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 • New teams are forming for the Fall of 1997 season.  
 • If you have a team, a part of a team, or you are looking for a team, then visit our Web Page, e-mail us or call us for more information.  
 • Meeting for new players and teams: Thursday, Sept 4 at 8 PM at Engineering-Physics Building Rm. 216.  
 • Second and last meeting will be Tues. Sept 9 at the same time and place.  
 • Last day to register a team is Sept 9.  
 • Last day to register a player is Nov 12.  
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# Sixteenth-ranked A&M looks to spike SWT in home opener

By TRAVIS V. DABNEY  
Staff writer

Laurie Corbelli will lead the 16th-ranked Texas Aggie Volleyball team into action tonight against Southwest Texas State University with hopes that the Aggies will make this one of many victories this season. The team entered the season as the 13th-ranked team in the country and after tough losses to the former first-ranked Stanford and the eighth-ranked BYU Cougars, the Aggies have returned with a vengeance to win three straight matches and win the University of Georgia Tournament.

The team is focused on a number of goals this season according to Coach Corbelli. "We want to see progress in all phases of our game," Corbelli said. "We want to challenge for the Big 12 Championship and we would like to get a good seed in the NCAA tournament."

The Volleyball team enters the new season with some very stiff competition from conference rivals Nebraska, Texas and Colorado who are all ranked in the top 25. When asked about the upcoming season Corbelli seems to think it is anyone's championship to win.

"The conference could be really even this year," Corbelli said. "So much is momentum and heart, it is really going to be battle."

The Aggies have reason to be optimistic this season as they will return five of six starters from the 1996 squad. Leading this year's team will be seniors Farah Mensik and Kristie Smedsrud. Smedsrud has seen quite a bit change in her time here at A&M in terms of the volleyball program.

"When I came here this program was in its

building stages, we have now worked our way up to a top 10 program," Smedsrud said. "Now we have the talent to remain on top and the whole process has been fun for me to watch."

Even with all the talk of tournament bids and conference championships Smedsrud seems to have things in perspective. "To achieve some of our bigger goals this season we are going to have to achieve little goals" Smedsrud said. "We have to play well in the pre-season and then conference play and then the tournament, one step at a time."

"When I came here, this program was in its building stages, we have now worked our way up to a top 10 program



KRISTIE SMEDSRUD  
VOLLEYBALL PLAYER

Smedsrud comes into this season as one of A&M most heralded Volleyball players in its history. She has been named to the Asics All American Team and was also invited to train with the USA national team. She has also been a three year starter at A&M and will likely set the record for all time kills with over 1400.

When asked about last season's loss in the second round of the NCAA tournament Smedsrud said, "We had a great regular season last

year and we were really disappointed with our early round loss in the tournament, but we use that as an incentive this season."

Mensik has taken on the role of a type quarterback for this team. "My job is to be a leader for this team, keeping the spirit high and get people ready to play everyday."

Mensik took over the starting setters position last year and proved that she was ready for the task. She was voted the team's most improved player and was third overall in the Big 12 with 13 assists per game.

Two other key seniors on this year's team will be Cindy (VanderWoude) Lothspeich and Jennifer Wells.

According to Corbelli for this team to improve upon last season's 25 - 8 mark they will have to be improvements.

"We need to be more consistent, we need to start and finish stronger this year and our intensity can not waiver."

The Aggies also took part in a very active pre-season program to help their chances this year. "The players focused on strength and conditioning this off season, we had a great spring practice and there was great participation amongst the players" Corbelli said.

On top of their off-season program here at College Station the team made a trip to Japan to play a series of matches. "It was a great volleyball experience for everyone and really allowed us to come together as a team," Smedsrud said.

There will be many bridges for the Aggies across this season to get where they want to go and only time will tell. But there is a solid foundation for them to build on according to Corbelli.

"We are stronger, more experienced, quicker and we are hungry."

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### AGGIES

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"Obviously, we'd like to go in there and knock them in the dirt and take control the whole ball game," Coach R.C. Slocum said. "I've been in enough of those games (to know) that's not an unusual thing to happen. I've always said that first drive or

two you take with a grain of salt."

A&M coaches said that they thought the team had accomplished everything it set out to do.

"Our offense scored quite a number of points," Slocum said. "Our defense only gave up two field goals. We know we weren't playing a top 10 team; we're aware of that but we still like we feel have quite a lot to get out of this."

### BUFFIN

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He did not have the happy feet that he had last season which got him into trouble. He made good decisions and did not become anxious when his first receiver choice was not open. What he showed was experience.

The Stewart, most of us know would take a year to fine-tune has arrived but remember players are human and humans do make mistakes.

Kristina Buffin is a semi-journalism major

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