

Club Sport Spotlight

Ailing Sevin forced to retire

By JAMIE BURCH
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team lost a returning starter and valuable rebounder last week when 6-foot-2-inch senior forward Marianne Sevin retired from basketball because of chronic back pain.

Sevin, who has suffered the ailment since the age of 15, said while recent surgery relieved some of the pain, it did not cure it.

"Before the surgery, I had a lot of nerve pains in my back," Sevin said. "Those pains are now gone, but I've suffered from constant muscle spasms since."

A&M Head Coach Candi Harvey said Sevin's decision was in the best interest for both herself and the team.

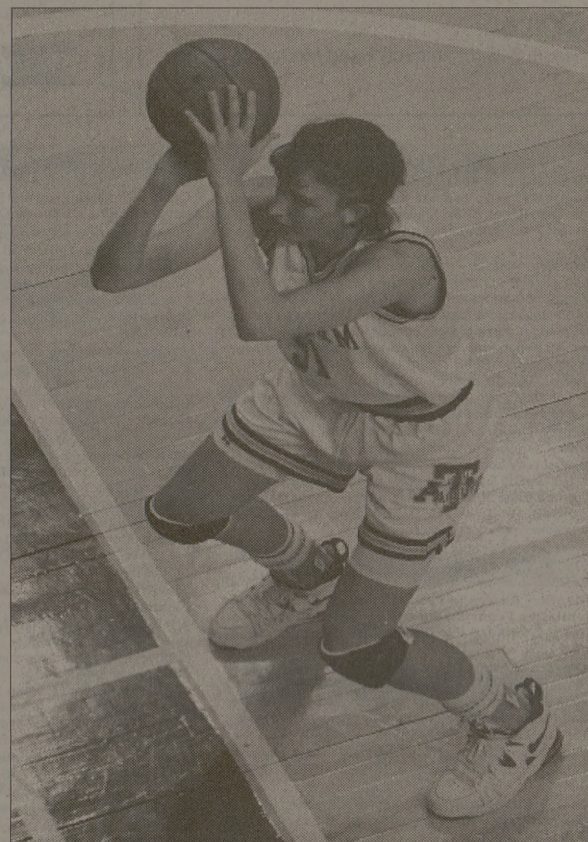
"It was a tough decision," Harvey said. "But I think in the long run, for her personally and physically, it was the right decision. And for this basketball team right now, I think it was the right one."

Fighting to recover from off-season back surgery last year, Sevin averaged 10.2 points per game and ranked second on the team with 5.2 rebounds per contest. She played in every game of her career prior to sitting out the Lady Aggies' contest against Rice University Jan. 20. She also missed a game against the University of Houston last season.

Sevin missed the Lady Aggies' season opener against Southwest Texas State University (Nov. 22) due to back pain, but returned to start against the University of Arizona (Nov. 25). She posted two points, four rebounds, and one blocked shot in 13 minutes in the Lady Aggies' 96-76 loss.

Sevin said her back felt better in the Arizona game than it had in quite a while.

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BATTALION FILE PHOTO

Senior forward **Marianne Sevin** was forced to hang up her hightops because of chronic back pain.



Dave House, THE BATTALION

Junior **Julie Dalton** (left) and senior **Moriah Guild** take a spin on Lake Bryan. The 19th-ranked A&M Sailing Team conducts daily drills on boat handling and starts.

A&M sailors learn, have fun on the water

By SARA DUESING
THE BATTALION

From a distance it looks peaceful and relaxing. Yet, for those who are participating, it is action-packed, exhilarating and full of energy.

For members of the Texas A&M Sailing Team, the sailboat is not a sanctuary for rest and relaxation; it is a means of competition and sport. Likewise, the lake is not merely a refreshing spot for detachment, but an instrument that can lead to success.

"Most people think of sailing as just a leisure activity," junior team captain Julie Dalton said. "But sailing is really pretty intense."

Ranked 19th in the nation, the sailing team possesses a competitive intensity despite its inland location in College Station. Throughout its history, A&M has dominated its district, the Southeastern Intercollegiate Sailing Association (SEISA), which includes teams from Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

"We're really excited about this year," Dalton said. "This is the first time we've been ranked in a long time, so our goal is to keep our ranking."

With talented freshmen and experienced veterans, Dalton said the team is confident it can be successful this season.

The Aggies also have another ambition — to promote the sport of sailing at the collegiate level and to get new people interested.

"I had never been on a sailboat until I came here," Dalton said. "I was never really involved in sports, but I've found something I love. Sailing is definitely not easy, but it is so much fun."

Competing in the national race last June for the seventh consecutive year, the sailing team sent teams for all three divisions, including co-ed, team and women's races for the first time.

Practicing every day at Lake Bryan, the team prepares for its weekend competitions by going through drills that focus on boat handling and starts.

But competition and play are not all the sport has to offer. A common bond exists between the teammates — a love for sailing.

"There are a lot of different people on the team," Dalton said. "But sailors love sailors, so there is a lot of enthusiasm."

"It is something different for everyone, but mainly, we all want to win."

With 30 members on the team, A&M has made an obvious impact in the sailing world, being the only team that can send a team to both A and B division regattas, or races. Competing in interdistrict regattas gives the team its high rank, but the intersectional races provide the opportunity for experience.

"There are a lot of good schools out there to beat," Dalton said. "Even in our district, Baylor and Tulane have become tougher to beat. But still, the main idea is to just have fun."

"More than anything else, sailing teaches you camaraderie. But really you won't learn anything unless you race."

"Most people think of sailing as just a leisure activity. But it is really pretty intense."

Julie Dalton
Sailing Team captain

On the way out

Senior middle blocker Page White looks for one last dance in NCAA Tournament

By ROSS HECOX
THE BATTALION

For some reason, the title of senior seems to automatically designate a leader.

And as the only senior and the team captain on the Texas A&M Volleyball Team, middle blocker Page White was expected early in the season to handle much of the leadership duties.

She did.

Junior outside hitter Kristie Smedsrud said White made a stronger impact on the team this season than in previous years.

"Everyone on the team respects her," Smedsrud said. "She gives 100 percent every practice. Now she has taken a more vocal role, and that has really contributed a lot to our success."

A&M has been no stranger to success since White arrived four years ago. The Lady Aggies have qualified for the NCAA Tournament every year of

White's tenure.

After placing third in a conference featuring five other NCAA Tournament invitees (Nebraska, Texas, Texas Tech, Kansas State and Colorado), A&M returns to the post-season with a 24-7 record and 15-5 mark in the Big 12 Conference.

Head Coach Laurie Corbelli recruited White in her first season at A&M. Prior to that point, A&M had not been invited to the premier tournament since 1986.

"She is the key person in the rise of this program to a new level of play," Corbelli said. "She is one of our most effective players, and the others really look to her for leadership and support."

Throughout the season, White has elevated her level of performance when it was most needed. Before the team began conference play, White hit for a .308 percentage, averaging 2.98 kills per game. In Big 12 play, she hit .331 and averaged 3.69 kills.



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

White

When the Lady Aggies upset Texas Sept. 25 in three games, White recorded a .400 hitting percentage, 13 kills and four blocks.

Corbelli said the senior's ability to turn up her intensity a notch at crucial times reveals the type of person she is.

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Vote on Wednesday, December 4th for the Student Center Complex Fee

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