Nicole Shook closed out the scoring for the match with a shot from nine yards out at the 89:10 mark.

"Physically, they were much stronger and mentally they were much stronger," Texas Head Coach Dang Pibulvech said. "The lack of pos-

session early on in the game caused us to fall back on our heels. We didn't do anything right in the first half, and everything clicked for them."

The Aggies will take a non-conference break this weekend, travelling to Fairfax, Va. to compete in the George Mason / Lazera Invitational with Maryland and George Mason.



"The score did not indicate the toughness of the game."

- G. Guerrieri  
Aggie Head Coach

# The tradition continues with the 1995 12th Man team

□ The 12th Man team has made three tackles this season.

By Kristina Buffin  
THE BATTALION

They meet every Thursday night at Wings 'N' More to talk and just hang out.

The Texas A&M 12th Man Kick-Off Team is comprised of eight enthusiastic walk-on players, whose job is to carry on the tradition of the original 12th man, E. King Gill.

In 1922, A&M was playing Centre College. Head Coach Dana X. Bible and his Aggies were ahead.

However, many injuries forced Bible to call a student down from the press box to take an injured player's place. This man was Gill. Despite the fact that Gill did not play, it began a famous tradition.

"The 12th men have something in common," senior Thomas Little said. "We know who got the call that week, and we go to honor that man whose turn it is. This has brought us closer together."

One player is chosen for each game to cover on kick-offs. Because only 65 players can travel with the team for road games, and there are usually more than 65 scholarship players, only one of

the 12th man is picked to play in each game.

"We try to spread it around the eight guys," Special Teams Coach Shawn Slocum said. "Going back, Jackie (Sherill) had about 20 guys. He had the cover team consist of all 12th men."

"We just use one guy (per game) for one reason. We have to have consistency with the road teams."

The primary reason that these players play on the 12th Man team is because of the tradition that it holds.

The pure prestige and the support of the student body is the gratification that each athlete receives.

"At the Colorado game it was amazing," junior Jeff Rogers said. "Some people were nervous but I was so excited and anxious. Just talking about it hypes me out. I was so anxious and ready to go after I looked at the crowd. I represent them. It has to be even better playing at Kyle Field."

Most of the members started off as walk-ons but then moved to the 12th Man team. Rogers said that the

benefits of being recognized as a 12th man are greater than simply being a walk-on.

"I love being a walk-on because the faces of the crowd light up when the 12th man takes the field," Rogers said. "I feel that everyone is behind me. Being a walk-on is like 'Oh great' but everyone adores the 12th man. It is a great honor to be able to do something that everyone else wants to do. I remember that when I run down the field."

Little played football in high school in Kilgore and decided to try out for the team when he was sitting in the stands

as a freshman.

"What happens to most people is that they are sitting in the stands and thinking that it could be them on the field," Little said. "It was the first time in five years that I had not played football. I really did not think I was good enough and I thought that I didn't have a chance hell. I tried out because I thought that the worst thing that could hap-

pen was that my feelings would be hurt for a day if I didn't make it. It would not mean that I was a bad player."

This season Little has two unassisted tackles. Both came in the game against Louisiana State University.

"Personally, my first feeling is 'Oh Lord, don't let me be the one to miss a coverage or to be the one that messes up,'" Little said. "Getting a tackle is a great feeling, you're not thinking about anything else."

In addition to covering kick-offs, the team also practices as the scout team during practice.

"There is quite a bit of cohesiveness on the team," Slocum said. "The scholarship players have a lot of respect for them."

"There help in practice and we need them to come out on the scout teams. There is a mutual respect there."

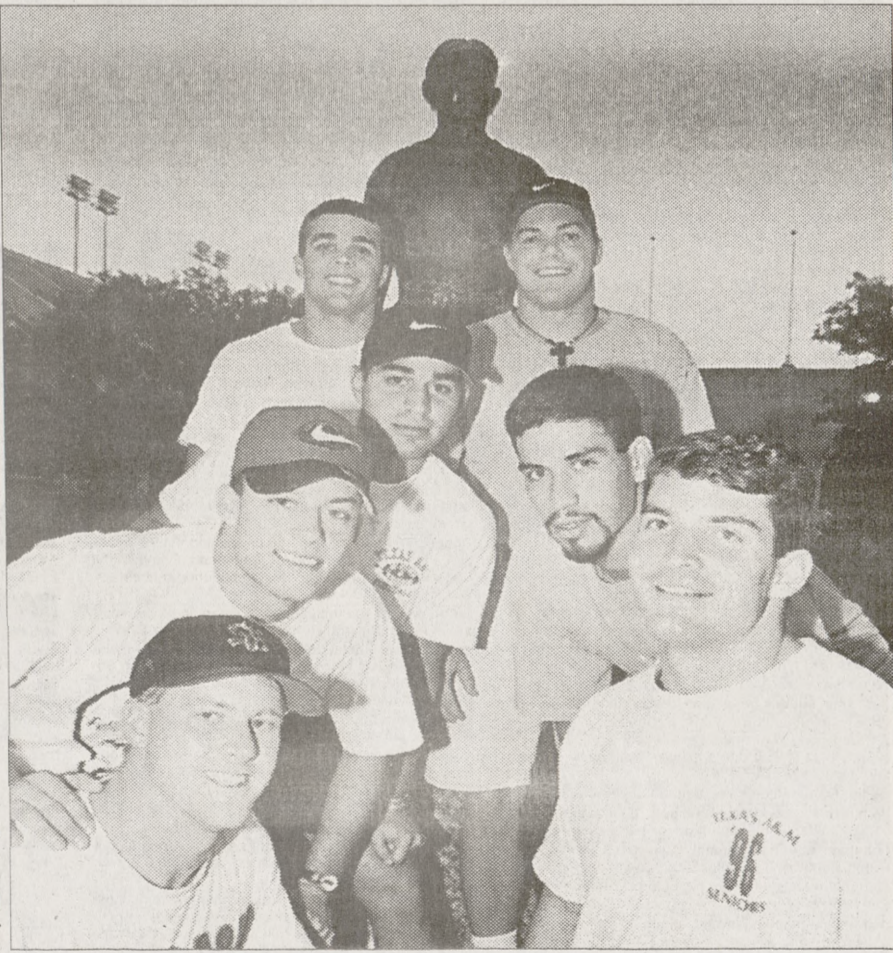
This is Little's last year on the team because he is graduating in August. After being on the 12th man team for three years, Little wants to make this a special year.

"This last year is special for me," Little said. "Having a sellout crowd and great fans when they're yelling is just really something. It is a great feeling to bring 75,000 people to their feet."



"The scholarship players have a lot of respect for them."

- Shawn Slocum  
Special teams coach



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Members of the 12th Man Team (from left to right), Thomas Little, Jeff Rogers, Ben Puig, Garey Carey, Shawn Reynolds, James Muniz and Kip Amedeo stand in front of the first 12th Man, E. King Gill.