

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggies named to Big 12 first-team

Texas A&M seniors Amber Woolsey and Summer Strickland and sophomore Jenna Moscovic were selected to the 1999 All-Big 12 Conference Volleyball First Team, the league office announced yesterday.



STRICKLAND

The 13th-ranked Aggies have the largest representation on the first team since no other school has more than two players listed on the 14-member team which was selected by a vote of the leagues' head coaches.

Woolsey was a unanimous selection, along with Kia Young of Baylor University, Kelly Campbell of the University of Colorado, Dawn Cady of Kansas State University, Player of the Year Nancy Henderson of the University of Nebraska and Erin Aldrich of the University of Texas.

Woolsey, who received all-Big 12 honorable mention as a junior, led the league this season with a .373 hitting percentage in conference play as A&M went 16-4 and finished an all-time high second in the Big 12 standings.

She also leads the league with a .385 hitting percentage for the full season and leads the Aggies with 4.26 kills and 1.55 blocks per game.

The 1998 Big 12 Freshman of the Year, Moscovic is making her first appearance on the all-Big 12 first team. She is averaging 11.76 assists per game in addition to averaging 1.25 kills, 2.24 digs and 0.82 blocks per game.

Strickland is also making her first appearance on the all-conference team. She is the Aggies' primary passer and led the team with 3.63 digs per game in conference play.

She posted career highs in

every category during her senior year and was instrumental in the Aggies' wins against then-No. 8 Nebraska and then-No. 9 Texas.

Strickland recorded the first triple-double of her career against the Big 12 champion Cornhuskers and posted career highs with 19 kills and an A&M season-high 27 digs against the Longhorns.

Volleyball team to host touney games

The Texas A&M Volleyball Team received its seventh consecutive at-large bid to participate in the

NCAA Championship tournament and has been selected to host first- and second-round matches. The Aggies will face the Stephen F. Austin University Ladyjacks, winners of the Southland Conference tournament, Thursday at 7 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.



CORBELLI

The University of North Carolina, winner of the Atlantic Coast Conference tournament, and Big Sky tournament champion University of Northern Arizona, also will make the trip to College Station and will begin tournament action Thursday at 5 p.m.

The winner of the North Carolina-Northern Arizona match will face the winner of the A&M-SFA match Friday at 7 p.m. at G. Rollie White.

"We received a really fine draw," A&M volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli said, "and I'm very happy we will be playing here at G. Rollie. The support of the Twelfth Man and the Maroon Club is a huge boost to our program."

The Aggies are 14-0 in home matches this season and have won 17 consecutive home matches dating to last year.

SEE BRIEFS ON PAGE 8.

Cowboys trying to change road woes

IRVING (AP) — Away from Texas Stadium, the Dallas Cowboys have lost on natural grass and plastic turf, during the day and at night, on Sunday and on Monday.

The Cowboys (6-5) have two chances left to get it right: Sunday night in New England and Christmas Eve in New Orleans. Their playoff chances probably depend on it.

"I think that we understand exactly where we are and what needs to be done from here on out," coach Chan Gailey said. "We know what's at stake."

Since an overtime victory in the opener at Washington, Dallas has lost five straight road games. The sad part is that the Cowboys led those games by 17, 14, 10, 7 and 3 points.

The key has been the second halves. Over those 10 third and fourth quarters, the Cowboys have been outscored 81-16 and their of-

fense has been shut out in eight of those periods.

"We're just not finishing the job on the road the way we have at home," Gailey said.

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— Chan Gailey
Cowboys coach

Gailey refuses to buy into the theory that Dallas is a bad road team.

From his perspective, the problem is strictly second halves, not second halves outside Texas Stadium.

"I make a much bigger deal

about playing better in the second half than about being on the road," he said.

This is not exactly a new problem. The Cowboys have lost seven of their last eight road games and nine straight against teams from outside the NFC East. The Patriots and the Saints both fall into that category.

Breaking that streak, which dates to August 1997, is crucial to Dallas' playoff hopes.

