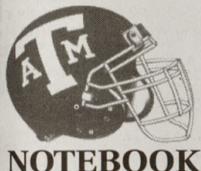


Thursday • September 18, 1997

Louisiana can have long lasting effects on victims



NOTEBOOK

CHRIS FERRELL
sports editor

for this season's guide is the scoreboard which reads USL 29, A&M 22, and shows mobs of fans storming the field.

It was the biggest day in USL's football history and one of the darkest in A&M's.

They're back...

The loss last year knocked A&M out of the rankings. The Aggies had been ranked in either the Associated Press or coaches Top 25 since 1991, a span of 109 straight weeks.

This week after being unranked for almost a full year, the Aggies returned to the ESPN/Coaches poll at No. 22.

Several A&M players and coaches, however, said the polls, especially this early in the season, don't mean much. Just ask the University of Texas.

"Texas was the 11th team in the nation and then had a bad game," junior linebacker Dat Nguyen said. "You know they're a better team than that and they fell out of the polls. That's unrealistic. I know they're a Top 25 team, everyone knows they're a Top 25 team. They just had a bad game."

Family ties

Three players on this season's squad have had older brothers play big roles for the Aggies as well. Sophomore linebacker Sean Coryatt is the younger brother of Quinton Coryatt, the player who provided the single greatest hit in Wrecking Crew history.

Current New York Jet and former Aggie All-American Aaron Glenn lives on in part thanks to his brother Jason. The younger Glenn, a true freshman has impressed coaches thus far and is competing for serious playing time at safety.

The most intriguing story may be the McKinney brothers, Steve and Seth. Steve is the starting right guard and an All-Conference candidate for the Aggies and his "little" brother (Seth is 6-foot-4 inches, 280 pounds) is a freshman center.

Coach R.C. Slocum said having an older brother go through the program was a major recruiting tool. While many coaches from other schools come in and promise fun and good times, in reality, most recruits don't know what to expect.

"They (recruits) go off, but they're really not sure what's going to happen, what it's really like," Slocum said. "In this case these kids, I told them, 'You go talk to your brother."

PLEASE SEE FERRELL ON PAGE 11.



Entering her fourth season as a starter, senior Kristie Smedsrud has a chance to break the A&M career records for kills and attempts.

KILLER INSTINCT

A&M's Smedsrud taking final season one game at a time

By KRISTINA BUFFIN
Staff writer

Senior Kristie Smedsrud is looking through a kaleidoscope and memories of her career at Texas A&M are swirling around like electrons bouncing around an atom.

Being named Southwest Conference Freshman of the Year, setting an A&M season record for aces, playing in the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament and recording her 1,000th career kill to become only the seventh player in A&M history to reach the milestone, are just some of the memories swirling through the tube.

The outside hitter on the Texas A&M Volleyball Team has begun to reflect on and sort through these memories hoping to add a few more this season, her final season.

"It is really hard to put into words the meaning she has on this team," coach Laurie Corbelli said. "From the minute she joined the team in 1994, it's been all uphill, even after 1995 when we went to the Sweet Sixteen."

Smedsrud indeed has had a huge impact on the A&M program in the last three years, both in terms of skill and leadership.

"She impacts this team a lot," junior outside hitter Stacy Sykora said. "She is very skilled and she leads by example because of the skills she shows on the court."

Leading by example is what Smedsrud is all about. She is not extremely vocal but she lets her actions speak louder than her words.

"I'm not real quiet, but I don't scream," Smedsrud said. "My words speak as my actions and if

we need to be fired up, I am willing to do that. I'd rather play 100 percent because that is my style."

Her style also encompasses winning. In the last three years, the Aggies have compiled a 67-29 record and made the trip to the NCAA Tournament all three seasons.

"Last year, we had a great team but it was kind of weird," Smedsrud said. "We lost to two teams we shouldn't have so we got bad seeding in the tournament."

"It was the best match [against Michigan State] since I have been here, it was high caliber. It [the loss] hurt initially but we have been playing good, it is kind of like a double-edged sword."

This being her final season is sort of a double-edged sword for Smedsrud as well. Whereas she has the opportunity to close out a spectacular career with a terrific season, Smedsrud must also deal with the fact that there will not be another year to play.

"Everything is a little more special, I appreciate it more," Smedsrud said. "I have played so long that I just love it, it is what I am."

And Smedsrud is now a part of A&M history. But if she had it her way, she would continue to be a part of that history.

"I think if she had five more years of eligibility, she would play," Corbelli said.

But as Smedsrud gazes into the kaleidoscope of memories, reality hits her that this is her last season and then it will be time to move on. This realization, Corbelli says, is what she wants all of her plays to think about, nothing lasts forever.

PLEASE SEE SMEDSRUD ON PAGE 11.

Enjoy it while you can

How big was last season's victory for USL? Not only was it the first time the school had ever beaten a ranked opponent (A&M was No. 25 at the time), but it also provided a nice picture for their media guide.



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