

At a
GLANCE

SPORTS BRIEFS

Volleyball team rolls over Rice in three games

Senior outside hitter Andrea Williams led Texas A&M with 9 kills to a 16-14, 15-9, 15-8 win over Rice Saturday at Autry Court in Houston.

Senior setter Suzy Wente quarterbacked the Lady Aggies to the win with a match-high 50 assists on the night.

The win moved A&M to 20-5 on the year including 8-2 in the South-west Conference, Rice dropped to 19-10 overall and 4-6 in SWC action.

Also contributing for the Lady Aggies were sophomore outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud, who tallied 14 kills and 11 digs, and freshman outside hitter Stacy Sykora who compiled 10 kills and a match-high 17 digs.

Top Oklahoma recruit Evans signs with A&M

Tracy Evans of Tulsa, Okla. has signed a national letter of intent to compete for the 1996-97 Texas A&M Women's Swimming Team.

A seven-time high school All-American, Evans has earned three varsity letters at Jenks High School. Last spring, Evans was honored as Oklahoma's Swimmer of the Year.

A freestyle specialist, Evans will be a welcome addition to a Lady Aggie team which will lose senior sprinters Deanean Knapp and Julie Bates, a twosome which ranks among the top freestylers to come through the A&M program.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

NFL

SF 49ers 38, Cowboys 20
Bengals 32, Oilers 25

NBA

Spurs 84, Cavaliers 81

AP TOP 25 POLL

	Record	Pts
1. Nebraska(45)	10-0-0	1,530
2. OhioSt.(12)	10-0-0	1,476
3. Florida(5)	9-0-0	1,458
4. Tennessee	8-1-0	1,350
5. Northwestern	9-1-0	1,295
6. FloridaSt.	8-1-0	1,239
7. KansasSt.	9-1-0	1,172
8. NotreDome	8-2-0	1,105
9. Colorado	8-2-0	963
10. Texas	7-1-1	950
11. SouthernCal	8-1-1	885
12. Michigan	8-2-0	772
13. Virginia	8-3-0	743
14. Arkansas	8-2-0	725
15. Kansas	8-2-0	685
16. Oregon	8-2-0	649
17. Alabama	8-2-0	617
18. TexasA&M	6-2-0	521
19. PennSt.	6-3-0	438
20. VirginiaTech	8-2-0	413
21. Auburn	7-3-0	405
22. Washington	6-3-1	275
23. Syracuse	7-2-0	147
24. Clemson	7-3-0	122
25. Miami	6-3-0	53

UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's Basketball

The Men's Basketball Team will take on the Melbourne Magic in an exhibition game at G. Rolie White Coliseum tonight at 7 o'clock.

Aggie Soccer

The Aggie Soccer Team travels to Dallas Saturday to take on the Mustangs of Southern Methodist University in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

Lady Aggie Volleyball

The A&M Volleyball Team travels to San Marcos to take on Southwest Texas State University Tuesday night in non-conference action. The team travels to Houston on Saturday to compete in the SWC Tournament.

Lady Aggie Basketball

The Lady Aggies host the preseason National Invitational Tournament beginning Wednesday with a game against Lamar at 7 p.m.

Aggie Football

The Aggies play host to Middle Tennessee State Saturday at Kyle Field.

Soccer team rolls past Clemson, 4-1

□ The Aggies will play SWC rival SMU on Saturday in Dallas in a second-round NCAA Tournament game.

By Philip Leone
THE BATTALION

In the program's first-ever playoff match, the Texas A&M Soccer Team defeated Clemson 4-1 Sunday afternoon before 672 fans at the Aggie Soccer Complex.

Junior forward Kristin Koop gave the Aggies the quick lead five minutes into the match with a sliding goal off a well-placed pass from junior midfielder Jamie Czimadia. Koop credited Czimadia's effort in getting her the ball in good position to score her 20th goal of the season.

"Jamie really did all the work on that one," Koop said. "She worked the ball around to beat her defender and gave me a good pass, and I just ran as hard as I could to beat the keeper to the ball. Jamie just did an awesome job on that play."

With the score 1-0 in favor of A&M for much of the first half, Clemson's sophomore midfielder Lisa Mansberry tied the match with a goal in the game's 28th minute. Less than five minutes later, however, A&M's junior forward Yvette Okler scored to answer for the Lady Aggies.

Okler took a crossing pass from junior midfielder Kim Duda and fought off two Clemson defenders to slip a shot passed the goalkeeper.

Okler took a series of hard blows from surrounding defenders on the play and was somewhat fuzzy in describing the goal after the contest.

"I really don't remember it," Okler said. "I remember going hard toward the goal and then the ball popping out to

Duda who fed me the crossing pass. I can't remember playing the ball. I'm just glad that it got into the net."

After taking a 2-1 lead into halftime, A&M's lead was quickly increased when Okler registered her second goal of the game two minutes into the second period. The goal came when Okler knocked in a rebound shot after sophomore forward Bryn Blalack's scoring attempt hit the top bar of the goal.

