

Senior Volleyball team to take on Rainbow Wahine

3th-ranked Aggies travel to Honolulu to face No. 3 Hawai'i Thursday in NCAA 3rd round

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

On the back of its locker room door is a list of goals. The large sheet of paper lists the dreams of the Texas A&M Volleyball Team for this season. Among the numerous items addressed on that sheet are goals such as achieving balance across the court, capitalizing on the Twelfth Man home-court advantage and being aggressive each time they step onto the court. One-by-one each goal the Aggies set their sights on was crossed off the list until there was only one goal left. "We made a lot of goals for the season as a team," senior outside hitter Summer Strickland said, "but for the seniors there is only one thing that matters. We could love to finish with a win but most of all we want to finish our career happy and knowing that we gave it all down to the final point."



STRICKLAND

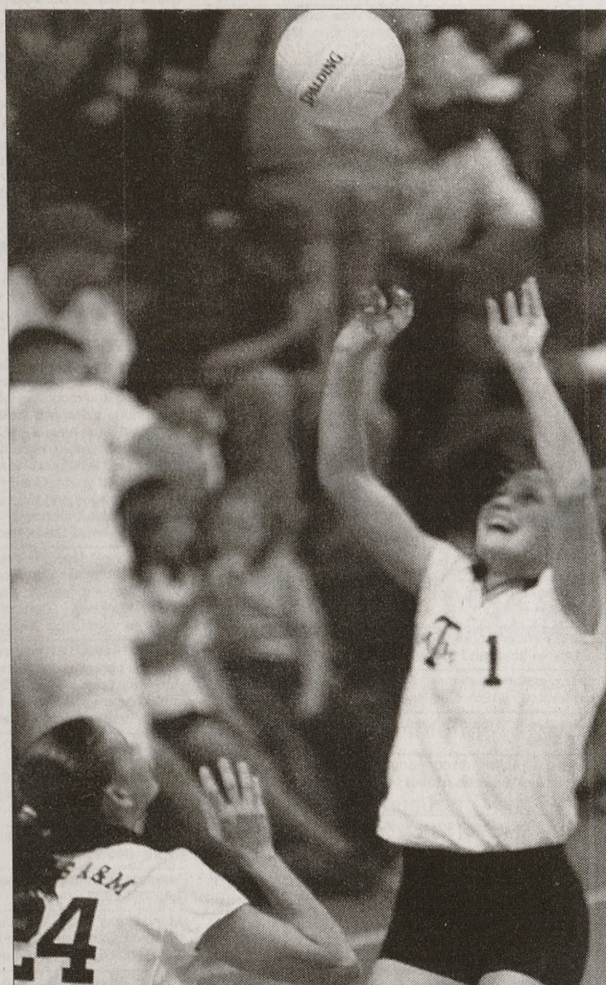
The Aggies already have posted an impressive season with a 25-5 record and a trip into the Sweet Sixteen of the NCAA Tournament. Throughout the season, the Aggies have dominated opponents when playing at home. In the process of establishing an undefeated-home record, A&M upset two of its 10 opponents. The result was an all-time best second-place finish in the Big 12 Conference.

Once the postseason arrived, the Aggies knew they would not have any second-chances. It was all on the line with every single point. A&M responded to the pressure and swept its opponents in three straight games during the first two rounds of the NCAA tournament. The biggest challenge of all lays ahead, thought, as the 13th-ranked Aggies will give up nearly all of their advantages when they face No. 3 Hawai'i on Thursday. Not only will A&M go from being the favorite to the underdog, but it will have to play in front of college volleyball's most intimidating crowds — 17,000 Rainbow fans.

