

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Volleyball team readies for red-hot Missouri

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team will have to avoid a potential land mine tonight when it takes on a streaking University of Missouri team in Columbia, Mo.

The Tigers, who have not lost a match in September, knocked the University of Texas out of the USA Today/AVCA top-25 poll after sweeping the Longhorns in Austin last week.

The Aggies, meanwhile, are faced with their second straight road contest and are coming off of a five-game loss at Colorado.

"We weren't asleep (in the Colorado match), but it sure came as a wake-up call," said A&M head coach Laurie Corbelli. "A lot of that match, we really gave away on a silver platter. We did not execute like we know how, and we are going to turn that around. The team is even more motivated now. I'm expecting a much stronger performance."

The No. 20 Aggies (9-2, 1-1 Big 12) suffered from mental mistakes and 10 service errors against the Buffaloes.

Serving has been a problem thus far for the youthful team. A&M has had more serving errors than its opponent in seven of 11 matches.

Corbelli said this was because the

Aggies are trying to apply immediate pressure to opposing defenses.

"We're trying to be aggressive," Corbelli said. "We want to attack our serve. We're encouraging the jump servers, but we're still lacking some consistency. It's new to our team, yet it's necessary for us to get that more consistent. We're trying to find a balance where we encourage our players to be tough, but it's not an easy thing."

"Missouri ... will have a loud band and a loud crowd. It's kind of dark in their gym, so it's not quite as comfortable of a volleyball facility, so there might be a little of an effect."

— Laurie Corbelli
A&M head volleyball coach

While the Aggies are experiencing some growing pains in the early part of the season, junior middle blocker Tara

Pulaski has assumed a leadership role.

Pulaski has been a steadying force in A&M's defense, leading the team in blocks with a .93 block per game average and helping the Aggies out-block opponents 93-73.

Pulaski led A&M in blocks against Colorado on Saturday and set a career high in digs against Kansas last Wednesday.

"I have played behind some great players here," Pulaski said. "The thing with this team is that we are really young, and it kind of fell on the shoulders of me and A.D. (Achilefu) to step into the roles that were left open by last year's seniors to pull the team along. It's kind of a natural role."

Missouri (11-1, 1-0) is 4-0 at the Hearnes Center this season and has lost only one game in those four matches. The Aggies are 1-2 in road contests.

However, Corbelli said being on the road doesn't regularly play a big role in A&M's matches.

"I think we're not that affected (by the road)," Corbelli said. "If anything affected us in Colorado it was the thin air. Missouri, though, will have a loud band and a loud crowd. It's kind of dark in their gym, so it's not quite as comfortable of a volleyball facility, so there might be a little of an effect."

The match is scheduled to tip-off at 7 p.m. from the Hearnes Center.



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

A&M junior Tara Pulaski attempts a block in the Aggies' match against Sam Houston State University. Pulaski leads the team in blocks this season.

Cowboy's Smith gets support from former teammates

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Michael Irvin believes good friend Emmitt Smith will need just five more games to gain 362 yards and become the NFL's career rushing leader.

"God knows I hope so," said Irvin, who won three Super Bowls in the 1990s playing with Smith and Troy Aikman on the Dallas Cowboys.

"Believe me, he's frustrated. He'll joke about it and say, 'Y'all left me out here like this.' But it's hard to see him that frustrated."

Irvin, Aikman, Daryl Johnston and Jimmy Johnson — all of whom now work for Fox Sports — took part in a conference call with reporters

Tuesday to discuss Smith and his pursuit of Walter Payton's rushing record of 16,726 yards.

Smith began this season, his 13th, only 540 yards away. Through three games he has 178, an average of less than 60 a game.

At that rate, it would take him until the 10th game, Nov. 17 at Indianapolis.

But his chase could get a boost because the three games prior to the Indianapolis game are against poor run defenses: at Arizona on Oct. 20, at home against Seattle on Oct. 27 and at Detroit on Nov. 3.

The Seahawks game, the eighth of the season, was Irvin's pick.

"You never can tell for sure when he's going to have a breakout game," Aikman said. "But I guess it looks like the eighth, ninth or 10th game."

Much was made on the call about Smith no longer being surrounded by the caliber of teammates he once had. Johnston specifically noted problems with Smith's blockers, who are trying to learn new blocking schemes but have hardly practiced as a unit because of injuries.

"I think right now the big question is not when he's going to have the opportunity to break the record, but when the offensive line is going to get healthy and play together," Johnston said.

