

Lady Aggs capture tournament title

Smedsrud was named MVP with 63 kills, 34 digs

By ROSS HECOX
THE BATTALION

The Lady Aggies handled the University of Alabama 15-6, 15-8, 15-5 to seize the Post Oak Mall/Lady Aggie Invitational Championship on Saturday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M had little trouble defeating its four non-ranked opponents Friday and Saturday, losing only one game — to Sam Houston State University — and outscoring the competition by a combined 190-82 score. Only twice did a team manage more than eight points in a game against A&M.

The Lady Aggies beat Rice University and Illinois State University Friday and continued their winning ways with victories over Sam Houston State and the Crimson Tide.

"It was an awesome win for us," junior outside hitter Jennifer Wells said. "We knew we were supposed to win, and we did a good job of staying focused and taking that win."

Head Coach Laurie Corbelli said an important factor for the

team's win was maintaining a consistent level of play.

"I thought we had some more lapses, but our goal was to regain our composure," Corbelli said. "We did an OK job. We pretty much controlled the intensity and momentum."

Sophomore outside hitter Stacy Sykora, who had 60 kills over the weekend with a .425 hitting percentage and 34 digs, junior setter Farah Mensik (171 assists, .368 hitting percentage and 12 serving aces) and junior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud were named to the All-Tournament team.

Smedsrud was honored as Most Valuable Player of the tournament for her performance of 63 kills, a .374 average and 34 digs.

In the final game of the match against Alabama, the Lady Aggies jumped out to an 8-1 lead. Sykora made two great digs, setting up kills by Wells and Smedsrud to score the 10th and 11th points. Smedsrud's 17th kill of the match put the Aggies up 12-2. A&M recorded a team .500

percentage in the game.

In the second game, the Lady Aggies came back from a 4-0 deficit. A&M held the Crimson Tide at five points while pulling ahead 10-5 and winning the game 15-8.

Mensik said the team was gunning for its first tournament win of the season going into the Alabama match.

"We were real confident," Mensik said. "It was ours to take, and we wanted to take it in three (games). [Our serving] really improved and gave us momentum."

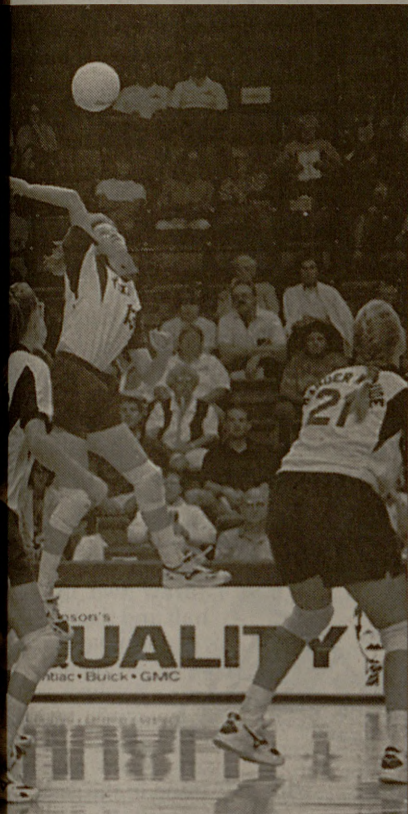
In the only game A&M lost in the tournament, the Lady Aggies were up 8-4, but they were outscored 11-2, losing 15-10.

Corbelli related the loss to a drop in intensity.

"We had a loss of concentration and a lack of interest, kind of," she said. "It was almost like we had to see it (that we could lose) to believe it."

The loss seemed to come out of the blue after A&M had just won 15-3 and took the match with 15-3 and 15-5 victories in

See VOLLEYBALL, Page 10



Evans Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud was the kill against Illinois State.

A&M soccer extends record to 6-0

By NICKI SMITH
THE BATTALION

clicked and had some extra adrenaline with playing on our home field in front of our own fans."

In addition to having one of the best first-half games of the season and setting a school record for goals in the first half, Head Coach G. Guerrieri said the Aggies definitely gave other teams a glimpse of the pace and style it can play with.

"We always play to win, but whether it is by a big margin, you never know," Guerrieri added.

"With a final score of 7-1, it's obvious that we take pride in our performance at home games and try to be as competitive as we can. Because of this, this game was something young teams like Kansas can learn from."

Many on the team said the Aggies communicate and play well as a team, but individual perfor-

mances helped put the winning edge in both games this weekend.

One of the strongest performances was made by freshman walk-on Becky Peterson who scored two of her three weekend goals in her first NCAA collegiate game.

"I just got my NCAA eligibility to play on Friday before the Kansas game," Peterson said. "I didn't expect to play and was really surprised and scared when Coach [Guerrieri] put me in. It definitely was my dream game."

As if a 5-0 overall record was not enough this weekend, the Aggies went out yesterday to defeat the Missouri Lady Tigers 6-0, and increase its overall record to 6-0.

Not only did the Aggies keep the Tigers scoreless, but the team held

See SOCCER, Page 10



Stew Milne, THE BATTALION

Forward Bryn Blalack scored two goals against Missouri Sunday.

Offense was the name of the game for the Texas A&M Soccer team this weekend as they traveled over the University of Kansas and the University of Missouri, two Big 12 Conference foes, at the Soccer Complex.

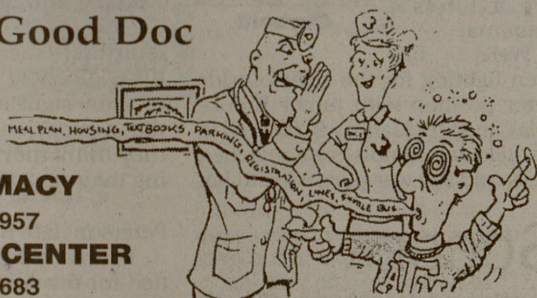
Kicking off its winning weekend, the Aggies faced Kansas Friday in front of a capacity crowd of over 800 people.

Despite the physical strength and height on the Lady Jayhawk team, the Aggies were able to score seven goals in less than an hour of playing time while holding the Kansas offense to only one goal the entire game.

"Kansas is a good team that has a lot of potential," junior forward Bryn Blalack said. "We just really

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