

# Sports

Monday, December 3, 2001

THE BATTALION

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## Buffs claim Big 12

IRVING (AP) — A week ago, Texas was giddy in its good fortune.

Now, the Longhorns are wondering how they squandered it all. After backing its way into the Big 12 title game, Texas had a chance to play in the Rose Bowl. Tennessee's 34-32 win over Florida on Saturday set the table for the Longhorns to play for the school's first national title in more than 30 years.

All Texas had to do was win the Big 12 title game against Colorado, a team the Longhorns whipped 41-7 back in October. Nothing doing. As they did to Nebraska a week earlier, the Buffs used a punishing ground game and exploited a dismal outing by Texas quarterback Chris Simms to win 39-37.

The loss sent the shocked Longhorns (10-2) tumbling out of the Bowl Championship Series and most likely to the Holiday Bowl where they lost to Oregon last season.

See BUFFS on page 12.

## A&M pounds Texas, advances

### Win lands Aggies in Sweet 16 round

By DOUG FUENTES  
THE BATTALION

Normally for the Texas A&M volleyball team, beating Texas is a sweet prospect. When the Aggies defeated the Longhorns Saturday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum, it was real sweet — as in Sweet 16.

A&M defeated the Longhorns for the third time this season, 30-24, 30-22, 30-27, to advance to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament for the first time in two seasons.

"This was a really tough match to prepare for," said A&M coach Laurie Corbelli. "Having met them twice and these matches with Texas are always emotional. The rivalry really presents itself. I knew the team had to bring its best game to win tonight."

"We knew Texas would come out and fight like crazy and they did. For the team to bring the confidence and poise with all the pressure that was on A&M, I'm really very proud and pleased with the performance of my team."

"There was really nothing sweeter than that," said A&M senior setter Jenna Moscovic. "Beating them three times in a season is tough. We came out and knew that. We came in with the idea that this was the first time we're going to play them. We played great. We didn't dominate, but we beat them and we're going to the Sweet 16."

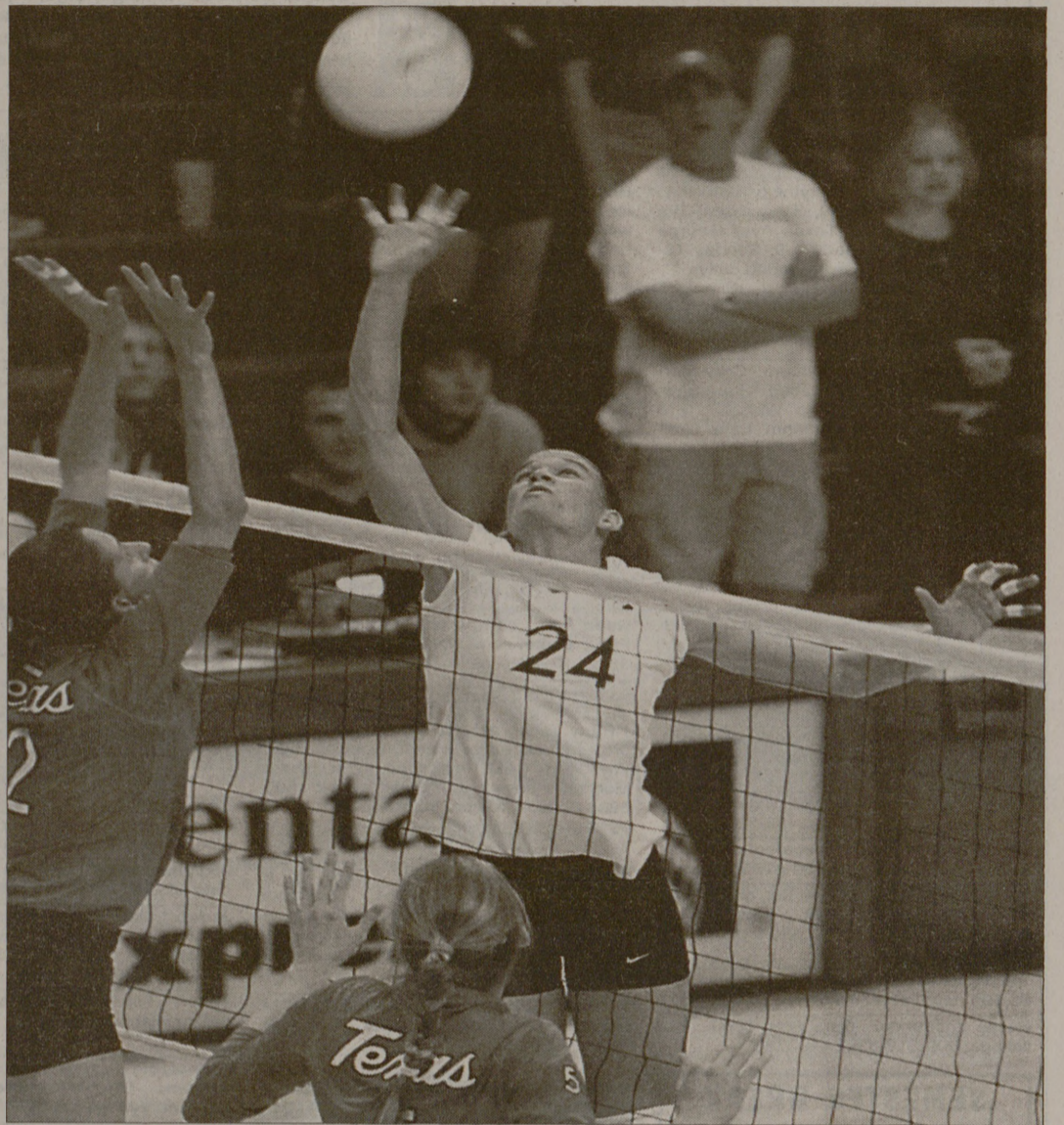
The trip to the Sweet 16 will be the second for A&M's outgoing seniors who reached the Elite 8 in 1999.

