

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Aggies Can food drive successful

By Jason Lincoln
The Battalion

Inside Kyle Field Saturday, the Aggies suffered their first loss, after 22 straight victories, at home. But the Texas A&M athletes left Kyle Field with at least one victory on Saturday.

Outside the gates of the stadium on Saturday, Aggie athletes collected 10,425 cans of food for the needy of the Brazos Valley, with a weight of more than 10,000 pounds.

The effort was part of "Aggies Can," a student-athlete-led food drive that sought out the support of Aggie football fans to help their community. It was organized by A&M's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SACC) and Aggie Athletes Involved and was run completely by student-athletes with the help of the Athletic Department.

"The athletes and the Athletic Department were very pleased with our results, even though it wasn't a great weekend in terms of weather and the success of our football team," said SACC president and swimmer Devin Howard.

Event organizers had hoped to make this the world's largest recorded collegiate food drive. The athletes will have to wait until next year to get their efforts recorded by the Guinness Book of World Records, because of a lack of prior documentation.

That should not be a problem since the event will be expanded beyond the football game next year to make sure A&M's efforts of service are recorded as a benchmark for other colleges.

A&M's home win streak threatened by Tech

By Bree Holz
The Battalion

The 22nd-ranked Texas A&M volleyball team will attempt today to extend its home match winning streak to 26 consecutive wins against the team that handed it its last loss at G. Rollie White Coliseum - Texas Tech University.

The Red Raiders last defeated the Aggies in College Station on Nov. 1, 1998. Tech will have another opportunity at 7 p.m. today.

Texas Tech and A&M both hold a 5-2 league record and are in the middle of a four-way tie for second place in the Big 12 conference, along with Missouri and Kansas State. A&M has a 10-4 overall record, while Tech maintains a 16-2 record.

The Red Raiders have surprised the Big 12 this season with their current second place standing. Tech was picked to finish sixth

overall in the Big 12 preseason poll, and the Aggies were picked to finish second.

In 1999, the Aggies defeated Tech both at home and in Lubbock, 3-0. The Red Raiders finished in eighth place in the league last year with a 7-13 record.

Though the winning streak is on the line against a tough opponent, the Aggies are not feeling any pressure.

"It's more of an incentive to win," said middle blocker Heather Marshall. "We are not looking at it as added pressure, but it makes us want to go out there and beat them faster."

Outside hitter Erin Gibson said the team is trying to focus on its own play and not think about the home winning streak.

"The streak is something that has happened over the years," she said. "We can't focus on that. Tech

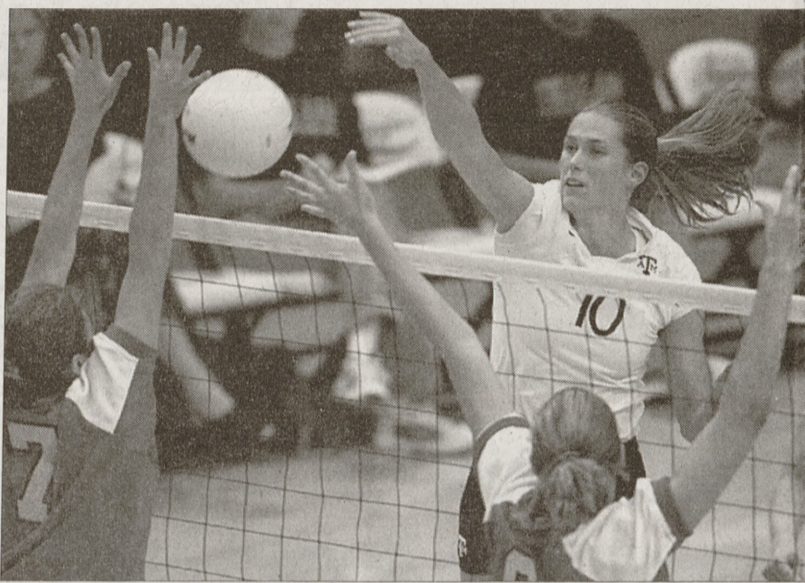
is going to be a huge challenge. They've really stepped up their game and they're a huge threat at the net."

Outside hitter Michelle Cole said it will be incredibly difficult for Texas Tech to get another win at G. Rollie White.

"There's no way in the world Tech is going to end our winning streak," she said. "They're going to come in really aggressive tomorrow and be a challenge to us, but ultimately, they're going to lose."

Cole said the Twelfth Man is always a factor in the match because of the constant noise and support.

"The fans are right on top of you and make noise the whole match," she said. "We could be sucking on our side and the crowd would still be loud. I think it makes the other team feel kind of helpless."



Texas A&M middle blocker Heather Marshall, pictured above, will lead A&M against Texas Tech in defense of the Aggies' 25-game home winning streak.

Aggies back-to-basics in effort to rebound from loss

The Texas A&M football team goes back to the drawing board this week. After last week's aberration at home against no-longer-winless Colorado, the Aggies are set to hit the road and face an opponent they have not lost to since 1985 - the Baylor Bears.

Wait a second before deciding that going to Waco is not worth the trip because the Aggies will pull this one out with ease - everyone saw what happened last week when the Buffaloes limped into Kyle Field and ended up, charging out with their first victory.

If the Aggies' defeat at Notre Dame was considered acceptable because of the circumstances surrounding the loss, last Saturday's flub was about as unacceptable as possible, and the A&M players know it.

"Taking that loss last week really hurt us," said running back Richard Whitaker. "We



should have come out with a little more intensity at the beginning of the game. Toward the end, we tried to fight harder, but by then there wasn't enough time to win."

The coaching staff shouldered a portion of the blame as well. Against the Buffaloes, the Aggie offense made numerous trips inside the 5-yard line, coming away with only one touchdown in those situations.

Offensive coordinator Steve Kragthorpe said the Aggies' short-yardage problems

stemmed from flawed execution at the line of scrimmage.

"That first time, we tossed to Richard and it was a touchdown," Kragthorpe said. "Then we come back the next time, we tried to throw the ball to Ja'Mar out of the backfield on a play that Richard had scored on against Tech."

"We came back and gave to Richard on the same play that we had scored on. Got the same defense and everything - we just didn't execute the blocking scheme."

So there they were, a block away from taking control of the game and perhaps having their home win streak alive to defend another day.

But it did not work out that way and now the Aggies are faced with having to remedy their problems before Saturday, or Baylor may just end its 15-year drought against the Ags.

If linebacker Jason Glenn has anything to

do with it, the Bears will not have a chance.

"This is a very big week," Glenn said. "We've got to bounce back from a defeat that put a very sour note on our season. We can't go in there and think, 'This is Baylor.' We can't do that. We've got to go out there and play hard every game now so we can get to the Big 12 Championship."

Television Coverage
ABC and Fox Sports Net have exercised the second of three six-day selection options for games on Oct. 21.

The A&M at Iowa State, Texas Tech at Kansas State and Missouri at Texas contests are under consideration for broadcast that day, with ABC getting first choice for its 2:30 p.m. kickoff time.

Blaine Dionne is a senior journalism major.

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