

Sports

THE BATTALION

Page 3

Ags pound UTSA

Volleyball squad improves to a perfect 5-0

By DOUG FUENTES
THE BATTALION

Before their match against UT-San Antonio Tuesday, Coach Laurie Corbelli and the Texas A&M volleyball team hoisted another banner in the rafters of G. Rollie White Coliseum, this time commemorating last season's trip to the second round of the NCAA tournament.

If senior outside hitter Brandi Mount has more performances in her like Tuesday night, the Aggies are well on their way to being able to add another banner to the collection.

Mount laid down a match-high 19 kills as A&M opened its home schedule with a convincing, 30-10, 30-20, 30-27, victory over the UT-San Antonio Roadrunners at G. Rollie White.

The Aggies upped their record to a perfect 5-0 and still have not surrendered a game this season. The Roadrunners remained winless at 0-4.

"The setters were doing a great job of giving her [Mount] a ball right where she likes it and she just got hot," Corbelli said. "Even after getting five kills in game one, it didn't appear to me that she was going to be that hot. But as the match went on, she was just unstoppable and dynamic as well."

A&M opened up the match with a statement, bulldozing UTSA in game one.

Charlsie Heifrin gave the Roadrunners a 1-0 lead with a kill on the opening serve. It was the last time UTSA would have the lead for some time as the Aggies went on a tear. They scored 12 straight and 18 out of the next 27 points to take the game, 30-10.

Senior hitter Michelle Cole led the Aggies in kills in game one with six, with Mount chipping in five.

The second and third games would prove to be a bit tougher for the Ags, as Corbelli shuffled in different players to get some time and UTSA came into its own.

After falling behind 21-10 in game two, the Roadrunners put together a run of their own as a flurry of kills combined with Aggie hitting errors pulled UTSA to within 25-20.

The Aggies closed out the game however, scoring five straight points, led by two kills by sophomore outside hitter Rebecca Wynalda and a service ace by junior outside hitter Julia Rex to end the game, 30-20.

"We saw them start to come alive and not be so intimidated of our environment in the middle of game one."

— Laurie Corbelli
A&M volleyball coach

"We saw them start to come alive and not be so intimidated of our environment in the middle of game one," Corbelli said. "They started digging a lot of balls and getting some transition attacks on us."

The Aggies needed every ounce of power in Mount's arm in the third game, as the Aggies scrapped out a 30-27 win.

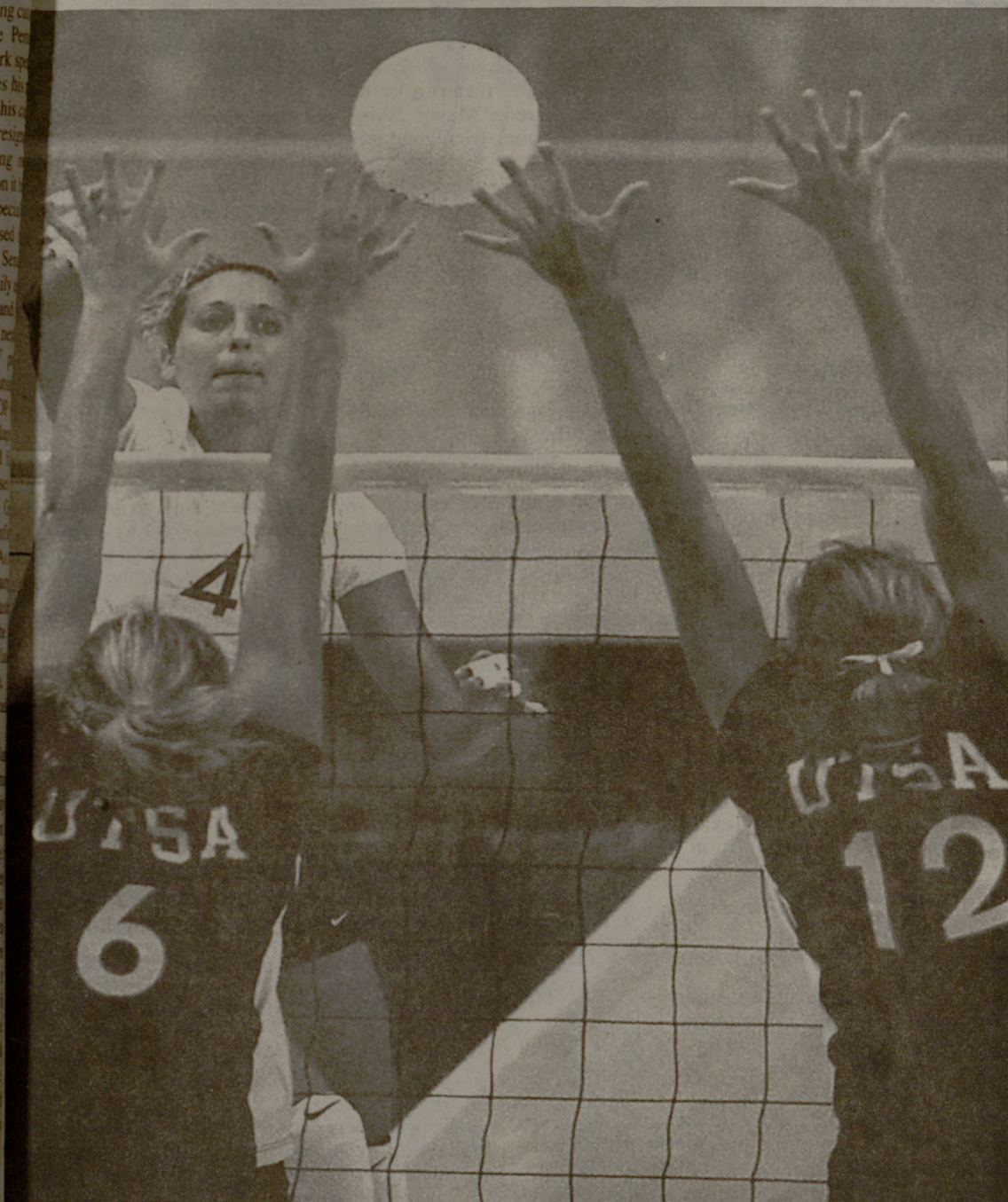
With the score 24-21, Mount scored four of the Aggies last six points, including match point. She had 11 of her 19 kills in game three.

"I didn't expect to play this well," Mount said. "It had a lot to do with the team playing behind me. Lexy [Beers] and Jenna [Moscovic] set really well, we passed really well and got a lot of touches off our block, which made it really easy for our setters."

Heifrin led the Roadrunners with nine kills and Shelly Wilson added 25 assists.

Junior middle blocker A.D. Achilefu and Cole each sent down eight kills for the Aggies and Moscovic had 28 assists despite, limited playing time in the second and third games.

The Aggies next action will come this weekend as they host the Verizon Aggie Classic. A&M plays Florida State at 6 p.m. on Friday and ninth-ranked Stanford at 7 p.m. on Saturday at G. Rollie White.



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Freshman middle blocker **Melissa Munsch** puts a ball by two UT-San

Antonio blockers in Tuesday night's victory over the Roadrunners.

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