"I can't think of a better way to do it," said A&M senior outsider hitter Michelle Cole. "It had to end some time, but it's been a great run. That was awesome. That's the way I wanted to leave this gym. I'm going to miss this place so much."

From the first serve, Texas showed the Aggies it was not going down without a fight. The Longhorns matched the Aggies point for point in the first game, taking a 14-13 lead on a block by Bethany Howden.

With the Aggies down, Corbelli inserted junior middle blocker A.D. Achilefu to provide a spark. Her two kills, a block and a service ace spurred the Aggies on to a 12-3 run that turned a one-point deficit into an eight-point lead for the Aggies at 25-17.

"I sensed A.D. would have a hey-day tonight," Corbelli said. "She doesn't usually start because she's the best player off the



JOHN LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Senior setter Jenna Moscovic tries to hit the ball past UT outside hitter Katia Lara. Moscovic recorded 38 assists and 7 kills during the Aggies' 30-24, 30-22, 30-27 sweep of the Longhorns.

bench. I thought after the first few rotations that A.D. could help the team."

The Aggies held on and won the game on a service error by Howden.

It was more of the same tense competition.

See SWEEP on page 12.

## Portland knocks off Aggies, 4-1

Staff & Wire

The No. 5 Texas A&M soccer team's season came to a close Sunday afternoon after a 4-1 loss to the Portland Pilots in the quarterfinal round of the 2001 NCAA women's tournament.

The Aggies took an early 1-0 lead when Linsey Johnson scored her 17th goal of the season in the eighth minute, one-fifth of a pass from Emma Smith that beat the Portland goalie low and to the left.

Portland rebounded to score the next four goals by Christine Sinclair and Betsy Barr.

Sinclair's first goal came in the 15th minute and tied the game at 1-1. A&M sophomore goalkeeper Ester Thompson went one-on-one with the streaking Sinclair, but Thompson could only get a hand on the shot, and the ball rolled past her, where Sinclair was waiting to finish the

play with a shot into the open net.

Portland added the game-winner 11 minutes into the second half, when Barr received a pass and headed the ball past A&M goalkeeper Angela Barker, who replaced Thompson.

"We put Angela (Barker) in to start the second half because she is a little taller and a little better on defending crosses and corners," said A&M soccer coach G. Guerrieri. "All three of their second-half goals were tremendous goals."

With the win, the Pilots advance to the 2001 Women's College Cup in Dallas.

"I am very proud of our team and our senior class for getting us over the hump after making it to the Sweet 16 four times," Guerrieri said. "We have a good group of underclassmen coming back and the future is very bright for Texas A&M soccer."

The Aggies finished the season with a 17-4-1 record.

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