

Sports

The Battalion

Aggies host 'Horns

• A&M Volleyball primes for Big 12 champ Texas.

BY ROBERT HOLLIER
The Battalion

The No. 16 Texas A&M Volleyball Team is off to one of its best starts in school history at 9-1 and is on a seven-game winning streak. The last time the Aggies started this well was in 1995 when they went 12-1.

But Wednesday, that will not matter when the Aggies take on defending Big 12 Champion, 13th-ranked Texas Longhorns at 7 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Forget the records. Forget the rankings. This match will be the first of two between these teams in an old-fashioned Texas showdown.

The Aggies and Longhorns are both off to 2-

0 starts in the Big 12 Conference and are tied with Nebraska and Kansas State for first place.

In the series history, the Longhorns hold a commanding 50-13 series edge, but the Aggies defeated Texas the last two times at home.

A&M has made a living this season playing solid defense. The Aggies have 100.5 blocks on the year and are averaging 3.14 blocks a game. Their opponents only average 1.78 a game.

Junior middle blocker Amber Woolsey leads the team with an average of 1.65 a game, placing her 13th in the nation in that category.

A&M averages nearly two digs more per game over its opponents. Senior All-American Stacy Sykora leads the team with 127 digs and 157 kills.

Coach Laurie Corbelli said she knew coming into the season the team would have to play strong defense to compete in the Big 12.

"Because our team speed is there, I think we are going to be a fine defensive team," Corbelli said. "Our players have down the first important step of getting to the ball, so I think defensively we are going to be very good."

"We focus so much on blocking. We are 6



MIKE FUENTES/THE BATTALION

Outside hitter **Michelle Cole** and middle blocker **Amber Woolsey** attempt a block against Baylor.

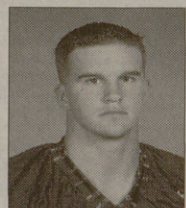
foot in most positions now and we will be able to penetrate the net and put up some good, solid blocks."

SEE VOLLEYBALL ON PAGE 8.

McCown looks for fun in starting QB role

BY JEFF SCHMIDT
The Battalion

The beleaguered Texas A&M offense received a spark from junior backup quarterback Randy McCown in last Saturday's 28-9 victory over the University of North Texas.



MCCOWN

McCown completed 11 of 13 passes for a career-high 167 yards and two touchdowns in relief of senior quarterback Brannndon Stewart.

After that performance, A&M football coach R. C. Slocum removed the backup from McCown's title.

McCown will make his second

career start Saturday in A&M's Big 12 opener against the University of Kansas. McCown's first start was against Texas Tech last season. He only completed two of eight passes for seven yards in that game.

"I put too much pressure on myself last time," McCown said. "I wasn't having fun in the Tech game. I was too uptight. I felt like I was aiming a lot of my balls."

Stewart started the UNT game with a 60-yard touchdown pass to junior wide receiver Chris Cole but struggled the rest of the game, completing only three more passes before being benched in the second quarter.

Despite McCown's inexperience, Slocum said he is not hesitant to start McCown.

SEE MCCOWN ON PAGE 8.

STONE COLE

Junior Chris Cole wrestles with being the go-to guy on offense

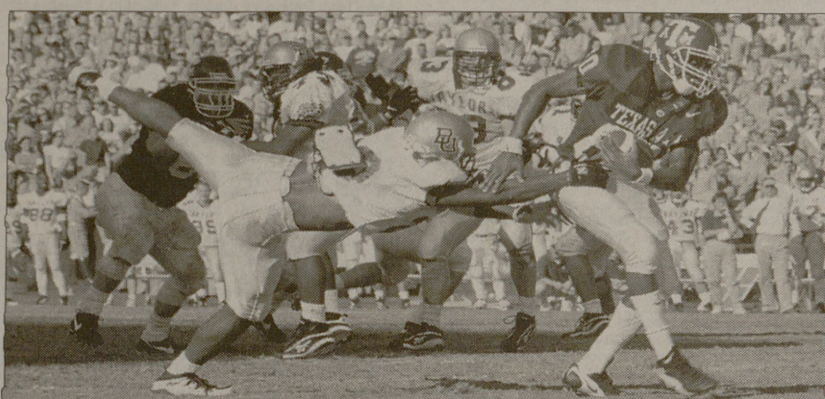
BY JEFF WEBB
The Battalion

The recruitment of wide receiver Chris Cole stunk from the beginning, literally.

When Texas A&M Football coach R. C. Slocum headed to Orange, Texas, to visit Cole, a talented West Orange Stark High School wideout, Slocum had a hard time finding the right address, his search took him through a few backyards, one in particular that was home to a canine.

When Slocum entered Cole's home and sat down, he noticed a small coming from his foot, courtesy of one of the neighborhood dogs.

"He wasn't afraid to roll up his sleeves and get down on his knees to clean it up," Cole said.



BRANDON BOLLUM/THE BATTALION

Junior wide receiver **Chris Cole** makes a catch against Baylor last year.

Slocum's willingness to work and guarantee of an education only added to Cole's ambition to attend A&M, a school he had his eye on throughout high school.

SEE COLE ON PAGE 8.

Service with a smile

• True freshman earns starting spot for No. 16 A&M Volleyball team.

BY ROBERT HOLLIER
The Battalion

When freshman Jenna Moscovic finished her high school volleyball career, she knew she would have a promising future competing at the college level.

As a right side hitter at St. Mary's High School, Moscovic was her school's Female Athlete of the Year twice and she led her team to three San Joaquin Athletic Association titles and an 87-15 record.

She topped off her career earning the MVP of the SJAA her senior year, and she was named to the Fab 50, a list of the top 50 high school

seniors in the country.

With those credentials, Moscovic could have played volleyball anywhere she wanted.

Fortunately for Texas A&M, she chose to play for the Aggies and coach Laurie Corbelli.

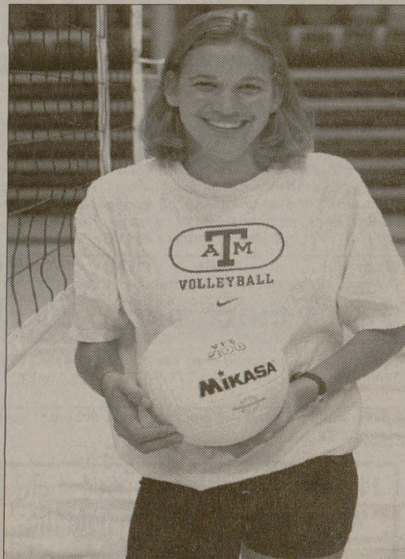
"When I came here on my first official visit, I fell in love with the place," Moscovic said.

"I liked all the spirit and the traditions A&M has here."

"I was born in Texas and I was recruited here and other places. I liked all the players; they were really supportive and the coaches are some of the best in the nation."

"They (coaching staff) all do a great job. Laurie and John (Corbelli) are really supportive and they are always encouraging me. When I make mistakes, they don't get down on me."

SEE MOSCOVIC ON PAGE 9.



ERIC NEWNAM/THE BATTALION

Freshman setter **Jenna Moscovic** has already earned a starting spot.

Thinking 3 years down the road?
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Interview process begins October 12.

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