A&M was able to hold Clemson scoreless the entire second half with superb play in the goal box from Sunny McConnell, who was aided by equally effective play from the speedy Aggie defense.

Freshman forward Nicole Shook wrapped up A&M's scoring on the day with an insurance goal with 1:11 left in the match to bring the final score to 4-1.

After the defeat, Clemson Head Coach Tracey Leone said she was impressed with A&M's offensive attack and felt positive about A&M's chances in the playoffs.

"A&M scored a lot of goals in different ways — on restarts, on corner kicks, and with a varied attack," Leone said. "I think they have a very good chance of advancing farther in the tournament because of the talent that they possess on their front three. They're a very, very dangerous."

Advancing farther in the NCAA tournament will be a difficult task for the Aggies, who are scheduled to face the Southwest Conference Champions of Southern Methodist University on Nov. 16 in Dallas.

SMU, 21-0-1 on the season, beat the Aggies once in the regular season and again in a hard-fought conference championship game a week ago.

Despite his squad's lack of success against the Lady Mustangs, A&M Head Coach G. Guerrieri believes Sunday's win over Clemson gives the Lady Aggies a boost of confidence going into



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M sophomore midfielder Sonia Ibanez moves the ball Sunday against Clemson in the Aggies' 4-1 win.

the next round.

"SMU has been to the tournament probably four times, and they still haven't won a game," Guerrieri said. "We have won a game, and I think that gives us a little bit of confidence going

in the game."

When asked about A&M chances against SMU, Guerrieri's All-SWC forward Bryn Blalack responded with the same sort of optimism.

"Third time's a charm," Blalack said.

Agent Steinberg ponders draft, agents

□ Leigh Steinberg will talk to students at 1p.m. today at Rudder Theater.

By Kristina Buffin
THE BATTALION

He was living in the dorm at Boalt Hall School of Law on the U.C. Berkeley campus in the early 1970s when members of the freshman football team moved into his dorm. There he met former Atlanta Falcon quarterback Steve Bartkowski.

Bartkowski had a favor for his friend, sports agent and lawyer Leigh Steinberg.

"He was the 1975 first round draft pick, took one year off from school and then came back and asked me to represent him," Steinberg said. "I was just brimming with law experience, and we ended up signing the biggest contract for a rookie."

Steinberg negotiated a record-breaking \$600,000 contract for Bartkowski, the largest NFL contract until San Francisco 49er Steve Young's 1993 contract of \$26.5 million became the largest contract in NFL history. He also negotiated the largest seven-year contract at \$50 million for Cowboy Troy Aikman.

Today at Rudder Theatre, from 1-3 p.m., Steinberg will be

speaking to business law students and the general student body on his thoughts about sports business in the 1990s.

Steinberg not only represents football players but professional baseball, basketball and hockey players as well. Players such as Texas Ranger Will Clark, San Francisco Giant Matt Williams, and New York Knicks Greg Anthony and John Starks have employed his services.

A problem that often alienates many fans from professional sports is the exorbitant salaries that athletes receive. As an agent that has garnered some of the biggest contracts in sports, Steinberg has received some of the blame but said it is all about economics.

"Sports is an entertainment business," Steinberg said. "In the entertainment industry nobody is disturbed when Tom Cruise and Jim Carrey earn \$20 million for a film. It is because they see sports as just a game."

Since Steinberg deals with athletes fresh from college, he, along with other agents, have had to be careful with NCAA regulations that seem to be plaguing colleges this year. For example, TCU's Andre Davis was suspended for allegedly accepting insurance from an agent.

"Everyone shares in the blame," Steinberg said. "The

coaches are pretty aggressive in preventing things like this from happening. Texas athletes are the best protected because of a Texas state regulatory law. The agent is punished as well. On the whole, higher round athletes are better screened than ever."

The question most popular on the A&M campus lately has been whether or not running back Leeland McElroy will enter the draft after this season. Steinberg said that McElroy will go high in the draft this year or after his senior year.

"He'll be picked right at the top of any draft," Steinberg said. "It's a personal choice for him whether or not he leaves after this year, but he is a top of the draft player. It's a choice of short- or long-term economics and whether or not he wants to finish his college education. It's an individual choice, but other players that have gone early in the draft have not had problems."

In addition to representing athletes in contract negotiations, Steinberg has become involved

in the now prevalent issue of sports franchises moving from town to town.

He helped lead the effort to keep the San Francisco Giants from moving to Tampa/St. Petersburg and was the co-chairman of the "Save the Rams" committee.

"Teams that move precipitously undercut fan loyalty," Steinberg said. "When the NFL refuses to enforce its own rule it opens the floodgate."

"It can't be good for pro sports. The loyalty to fans and the fact that they'll always be there and the heritage of the team that has been passed down through families. The commissioner has to step in, or every city will experience a loss."

One thing that Steinberg emphasizes over everything else is the idea of athletes giving back to the community. Athletes that he represents are involved in their community and national charities.

"I grew up with a dad that worked on a human relations commission and taught me my purpose was to make an impact and help make this a nicer world," Steinberg said. "Working with athletes, everything else material fades. I want to establish the feeling that I will only work with athletes that retrace their roots."