The Cowboys are a game behind Washington in the NFC East, but they hold the tiebreaker over the Redskins. Winning the division is the only sure Dallas has of making the playoffs because of the pack of teams fighting for wild-card spots.

"The good thing about us," quarterback Troy Aikman said yesterday, "is that if we make the playoffs, we're going to be hitting our stride, because if we're not, we won't be in."

The Cowboys know they only have themselves — on their 1-5 road record — to blame.

"I think everyone realizes how close we have been to not talking about how vital each one of these games is," Gailey said. "That's what upsets you the most."

Another offshoot of Dallas' road woes is that it has prevented winning streaks. The Cowboys have not won consecutive games since starting 3-0.

They hoped a 27-13 victory over Green Bay would be the boost they needed, then they lost 13-9 in Arizona.

Now they are hoping a 20-0 victory over Miami on Thanksgiving will be the kickstart they need.

"That's got to be a confidence builder," linebacker Randall Godfrey said. "This last win was good, but we've got to keep it going."

Rose to try to gain reinstatement through courts

NEW YORK (AP) — Pete Rose is launching an Internet petition and may sue baseball to end his lifetime ban.

"You can't keep a guy from making a living," he said Nov. 23 in an interview with the Associated Press. "It's not the American way."

Following an investigation into his gambling, baseball's career hits leader agreed in August 1989 to a lifetime ban from the sport.

He applied for reinstatement in September 1997 and while commissioner Bud Selig has said several times that he has seen no evidence that would make him change the ban, he has not formally responded to Rose.

"If you find in your heart you didn't want to give me reinstatement, just write back and say, 'No,'" Rose said. "I know he has stationery. I know the mail is delivered in Milwaukee."

Rose claimed baseball's lawyers "blackmailed" witnesses against him during its investigation 10 years ago.

When pressed for details, he referred comment to his lawyer, Roger Makley, who declined comment when contacted at his Ohio office. Those who led the investigation at the time, Fay Vincent and John Dowd, denied Rose's accusation.

Rose was in New York for today's launch of sportcut.com., which through Jan. 15 will contain a fan petition calling for Rose's admission to the Hall of Fame. As long as he is banned from baseball for life, Rose is ineligible for the Hall.

"One thing you have to understand is we're not looking for a fight," Rose said. "If that has to be an option, that will be an option. That's a last resort. I don't need it. The game doesn't need it."

While baseball's rules allowed Rose to apply to reinstatement after one year, he has waited eight.

He did not want to apply while Vincent was commissioner — Vincent headed the Rose investigation as deputy to commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti and hired Dowd, who compiled the report on Rose's gambling.

"Fay Vincent wasn't going to give me a chance," Rose said. "I have no respect for John Dowd. He didn't do an impartial investigation. We're sick and tired of him going on the air and talking about all this evidence he has."

Rose also is angry Dowd put his report on the Internet.

"How much is he making on the Dowd report?" Rose said. "If I died tomorrow, we wouldn't hear about John Dowd again until the day he died."

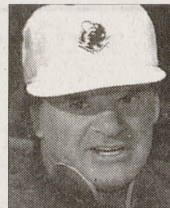
Dowd said Rose is wrong. "We did it to educate the public, and we did it solely at the firm's expense," he said. "We never charged anyone a dime."

The document Rose signed says, "Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed either an admission or a denial by Peter Edward Rose of the allegation that he bet on any major league baseball game" but it also says, "Peter Edward Rose acknowledges that the commissioner has a factual basis to impose the penalty provided herein, and hereby accepts the penalty imposed on him by the commissioner and agrees not to challenge that penalty in court or otherwise."

Giamatti said he personally had concluded that Rose bet on the Cincinnati Reds, the team he was managing, to win. Rose repeatedly has denied betting on baseball.

Rose said baseball originally proposed he wait 22 years to apply to reinstatement, then cut it to

SEE ROSE ON PAGE 8.



ROSE

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