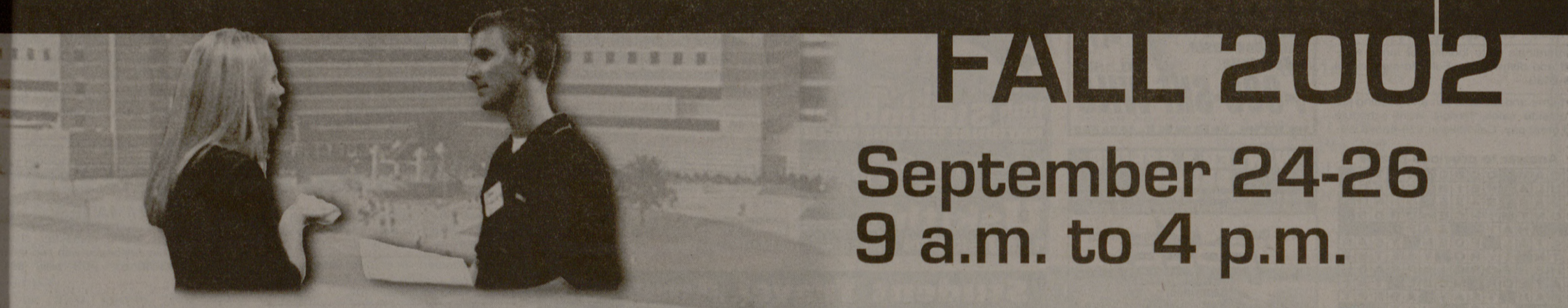
Johnson also hit the collaborative effort theme.

"A lot of great players can put up numbers and stats, but in order to have numbers plus winning, you need to have the entire group," he said.

Aikman said he's never paid much attention to records because numbers can be hollow. In this case, he appreciates what the record represents.

"It indicates he's been able to play at a high level for a long period of time," Aikman said. "That's what defines greatness. And, obviously, to break a record like this, that's what you've got to do."

BUSINESS CAREER FAIR



FALL 2002

September 24-26
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday

- Accenture
- AIM Funds
- Allegiance Healthcare
- Banc of America Securities
- BP Energy / IST North America
- Bridgestone / Firestone
- Career Center
- Central Intelligence Agency
- Chubb Group of Insurance Companies
- Cintas
- Consolidated Graphics
- Dynegy Inc.
- E&J Gallo Winery
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Ferguson Enterprises
- General Accounting Office
- Grainger
- H.E.B. Grocery Company
- Helzberg Diamonds
- Hershey Foods
- Hope Lumber & Supply Company
- Iconixx
- Internal Revenue Services
- International Paint
- International Study Abroad Program
- J.D. Edwards & Company
- JC Penney

- KPMG, LLP
- Kroger Co.
- Kroger Co.
- Luby's, Inc.
- Marathon Oil
- National Instruments
- Northwestern Mutual Financial Network
- Office Depot
- Pricewaterhouse Coopers
- Randalls/ Tom Thumb
- Royce Homes, L.P.
- RSM McGladrey, Inc/ McGladrey & Pullen LLP
- Ryan & Company
- Sears, Roebuck and Company
- Sewell Automotive Company
- Sherwin-Williams
- Smith & Associates
- SourceNet Solutions
- Sprint PCS
- Standard & Poor's
- Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts
- The Expo Group
- TXU
- USAA
- Walgreens
- Wal-Mart

Wednesday

- Allegis Group
- Amereda Hess
- American National
- Army & Air Force
- Bank One Corporation
- Black and Decker / Dewalt
- Career Center
- Cemex, Inc.
- Cintas
- Citigroup
- Compass
- Conoco
- Delloite & Touche
- DHL Worldwide Express
- Entergy-Koch
- Ferguson Enterprises
- GE Capital Services
- General Accounting Office
- General Services Administration
- Guaranty Bank
- Halliburton
- HEB
- Homecomings Financial
- Hope Lumber and Supply
- Job Gusher
- KBR

- Kohls
- Lucifer Lighting
- Mann Frankfort and Stein
- Maxim Healthcare Services
- McKesson Corporation
- Mervyn's California
- Northwestern Mutual
- Office Depot
- Pappas Restaraunts
- Payless ShoeSource
- PKF Texas
- Randalls
- Raytheon
- Royce Homes
- Sears, Roebuck & Company
- Shell Oil Company
- Smith & Associates
- SourceNet Solutions
- Study Abroad
- Texas Instruments
- Toys R Us
- UCS
- United States Gypsum
- US Army Recruiting Battalion Houston
- USAA
- Walgreens
- Wells Fargo

Thursday

- Applied Materials
- Automatic Data Processing
- Boston Consulting
- Career Center
- Delloite Consulting
- Duke Energy
- Easley Endres
- Ernst & Young
- Exxon Mobile Corporation
- Farmers Insurance
- Fastenal
- General Services Administration
- Hertz Corporation
- Hewitt Associates
- Hewlett Packard
- IMG Financial Group
- JP Morgan Chase
- Kinkos
- Neiman Marcus
- Newell Rubbermaid
- Pepsi Bottling Group
- Protiviti
- Saville, Dodgen & Company
- Southwest Bank
- Sterling Bank
- Study Abroad
- Target Stores
- Texas Youth Commission
- Toys R Us
- UCS
- US Army Recruiting Battalion Houston
- Velocity
- VHA
- Wells Fargo Financial

RECEPTIONS 7-9 P.M. @
(SEPT 23) CAFE ECCELL
(SEPT 24) LETTERMAN CLUB
(SEPT 25) CLAYTON WILLIAMS



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