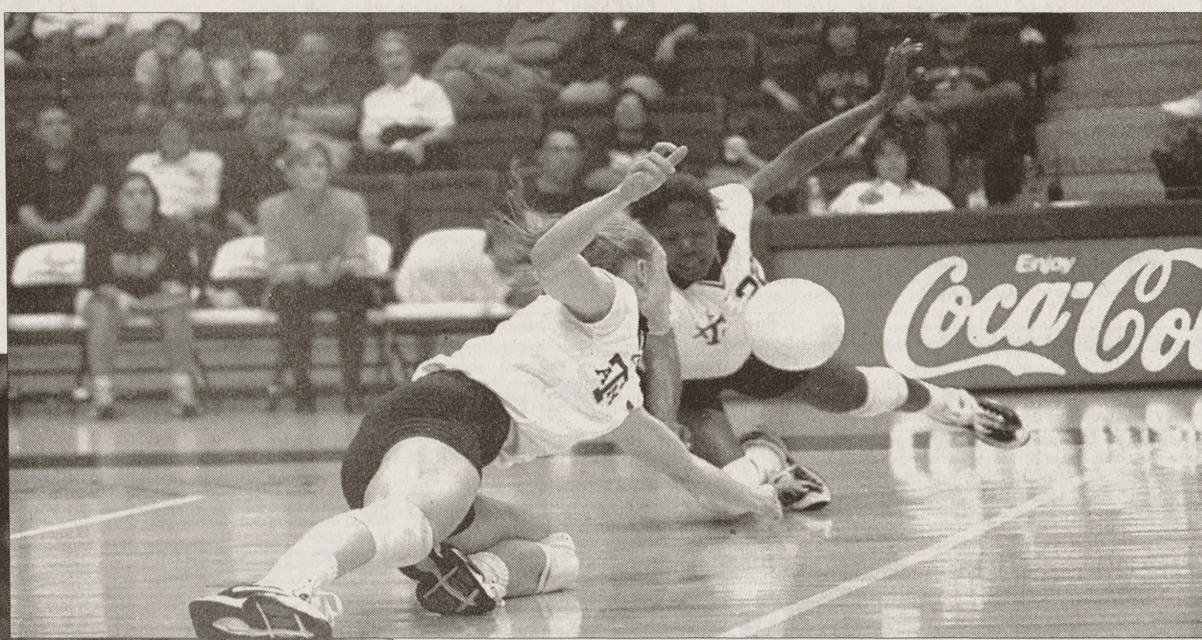
"Of course this has been our goal," A&M senior middle blocker Amber Woolsey said. "Hawai'i has a really good team and great fans like our Twelfth Man.

In my heart I think we have a good shot at winning." The Aggies have accomplished nearly every goal they set for the season. All that remains is to leave it all on the court.

"I'm ecstatic. I am so proud of this team," A&M volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli said. "This is where we want our program to be every year."



CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

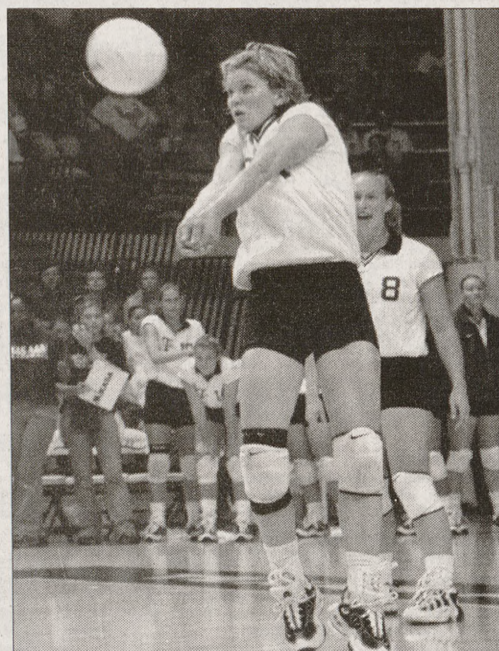


CODY WAGES/THE BATTALION

LEFT: A&M senior outside hitter **Celia Howes** sets the ball in the Aggies' NCAA first-round match against Stephen F. Austin State University Thursday at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

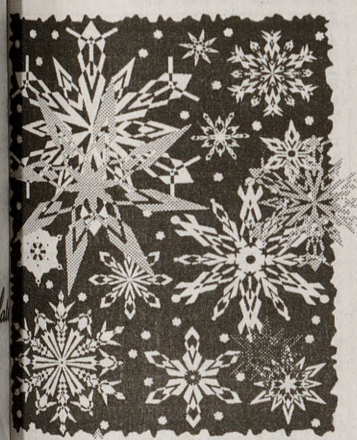
ABOVE: A&M senior outside hitter **Summer Strickland** (left) and sophomore outside hitter **Michelle Cole** dive for a ball in the Aggies' match against the University of Kansas Nov. 19 at G. Rollie.

RIGHT: **Howes** sets the ball in the Aggies' match against the University of Texas Oct. 27 at G. Rollie.



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