

## Irvin's return in doubt due to genetic condition

IRVING (AP) — The neck injury that has sidelined Michael Irvin is no longer his biggest hurdle in returning to the Dallas Cowboys. Tests for the herniated disc Irvin sustained earlier this month have uncovered a narrow spinal cord, a genetic condition that increases the risk of serious injury if he takes another blow to the head or neck.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said the threat posed by Irvin's condition will have more to do with whether the receiver plays football again than his current injury.

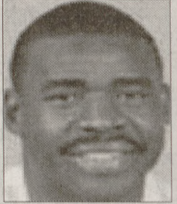
"I don't see this necessarily as a long-term injury being decided by whether the swelling goes down or not," Jones said. "Right now, I don't know if that's the issue."

The risk is the same the 33-year-old Irvin has faced throughout his 12-year career. What is different now is that he knows it exists. And, still fresh in his mind is the memory of being paralyzed for a few minutes following his Oct. 10 injury against Philadelphia.

Three days later, Irvin was nearly in tears as he described not being able to control his arms and legs and thinking he would never hold his son again.

In 1986, Green Bay cornerback Tim Lewis and Houston Oilers linebacker Frank Bush learned they had the same genetic condition, known as cervical stenosis. Both retired.

"I think Michael definitely



IRVIN

SEE IRVIN ON PAGE 10.

## Aggers' QB Young sidelined for year, not ready to retire

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Aggers' quarterback Young will be sidelined for a foreseeable future, but he is not ready to retire.

"I would like to (play again) if appropriate," the San Francisco 49ers quarterback said at a news conference yesterday. "Yet it very well might not happen this season. It may run out on the season, so I'm not sure."

Agent Leigh Steinberg said Tuesday he does not think Young, still recovering from a concussion, will play again this season. The team and Young's doctors appear to feel the same way.

"I'm taking this thing to the end of the season," the two-time MVP said. "My focus right now clearly is on my health, but I

am also focusing on my team. That's all I'm going to think about right now."

Although the possibility was raised earlier that he would go on injured reserve yesterday, that did not happen.

"I'm determined he not risk anything more this year," Steinberg said Tuesday. "He's probably going to end up on injured reserve. This is a football injury. It was hurt on the field and that's where those players go."

Steinberg said he would be no decision on retirement until after the season. But he added Young will abide by the final medical consensus.

SEE YOUNG ON PAGE 10.

## Ags down 'Horns in 4 games

BY BREE HOLZ  
The Battalion

In one of its most explosive matches of the season, the Texas A&M Volleyball Team knocked off the ninth-ranked University of Texas Longhorns last night at G. Rollie White Coliseum, 10-15, 15-7, 15-8, 15-12, in front of a rowdy crowd of 2,341.

With the win, the Aggies move to 17-4 on the season and 8-3 in Big 12 conference play.

"The team was very disciplined tonight," A&M volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli said. "They played steady from an emotional standpoint as well as from an execution standpoint."

The Longhorns quickly gained momentum in the first game, jumping to a 6-2 lead with effective hitting and blocking.

But A&M answered by going on a 5-1 run with kills from sophomore outside hitter Michelle Cole and sophomore setter Jenna Moskovic.

Texas refocused to push its lead to 12-9 before A&M called its second timeout of the game. The Aggies could manage just one more point, and the Longhorns scored their final three points to capture game one.

The Longhorns came out strong again in the second game, posting a 4-1 lead, mostly on Aggie miscues and hitting errors.

However, after an A&M timeout, the Aggies scored six unanswered points with the help of strong blocking by senior middle blocker Lauri Leahy.

Texas was forced to call its first timeout of the game with the Aggies up, 7-4. A string of Longhorn hitting errors forced another Texas timeout, but nothing seemed to work, as the Aggies scored their final point of game two on a block by senior outside hitter Celia Howes.

