

THE BATTALION
SPORTS

A&M volleyball has third 20-win season

After defeating the University of Missouri in three games Saturday, the 10th-ranked Texas A&M Volleyball Team reached the 20-win mark for the second consecutive year, giving Head Coach Laurie Corbelli three seasons with 20 or more wins in her four years at A&M. In 1995 A&M posted a 23-7 record, and in 1993 the team went 27-8.

The Lady Aggies remain in a first-place tie with the University of Nebraska with a 11-1 Big 12 record and 20-3 record overall.

DISMOUNTING THE PINE
This past weekend was a chance to see the performance of the reserves. Against Iowa State University five backups played, and in the Missouri match all 14 players on the team saw action.

Freshman outside hitter Celia Howes recorded three digs and hit for a .400 percentage in one game against the Cyclones. Freshman setter Chandra Robertson posted eight assists in one game against ISU.

Against the Tigers, freshman middle blocker Amber Woolsey played in two games, hammering out eight kills for a .545 efficiency and blocking four Mizzou attacks.

The reserves have not had many opportunities this year to contribute, and with matches

against Texas Tech University and the University of Texas around the corner, their play may continue to be limited.

The positive side is that many of them are contributing when opportunities arise, which is encouraging for future A&M volleyball teams.

INJURY REPORT

Freshman outside hitter Summer Strickland's sprained ankle was found to have a tiny fracture. She played last weekend, and Corbelli said she will continue to see limited action depending on whether or not it hinders her.

"It comes and goes," Corbelli said. "She'll be in there to do some blocking. (Monday) she practiced and said it felt good."

THE NUMBERS

After hitting .333 and recording 28 kills last weekend, junior outside hitter Kristie Smetsrud has a .276 efficiency and 384 kills for the season. She is only two kills shy of tying Amy Cummings for fifth in all-time career kills (1,135) for A&M. Cheri Steensma holds the record with 1,477.

Senior middle blocker Page White hit .410 against the Cyclones and the Tigers, and leads the team with a percentage of .337. In conference play, she is hitting .365.

Junior middle blocker Cindy VanderWoude leads the team in total blocks (102) and in solo blocks (16). Sophomore outside hitter Stacy Sykora's 278 digs and 3.52 digs per game is highest on the team.



Ross Hecox
Volleyball Notebook

Raptors come from behind, defeat Mavericks 100-96

TORONTO (AP) — Walt Williams scored 34 points and the Toronto Raptors overcame an 18-point deficit in the third quarter Tuesday night to defeat the Dallas Mavericks 100-96.

Jim Jackson hit four straight free throws, giving Dallas a 96-95 lead with 56 seconds left. Damon Stoudamire, who scored 28 points, put the Raptors ahead with a jump shot with 45 seconds left.

Chris Gatling, who led the Mavericks with 22 points and 11 rebounds off the bench, was called for traveling before Stoudamire made a foul shot for a 98-96 lead with 20 seconds remaining.

Jackson missed a three-pointer

and the rebound went to teammate Jason Kidd, who missed an off-balance three-point try. Marcus Camby rebounded for the Raptors and was fouled, and he made both free throws.

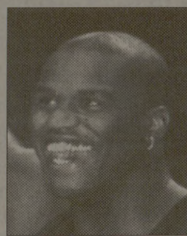
George McCloud scored 20 points for the Mavericks. His three-pointer gave the Mavericks a 75-57 lead with 4:05 left in the third quarter.

But the Raptors closed to 81-74 on consecutive three-point plays by Williams and Hubert Davis to end the third quarter.

The six straight points to end the period started a 24-5 run for the Raptors, who took an 84-83 lead on Stoudamire's three-point shot with 8:12 to play.

Lakers win close one against Knicks, 98-92

NEW YORK (AP) — Nick Van Exel made a 3-pointer from 28 feet away with 40 seconds left to break open a tight fourth quarter and give the Los Angeles Lakers a 98-92 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday night.



O'Neal

In the first tough test of the season for both teams, neither team led by more than four points in the final period until the last minute.

Van Exel, with the shot clock winding down to five seconds, flung a high-arching shot from the left wing that hit nothing

but net. As the Knicks called timeout, Van Exel ran to the bench yelling "Game over." And it effectively was.

The shot gave Los Angeles a 93-86 lead, and even a pair of three-pointers by New York in the final 14 seconds got the Knicks no closer than six.

Shaquille O'Neal had 26 points, 13 rebounds and five blocked shots for the Lakers, but his anticipated matchup with Patrick Ewing never amounted to much. With both players getting into foul trouble, neither spent much time guarding the other.

Ewing, who went 0-for-6 from the field in the first quarter, wound up with 21 points and six rebounds.

NBA Roundup

Hawks lambast Supersonics, 117-95

SEATTLE (AP) — Steve Smith scored 16 of his 27 points in the third quarter and the Atlanta Hawks made a franchise-best 16 three-pointers Tuesday night in a 117-95 victory over the Seattle SuperSonics.



Mookie Blaylock scored 21 points, including five three-

pointers for the Hawks and reserve Willie Burton scored 20.

Atlanta outscored the Sonics 36-18 in the third quarter for a 91-76 lead. The Hawks held their fourth straight opponent under 100 points.

Gary Payton led the Sonics with 24 points and Shawn Kemp added 23 points and nine rebounds.

Bulls' trio leads Chicago to 96-73 win

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 22 points and got plenty of support from Scottie Pippen and Dennis Rodman as the Chicago Bulls defeated the Vancouver Grizzlies 96-73 Tuesday night.



Pippen scored 10 of his 14 points in the second quarter, when the Bulls broke open the game by outscoring Vancouver 32-16. Pip-

pen also had eight assists and seven rebounds.

Rodman added 19 rebounds and 13 points for the defending NBA champions, who are off to a 3-0 start for only the sixth time in team history.

Greg Anthony scored 13 points for the winless Grizzlies, who shot 36 percent and committed 20 turnovers.

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