Aikman

Aggies take first, second at Invitational

Staff and Wire Reports

The Texas A&M Women's Swimming Team won the 1995 Reveille Invitational this weekend at the Student Recreational Center Natatorium while the men's team finished second.

The field included the University of Texas, Rice University, the University of Arkansas, the University of Houston and Southern Methodist University.

The 18th-ranked women's team finished with 821.50 points, besting No.3 Texas by 58.5 points.

On the men's side, seventh-ranked SMU won with 1,149 points, followed by A&M, No. 4 Texas, Rice and Arkansas.

On Friday, A&M sophomore Stacie Karnes won the women's 500-yard freestyle with a season best time of 4:52.89. The women's 200-yard medley relay team added another first place finish with a time of 1:47.49.

On Saturday, the women continued their winning ways by adding another four first place finishes. Freshman Tammy Lee took first in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 58:19, while sophomore Daneen Mastagni scored a victory in the 100-yard breaststroke (1:05.09).

Lee and Mastagni paired up with Karnes and senior Denean Knapp to win the 400-yard medley relay with a time of 3:51.82. Mastagni, Karnes and Knapp also combined with senior Julie Bates to take first in the day's final event, the 800-yard freestyle relay.

"I'm really proud of everybody on this team," A&M Head Women's Swimming Coach Don Wagner said. "Every kid out here this weekend swam 15 events in three days, and they did it with the greatest of attitudes."

Saturday was successful for the men as well. Senior Scott DeWolf finished first in the 200-yard butterfly while junior Robb Pantano finished second to 1996 Olympic hopeful Ryan Berube of SMU in the 100-yard backstroke. A&M also scored second place finishes in all three relays (200-yard freestyle, 400-yard medley, and the 800-yard freestyle).

End of the Road: An Oiler fan faces the inevitable

Once, a long time ago, I could walk the streets of this town wearing Houston Oilers apparel without being laughed at.



NICK GEORGANDIS
SPORTS EDITOR

That was before the Buddy Ryan-Kevin Gilbride fiasco, the utter collapse that was the 1994 season and the negotiations to move the team to Nashville, Tenn.

This week, Oilers' owner Bud Adams is almost certain to sign the papers that will move the team to Nashville for the 1998 season. The shock of it all has finally hit me — the only pro football team I've ever rooted for is leaving my hometown for good.

It sounds stupid that I have just reached this realization because it has been generally accepted that the Oilers would move since the initial rumblings began in late July.

Adams has now moved past former Astros' owner John McMullen as the worst professional sports franchise owner to ever smell up the Bayou City. Sure, McMullen took away Nolan Ryan, Jose Cruz and the exploding scoreboard — but he never took the Astros out of the Astrodome.

All this time I figured something magical would happen, maybe Mattress Mac from Gallery Furniture would swoop down from I-

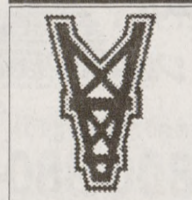
45 North between Tidwell and Parker and kick in the money needed to build the new stadium that Bud Adams requires.

Either that or the "Luv Ya Blue" team from the late 1970s — you know Bum Phillips, Earl Campbell, Carl Mauch, Robert Brazile and Billy "White Shoes" Johnson — would rise from retirement like the Ghosts of Houston Past and haunt Adams until he saw the error of his ways.

But neither has happened, and soon the term "Houston Oilers" will be as outdated as the Run and Shoot offense itself.

Most people don't particularly care about the Oilers' move because they don't care about the Oilers.

Even die-hard Oilers' fans have become disillusioned in the past couple of years after seeing Houston go to the playoffs seven straight times, but never make more than a tiny ripple in the NFL's wave pool.



Will I ever stop missing the team that gave me The Tyler Rose, The Electric Slide and Mojo? No way.

But damn it, they're still my team. I've watched or listened to every single Oiler game since 1978 save one. That one had a lot

to do with my girlfriend at the time and "what exactly my priorities were." Long story short, I overcame that debate the following week — attending the Oilers-Jets game at the Astrodome instead of a meet-my-parents-dinner at a really stuffy restaurant.

The point of all this rambling is that I don't know what to do with my Oiler allegiances. The move means the Columbia Blue have exactly three seasons to reach and win the Super Bowl — something they have never done. Even I can face the reality that this is unlikely to happen, no matter how many great players the Oilers sign as free agents or draft over the next couple of seasons.

When the Oilers move, they will cease to be the Oilers. I'll still recognize the players, but it won't say Houston across their jerseys, and that will be strange.

Will I root for them? I don't know. I love watching former A&M standout Rodney Thomas rumble downfield and I even bought a Steve McNair jersey even though he never plays. But I must come to terms with the fact that these two young stars will enjoy their best years in the NFL as members of the Nashville Hound Dogs or Hillbillies or whatever they plan to name the team in 1998.

Will I be able to watch their games? Maybe. Will I cheer for them? Possibly. Will I ever stop missing the team that gave me The Tyler Rose, The Electric Slide and Mojo? No way.