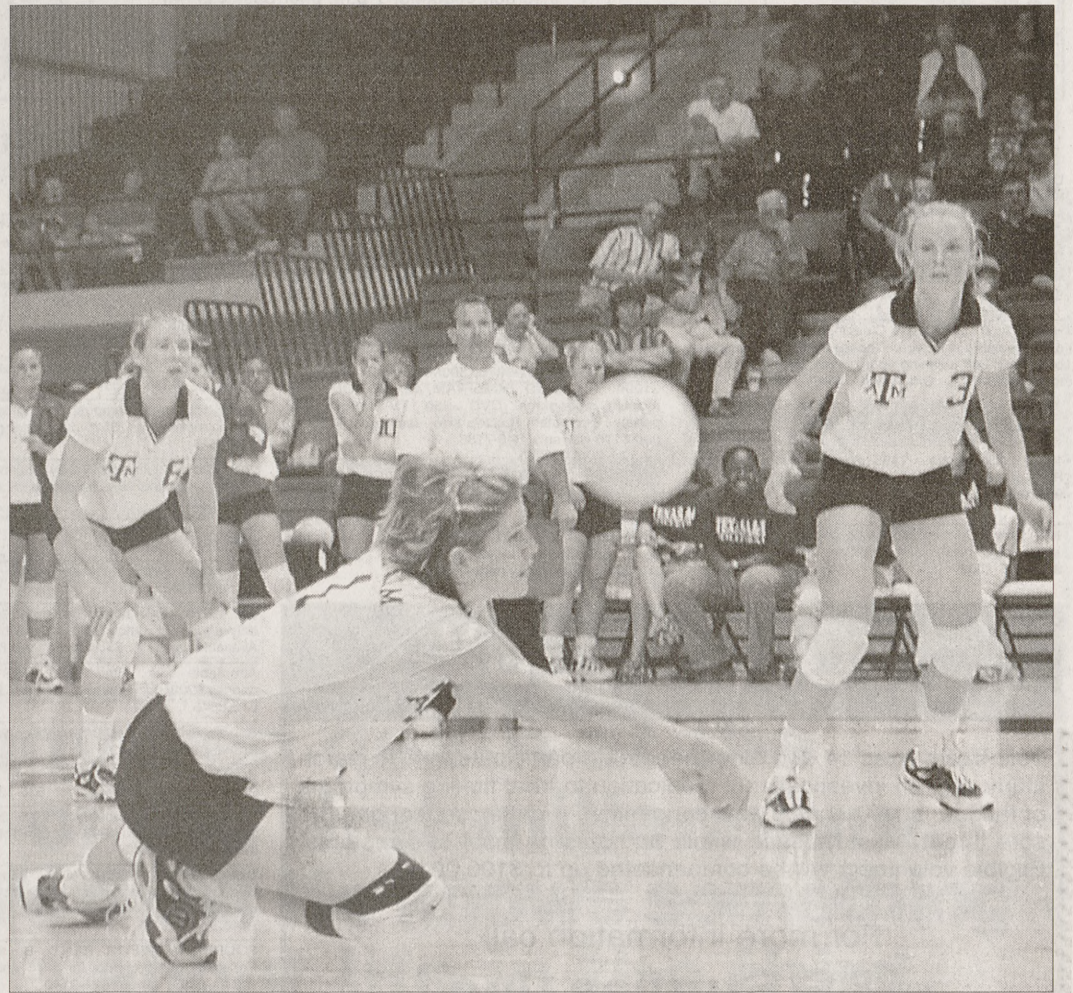
"We've won a lot of game ones all year long and kind of struggled in game twos," Corbelli said. "I think we got a good look at them in game one and then saw what we really needed to do."

In the third game it was the Aggies who came out strong with big kills from senior middle blocker Amber Woolsey and steady blocking from Leahy and Howes.

After Texas called a timeout with the Aggies ahead 6-1, the Longhorns came out of the huddle and score three consecutive points.

But the Aggies regrouped and extended their lead to 10-5 on a block by Leahy. Three kills each by senior outside hitter Summer Strickland and Moskovic then ended the third game.

A&M began game four much like game three



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M senior outside hitter Celia Howes digs a ball against the University of Texas Longhorns last night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies defeated the Longhorns in four games.

by posting a 5-1 lead with two blocks and two kills by Woolsey.

The Aggies continued to dominate on the net as Strickland and Woolsey pounded kills from all positions. A&M had a 10-3 lead, but Texas responded with two service aces and two kills to cut the lead to 10-6 and the Aggies took a timeout.

Texas would not let up, and came within one point of the Aggie lead, but A&M took control, and a kill from Howes ended the game and the match. "We started out kind of slow in the first

game, but after that, we settled down, and it just felt really good out there," Strickland said.

The Aggies hit only .079 percent in game one, but finished the match at .184.

Strickland posted career highs in kills and digs, with 19 and 27, respectively.

Moskovic recorded 10 kills, her career high, and 48 assists.

The Aggies will be in Big 12 action again on Saturday, when they go on the road to face the University of Missouri Tigers at 7 p.m.

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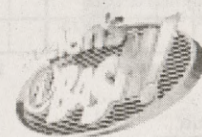
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