

Aggies defeat Cougars in first home match

Texas A&M volleyball kicks off 2000 home schedule with victory over old SWC rival

No jitters for Aggies at home



JASON LINCOLN

It is a completely new look in G. Rollie White Coliseum this fall. Gone are the star seniors from the 1999 A&M volleyball team that led the Aggies to the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament. Wednesday showed the new lineup as A&M defeated the Houston Cougars.

The Aggies of 2000 present a deep, multifaceted attack that causes opponents to question where the main threat is. On Wednesday night, nine of A&M's 11 players who saw court time logged kills. New starters Heather Marshall and Tara Pulaski joined Michelle Cole as players with over 10 kills.

"For our home opener and for early season, I was incredibly pleased," said A&M coach Laurie Corbelli.

"I've been here eight years and each season the team has had a lot of jitters in the first game and an incredible amount of nerves and had to work through that. This team didn't have that tonight."

Instead, the Aggies were so comfortable with their lineup that they were able to play the third game with only one to two starters on the floor at a time, allowing the bench to claim a 15-5 win in the third and final game.

"Every year I feel like we get deeper and deeper," Corbelli

See **JITTERS** on Page 2B.



PATRICK SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Sophomore A.D. Achilefu and Junior Erin Gibson go for a dig last night.

By BREE HOLZ
The Battalion

In its first home match of the season, the 18th-ranked Texas A&M volleyball team defeated the University of Houston Cougars 15-11, 15-9, 15-5 last night at G. Rollie White Coliseum in front of a crowd of 1,255. The Aggies now move to 2-2, handing the Cougars their first loss of the season.

The Aggie defense was unstoppable, as A&M posted 12 total team blocks compared to a mere three blocks by the Cougars. A&M also out-hit Houston .307 to .115.

Senior middle blocker Heather Marshall led the Aggie attack as she posted 12 kills and no errors for a .632 hitting percentage. Defensively, Marshall recorded three blocks and eight digs.

A&M coach Laurie Corbelli was impressed with the play of her team.

"For a home opener and for early season, I was incredibly pleased," she said. "This team handled the pressure beautifully. Even when they got

down, they bounced right back and stayed relaxed."

The Aggies began the match by go-

"For a home opener and for early season, I was incredibly pleased."

— Laurie Corbelli
Texas A&M volleyball coach

ing on a 4-0 run thanks to two quick kills from Marshall. But the Cougars scored immediately afterward and held the Aggies to numerous sideouts before committing a hitting error, giving A&M a 5-0 lead.

With the score at 8-4, Houston was forced to call a timeout. They managed to score six more points, but after two kills by junior outside hitter Brandi

Mount and numerous hitting errors, they could not manage any more.

To start game two, A&M went on a 5-1 run with kills from junior outside hitter Michelle Cole and Marshall. The Cougars found their rhythm and tied the score 5-5, but back-to-back kills from sophomore middle blocker Tara Pulaski forced another Cougar timeout.

Houston's momentum diminished, and an ace at game point from senior defensive specialist Christy Clark gave the Aggies game two.

The Aggies dominated once again in the third game by going on a 6-0 run to start the game. The Cougars could not dig the hard A&M kills and recorded a weak .097 hitting percentage that allowed A&M to quickly win game three.

"We don't have one key player, so other teams find it difficult to try and focus on one person," Corbelli said. "Tonight, that really allowed us to spread out our attack and be dominant at every hitting position."

Road tripping

Soccer team travels to Tallahassee and Gainesville for second straight weekend of playing Top 20 opponents

By BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

Another weekend will bring two more Top-25 opponents for the No. 7 Texas A&M soccer team.

Last weekend, the Aggies traveled to New England and beat then-No. 7 Hartford and No. 17 Harvard.

This time around, they are heading to the Citrus State to face No. 18 Florida State and No. 19 Florida on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

A&M coach G. Guerrieri said his team is looking forward to the different challenges

posed by the Seminoles and Gators compared to those they faced last weekend.

"Both Florida and Florida State are as dangerous or more dangerous than the two teams we just played," Guerrieri said. "We need to go in there and be opportunistic, and see if we can get two more wins against two more ranked teams on the road."

According to Guerrieri, the two Florida teams are more like the Aggies in their style of play than last week's opponents — speed-oriented and attacking the goal with superior numbers — especially Florida State.

The two teams met last season at the Ag-

gie Soccer Complex and the Aggies eked out a 2-1 win, one that Guerrieri said his team was lucky to get.

"We played them last year at home and were fortunate to get out of here with the win," he said. "They were able to score on one of their few good chances and we squandered a lot of ours so we're going to have to do a better job of finishing our opportunities."

Guerrieri also said the Gators will be no easier. Florida is a mere two seasons removed from their last soccer national

See **ROAD** on Page 2B.

	#18 6 p.m. Friday - Tallahassee, Fla.
	#19 1 p.m. Sunday - Gainesville, Fla.



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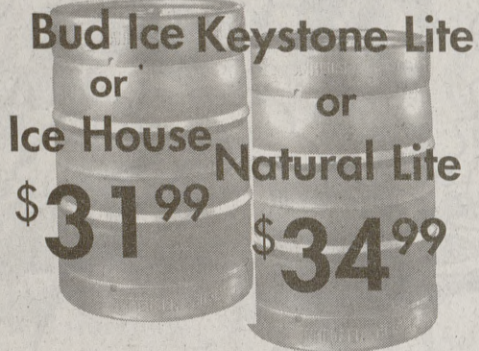
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