

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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## Young stars lead No. 25 A&M vs. Oklahoma

By True Brown  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team has been hit by a youth movement.

After being led to the Elite Eight last season by a group of five seniors, the No. 25 Aggies have turned to several new faces this year to replace the experience and leadership they lost over the summer.

With three outside hitters, one defensive specialist and one setter all graduating, A&M head coach Laurie Corbelli was faced with a tough challenge.

"A lot of our court was open," Corbelli said. "I think that probably was the most significant loss of starters that I have ever experienced."

But Corbelli found a reliable rotation, and the Aggies (10-3, 2-2 Big12) stormed to a 9-1 record to begin the season.

A&M continues Big 12 play tonight when it travels to the University of Oklahoma for a 7 p.m. match against the Sooners. The road thus far has not been easy, as A&M has had to work through some growing pains. In both conference losses, the Aggies reached double-digits in service errors and had problems with first touches.

"With rally scoring, you really have no room for error," Corbelli said. "We've made a lot of young errors, and I think they are realizing they can do better. It's coming along a little better now."

Entering the 2002 campaign, none of the Aggies had bigger shoes to fill than sophomore setter Lexy Beers. Beers played sporadically last season in the shadow of All-American Jenna Moscovic, the most decorated setter in A&M history.

Beers wasted no time filling in, averaging 12.08 assists per game, just .85 behind what Moscovic averaged in her senior season.

"Lexy had a really big position to fill," said sophomore outside hitter Melissa Munsch, another young Aggie in a starting role. "She's done a wonderful job. She works her tail off every day at practice. She runs all over the court. She has really stepped up, and her leadership skills, too, have helped our team become a team."

The player making the most noise on the court has been freshman Laura Jones.

Jones leads the Aggies in hitting percentage at .336 and is second on the team in kills behind Munsch with 162. She also posted four of A&M's five highest individual match hitting percentages and

has tallied 20 kills twice.

Corbelli, however, says she may just be scratching the surface.

"She's incredibly important," Corbelli said. "She really knows how to hit the ball. But she is also learning and realizing that there is so much more to the game that she is capable of but has never had to excel at. She's improving daily with her defense, with her blocking, with her range and shot selection."

With such a large insurgence of youth, A&M has turned to a trio of older players to lead the way. A.D. Achilefu, Tara Pulaski and Carol Price have all assumed leadership roles.

Achilefu and Pulaski each have more than 100 kills, and Price has posted 76.

"We had to try and find a core to lead (the younger players) and to have a purpose and an identity as a team," Corbelli said. "The leadership is really emerging. Those three are really working at leading and trying to set the tone."

For Achilefu, it's all about having faith.

"Last years team depended so much on the seniors," Achilefu said. "Now, this year we have to believe that it is our turn and that we can perform just as well as those five seniors last year did. We're getting there."



FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION  
Sophomore Lexy Beers celebrates a kill made by junior middle blocker Carol Price during a game against Louisiana-Lafayette.

## Viking's Randy Moss faces additional charges, suspension for marijuana

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Minnesota Vikings star receiver Randy Moss was charged Tuesday with possession of a small amount of marijuana, adding to charges last week that he pushed a traffic officer with his car.

The new petty misdemeanor count carries a fine of up to \$200, but it could also lead to a suspension or fine from the NFL.

Police said they found a marijuana cigarette in Moss' car after he was arrested on Sept. 24. Moss was driving in downtown Minneapolis when the traffic officer stepped in front of his car to stop him from making an illegal turn. She was injured when she fell off the car.

Moss spent the night in jail and was charged the

next day with careless driving and failure to obey a traffic officer, both misdemeanors.

The complaint said the marijuana amounted to just under a gram. Moss has said the marijuana did not belong to him and that he had allowed other people to use his car recently.

ESPN reported Sunday that Moss was already in the league's substance abuse program for testing positive for marijuana last year, and underwent another test by the NFL after his arrest last week.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league would review the case.

"Under the policy, a drug-related violation of the law is grounds for disciplinary action," Aiello said.

If Moss tests positive for a banned or illegal sub-

stance or is convicted on the possession charge, he could be subjected to fines and suspensions by the league. He was allowed to play in last Sunday's 48-23 loss at Seattle.

Moss could lose his driving privileges in Minnesota for a year because he refused to take a police test for drug or alcohol use when he was arrested, said Kevin Smith, a spokesman for the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Moss, who has only a Florida driver's license, could lose driving privileges in that state, too.

City prosecutors on Tuesday also added two new traffic counts to the charges: making an improper turn at an intersection in a hazardous manner, and obstructing traffic with a vehicle, a petty misde-

meanor.

Each misdemeanor count carries a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and up to a \$1,000 fine. The maximum fine on the obstructing traffic count is \$300. Neither petty misdemeanor count carries jail time.

The 25-year-old Moss was to be arraigned Wednesday. Defense lawyer Joe Friedberg said Moss was not required to appear and would not be there.

Friedberg also said he did not plan to enter pleas for Moss during the arraignment, which he expected would be a quick and routine hearing.

"At some point we will enter not guilty pleas to all of these counts," Friedberg said.

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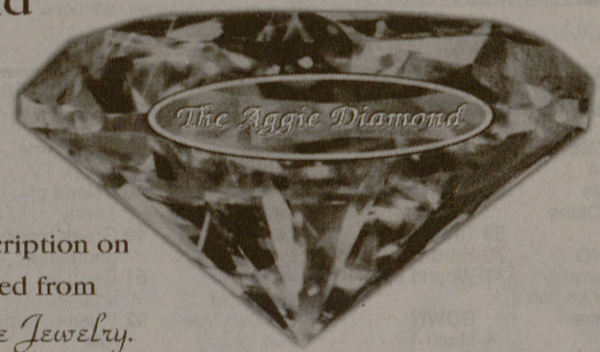
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