

# Aggies whip Longhorns

## A&M hands Texas first conference loss in straight set

By **TRAVIS V. DABNEY**  
Staff writer

than an Aggie victory. The Aggie Volleyball team would not disappoint.

Game one would be a game of spurts as both teams would display flashes of brilliance. The Horns would begin the match with a lot of confidence as they jumped out to a 2-0 lead. The Aggies would follow with some excellent serving and defense by seniors Farah Mensik and Cindy Lothspeich to take a 4-2 lead. Then Texas All-American Demetria Sance took over the game as she is prone to do. With a flurry of blocking and hitting Sance lead the Horns back to 9-5 lead.

Then in what was most certainly was the wildest rally of the season the Aggies would come all the way back to win game one. The Aggies started the come back with kills by Amber Woolsey, Kristie Smedsrud and Stacy Sykora to bring the score to 13-9. With the

crowd now in a state of frenzy Mensik and Sykora would bring the Aggies closer as they both got crucial kills to tie the score 13-13.

After a Texas error, the Aggies connected on their second game point when Lothspeich blocked a Texas kill attempt and the Aggies won 15-13. After the match Coach Corbelli commented on her team's clutch play.

"I don't know if I've ever been prouder of my team coming through in the clutch," Corbelli said. "The players never felt as they they would lose and they deserve all the credit."

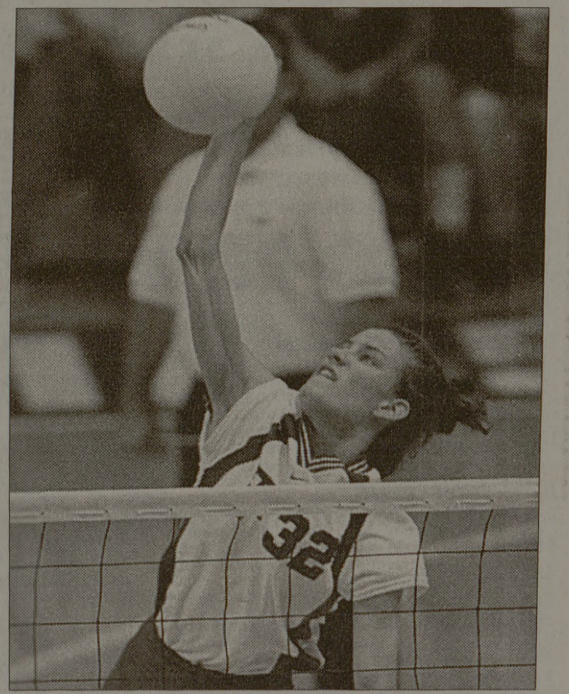
In game two Sance continued with her excellent play as she helped the Horns stay close but the Aggies were still riding high after their game one win as Smedsrud and Sykora combined finesse and power to lead the Aggies to a 7-3 lead. Texas would come

back to tie the game at 7-7 behind Sance and Junior outside hitter Katie Austin. The two teams then would trade side outs as both teams failed to score with any consistency as the score was hovered 9-9.

The two teams finally broke out and traded points up until 14-14. The Aggies received a couple of breaks at the end of game two as the Horns had two costly attack errors. Sandwiched between the errors was a Mensik block and the Aggies took a two game lead in the match and set themselves up for a three game sweep with their 16-14 victory in game two.

Game three would prove to be unlike any of the other as the Horns returned to the floor but seemed as though they would have much rather been back on the bus to Austin.

PLEASE SEE **AGGIES** ON PAGE 9.



**RONY ANGKRIWAN**/THE BATTALION  
Junior **Stacy Sykora** collects one of her 20 kills in A&M's 15-13, 16-14, 15-6 win over Texas.

# ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

## Elliott's impact key for soccer team

By **STEPHEN BOUDREAU**  
Staff writer

When Claire Elliott rolled into College Station this year, the Texas A&M Soccer Team knew it was getting one of the nation's best defenders. What it was not aware of was the amazing personality and sense of humor the Dallas native brings everywhere she goes.

"Claire is hilarious. She can make anybody laugh. If you are having a bad day you can see Claire and she will just put a smile on your face," Big 12 Player of the Year Bryn Blalack said. "She is an excellent player. She holds up the defense and is the anchor to the whole team."

Elliott's resume is filled with impressive honors and distinctions that would make even her hero, U.S. Women's National Team member Julie Foudy, take a second look.

"I've played since I was five. The last couple of years I have played on two

teams at once. I guess the highlight of my soccer career thus far, though, would be the opportunity I had by playing with the Olympic Development Program team," Elliott said. "We went to Europe the past two summers to play many of the best teams over there. Going overseas made it all the more exciting. It was an amazing experience and quite an honor."

This year Elliott received two more distinctions from the Big 12. She was named Big 12 Rookie of the Year and Defensive Most Valuable Player at the Big 12 Championship Tournament.

"I definitely wasn't surprised when I heard she got rookie of the year," freshman Michelle Remington said. "I have played with her for eight years and she has always been there for me on the field and off the field. She is awesome."

Elliott, a member of the 1996 National Under-17 team, selected to play at A&M for many reasons, but has been pleas-

antly surprised by the many awards that have come along with being a member of the team.

"The friendships I have made on this team are great. Everybody is really close. It's surprising," Elliott said. "Not to say that we weren't close on my club team, but it's just that everybody gets along with everybody. I have a personal relationship with everyone. It's very close and very tight. I wouldn't give it up for anything."

A general studies major, Elliott's favorite memories as a member of the Aggies come from the preseason.

"There are so many great experiences I don't know how to narrow it down. But the whole initiation thing in the preseason was a blast," Elliott said. "Don't get me wrong, it wasn't like hazing or anything, we (the freshmen) had to dress up funny and do stuff like that."

PLEASE SEE **ELLIOTT** ON PAGE 9.



**DAVE HOUSE**/THE BATTALION

Senior **Claire Elliott** tries to get past a Stanford defender. Elliott joined teammate **Melanie Wil-**

He's on a mission so secret, even he doesn't know about it.



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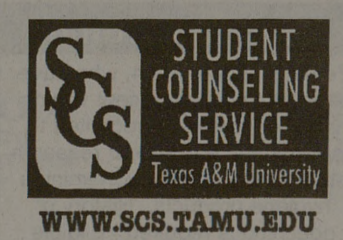
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