

# No. 5 Nebraska topples volleyball team

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By Jeff Allen  
THE BATTALION

G. Rollie White Coliseum was the sight for several milestones Sunday as the No. 25 Aggies (11-4, 3-3) fell to the No. 5 University of Nebraska Cornhuskers (13-1, 5-0) in four games.

"They are a very strong, very experienced team," said A&M volleyball head coach Laurie Corbelli. "(They're) a very tough team to defeat. I felt like we had our opportunities to get a win, maybe to get an upset, (that is) until we let our passing break down in game three...(after the break down) we kind of got stuck, and had a difficult time getting back into our groove. We had them where we wanted them. When things went bad, they went pretty bad, pretty fast, and cost us the match."

Freshman Laura Jones was one of the bright spots for the Aggies in the loss. She stepped up for the home crowd of 2,450, the fifth largest crowd ever to witness an Aggie volleyball game not against the University of Texas at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Jones set a personal best of 24 kills.

Senior A.D. Achilefu performed well for the Aggies also, delivering several key kills while keeping A&M in the match. "A lot of teams go in with that mentality, 'Oh they're huge, they block four balls a

game...' we didn't come in with that attitude initially, we decided we'd swing away and see where the ball went. Like (Corbelli) said, our passing broke and didn't allow us to get those aggressive things like we needed to," Achilefu said.

Not all was lost for the young Aggie team, though. With the win in the second game, the Aggies handed Nebraska its first loss of an individual game in Big 12 play since Nov. 17, 2001. The loss ended a streak of 28 straight wins for Nebraska.

The Cornhuskers returned the favor by breaking a 17-match home winning streak the Aggies carried into the match.

Throughout the match, A&M was plagued with errors. After tying the match by winning the second game, the Aggies managed to grab some momentum and pull out in front of Nebraska 22-17 in game 3. That was as good as it got for the A&M the rest of the day.

"Volleyball has always been a game of momentum and the team that knows how to turn things around in their favor (has an advantage)," Corbelli said. "They changed our momentum...it got us out of our rhythm. We've got to figure out how to get the momentum on our side when it's not."



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION  
Texas A&M freshman outside hitter **Laura Jones** spikes through two Nebraska blockers in Sunday's match at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Nebraska defeated the Aggies in four games.

**Wrecked**

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eight games combined entering Saturday's contest.

Long wasn't the only Aggie on the offensive side of the ball that opened some eyes on Saturday. Sophomore running back Derek Farmer rushed for 132 yards on 27 carries, his second consecutive 100-yard rushing performance, and junior wide receiver Jamaar Taylor hauled in six receptions for 128 yards.

The offense's performance on Saturday put it in an unusual spot: picking up the slack for the defense and then defending it.

"It was on the offense's shoulders today," said senior wide receiver Bethel Johnson, who took the Aggies' first play from scrimmage 78 yards for a touchdown. "We knew we had to come out and score some points. It doesn't matter how many touchdowns we scored, it wasn't enough."

Perhaps the Aggies don't give Texas Tech enough credit. Perhaps the Wrecking Crew is not as dominating as many Aggies think. But if A&M wants to wreak havoc in the Big 12 South this year, the Wrecking Crew had better figure it out quickly.

**Tech**

Continued from page 7

for the touchdown to tie the game at 47. Treece hit his extra point to win the game 48-47 for the Red Raiders.

"This is one of those things

where both teams got to fighting really hard and a lot of big plays were exchanged," said Texas Tech head coach Mike Leach. "It's one of those deals where it's just the last man standing at the line at the end."

The Aggie offense produced its best performance of the season

as it gained a total of 517 yards in the game. Sophomore running back Derek Farmer led all rushers as he gained 132 yards on 27 carries. Junior Jamaar Taylor led all receivers with six catches for 128 yards.

The Aggie defense gave up 544 yards to the high-powered

Tech offense. It was the most gained against an Aggie defense since 1999 when Oklahoma gained 552 yards in a 51-5 Sooner win.

Texas Tech has now won two in a row in the series and six of its last eight games against the Aggies.

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Aggieland 2003

**SPORTS IN BRIEF**

**Women's Cross-country finishes second in Maine**

All-American senior Melissa Gulli led the Texas A&M women's cross country team to a second place finish Saturday at the Murray Keating Invitational in Orono, Maine.

The Aggies managed to compete with the No. 23 Marquette University team, finishing only five points behind them in the team competition. Marquette finished the race with a team total of 28 points, the Aggies followed with 33, and Vermont rounded out the top three with a total of 98 points.

Gulli led not only the Aggies on Saturday, but topped all collegiate runners. She ranked in her third consecutive first-place finish with a time of 17:04 in the five-kilometer run. Freshman Meredith Crane was the next highest runner for the Aggies with a fourth place overall finish and a time of 17:39.

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