

Volleyball travels to Colorado

BREE HOLZ
The Battalion

The 21st-ranked Texas A&M volleyball team will travel to Boulder, Colo., tonight to battle Colorado at 8 at Coors Event Center.

The Aggies remain in second place in the Big 12 conference with a 15-5 record (10-3 Big 12), while the Buffaloes sit in sixth place with a 10-9 record (6-6 Big 12). 11 Nebraska remains in first place, and Kansas State and No. 25 Missouri are tied for third.

A&M defeated Oklahoma Saturday at G. Rollie White Coliseum, 15-4, 15-5, 15-9. Colorado had a bye weekend and swept Oklahoma last Wednesday in Boulder.

A&M and Colorado met on Sept. 23 in College Station, and the Aggies came out on top, 15-7, 15-13, 13-15-9.

Colorado is a team that always plays tough against A&M, said A&M coach Laurie Corbelli. "They run a great middle attack, their setter attacks a lot on the second ball, the outside hitters use blockers well. Our team is going to have to be ready to play, and I think they will."

A&M holds the all-time series record between the teams, 9-1. In 1999, the Aggies defeated the Buffaloes in Boulder, 3-0, and in College Station, 3-1.

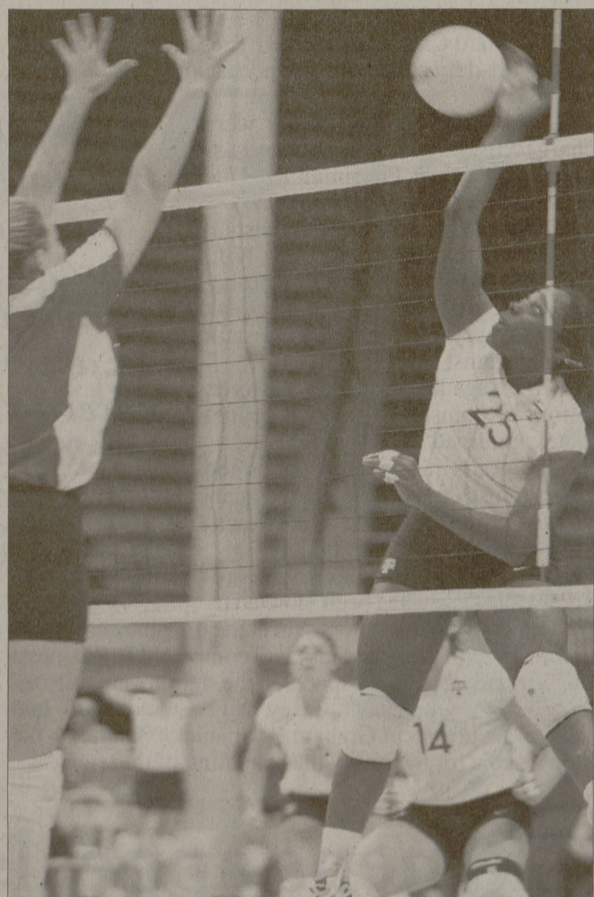
Last season, the Buffaloes finished in sixth place in the Big 12 with a 12-8 league record, qualifying them for the NCAA tournament, where they were defeated in the opening round by Utah.

"Our team is going to be really fired up for this match," Corbelli said. "We've had two matches where we've been much better than our opponent statistically and in the standings, so the challenge has been to get really fired up and play with that extra adrenaline, and I think we've done a great job of that."

Corbelli said the Aggies will be ready to go after having some time off over the weekend.

"They've had some time to rest and get away for a while and refresh, which is really important right now," he said. "This match couldn't have fallen at a better time."

The Aggies lead the Big 12 in kills per game (19.39), assists per game (17.55) and digs per game (20.61). Individually, outside hitter Erin Gibson ranks first in the



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M outside hitter Michelle Cole will lead the Aggies into Boulder, Colo., Wednesday night. The Aggies are currently in second place in the Big 12.

conference in digs per match (4.79) and fourth in kills (4.70), and setter Jenna Moscovic ranks fourth in assists (14.00).

The Aggies will have a bye this weekend and will battle top-ranked Nebraska Nov. 8 at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7 p.m.

Midfielder Kristen Strutz and forward and team point leader Heather Ragsdale have taken up much of the slack.

Ragsdale was named to the first team All-Big 12 Conference team this week. Defender Amber Reynolds was also named to the All-Big 12 squad.

Rookie goalkeeper Esther Thompson, who was named to the Big 12

newcomer team, was also named Big 12 defensive player of the week. Thompson posted 5.5 shutouts on the season.

"All of our young players are players who have played in intense competition, so they're used to playing in that type of pressure," said Guerrieri. "This is exactly where we wanted to be. I am really pleased with the players that we got ourselves to this point."

FOOTBALL

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Although A&M has been hampered by injuries, including the Aggies' 1999 point leader Nicky Frasher, the team has managed to end the regular season with one of the best national rankings (No. 9) since the team was elevated to varsity status in 1993.

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