

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Price has career night, leads Aggs over Sooners

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M volleyball team got into the Halloween spirit a day early against the University of Oklahoma.

Knowing a win would even their Big 12 record, the Aggies did their best impression of a slasher movie Wednesday night, ripping the Sooners at G. Rollie White Coliseum, 30-22, 30-21, 32-30.

OU played the role of the helpless victim, collecting its 20th consecutive loss and 13th straight sweep at the hands of A&M (14-7, 6-6 Big 12).

"We came out strongly," said A&M head coach Laurie Corbelli. "We've been working on consistency and having every player have their top game. I thought for the most part we did."

Carol Price earned her 11th start of the season and responded, tallying a career high 17 kills to lead all players. Four Aggies reached double figures in kills, and three hit the mark in digs.

"We've been working a lot in practice about getting up and going and

being more consistent," Price said. "I'm working on being more consistent with (setter) Lexy (Beers) and connecting more."

In the first two games, A&M took big leads early and then turned on cruise control. In game two, the Aggies jumped to a 9-2 lead after a kill by Price. A.D. Achilefu and Melissa Munsch contributed two kills each to start the frame, and the Sooners never got closer than six.

Beers quarterbacked the Aggie offense, recording 16 assists in both games.

"Once Carol and Lexy started connecting and seeing that things were pretty open, they knew that that was an area of our net that we wanted to attack a lot," Corbelli said. "We wanted to get it going early. Once they got that chemistry, they went for it, and it was a wonderful addition to the team."

After the Aggies jumped to the commanding lead, Corbelli took advantage of the opportunity to make substitutions and let some reserves get some playing time.

Freshman Kari Kelley, junior Kelly Smalley and freshman Holly Clay all saw the court. Kelley's action was her first of the season, and she scored an assist on her first collegiate touch.

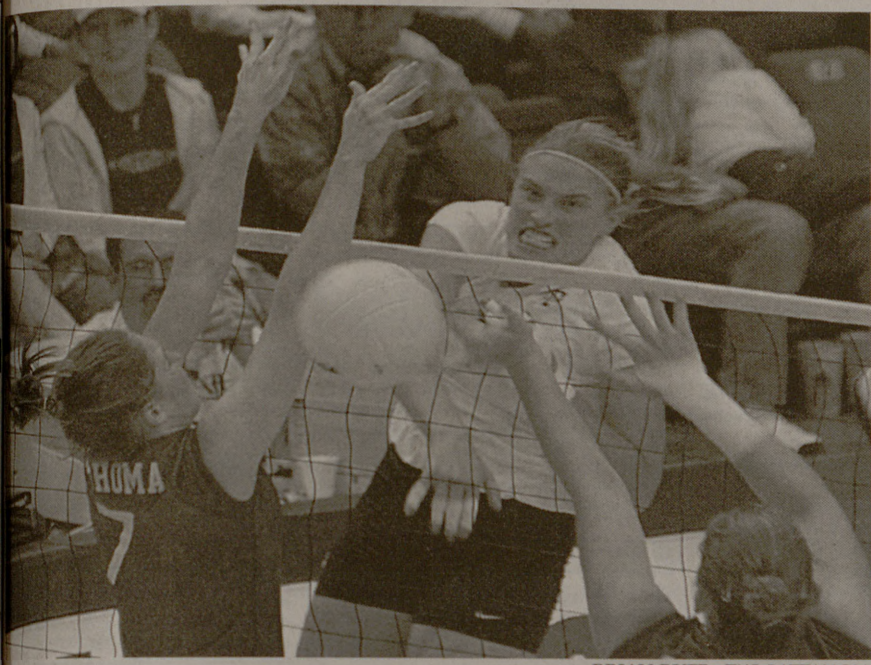
"We really need all the girls to get some experience in the games," Corbelli said. "You never know when you're going to need certain players. It's hard to find times to put them in, and I really wanted tonight for everyone to get on the floor."

Corbelli's moves almost backfired in the third game, as the Sooners (4-16, 2-10) appeared to have a solid grip on the set.

A kill by OU's Jennifer Mosso put the Sooners up 23-17, but the Aggies went on a seven-point run.

After holding off game point twice, the Aggies took their first lead at 31-30 after an ace by Tara Pulaski. A hitting error by OU's Denise Griffin ended the match.

"At home, we really don't want to go to four (games)," Achilefu said. "We made it up in our minds that we were going to win in three. We didn't want to lose that last game."



BRIAN RUFF • THE BATTALION

Senior middle blocker Carol Price spikes the ball past two Oklahoma defenders during the Aggies' 3-0 victory over the Sooners. Price led the Aggies with a career-high 17 kills Wednesday.

Winless Bengals' comments motivating Texans for weekend

CINCINNATI (AP) — Just when the NFL's worst team thinks it has hit bottom, another indignity comes along. The Cincinnati Bengals are underdogs to an expansion team.

Worse, they've given the Houston Texans more than enough motivation to make the oddsmakers look good and the Bengals look foolish.

The Texans (2-5) are favored to win their game Sunday at home, the first time they've gone into a game as favorites.

"It is nice to get respect as far as that goes," Texans quarterback David Carr said Wednesday.

The Texans aren't getting a whole lot of respect from the Bengals (0-7), who have guaranteed a win Sunday even though they've been

much less successful.

The NFL's worst team over the last 12 years wasn't surprised that oddsmakers are going with a team that has existed for just seven games.

"Should they show us any respect with what we've done this season?" receiver Chad Johnson said Wednesday. "Until we turn it around and gain our respect back, that's what they're going to do to us."

The Bengals have already made it harder for them to win a game that will either mark a turning point or the low point in a season that has already made them a laughingstock.

Following a 30-24 loss to Tennessee on Sunday, coach Dick LeBeau predicted a win in Houston. Johnson went even

further, guaranteeing a victory.

Carr laughed when asked whether the Texans have bulletin boards in their new stadium and whether they are full of Bengals' prognostications.

"We have a couple," he said. "There are some comments. Actually, they're plastered all over the entire stadium in bright, yellow signs. I know there's a lot of them."

Carr wouldn't say exactly what was on the signs, but it's not hard to read between the lines.

"We don't get a lot of respect being an expansion team, so we're used to that," Carr said. "I think they're a team that might be searching for something, and they thought that might be a way to get their team fired up."

It's hard to say what the Bengals were thinking when they made their brash predictions. LeBeau and Johnson have had several chances to back off their statements, but won't soften them much.

"You would probably be surprised to hear this, but I predict a victory for us every week, and I'll do that gladly," LeBeau said Wednesday.

Johnson didn't back off his guarantee at all. He's not surprised it has created such a stir.

"That's what it should cause," Johnson said. "I was trying to fire the team up a little bit. When our players hear the feedback, they know how I feel. I hope everybody's on the boat with me, and let's ride."

They're on the boat, but many of them

have decided to be silent passengers, wary of stirring up the Texans even more. Linebacker Takeo Spikes wouldn't discuss it Wednesday, and quarterback Jon Kitna talked around it, noting the Texans will be inspired by what's been said.

"I'll predict it's going to be loud," Kitna said of the game. "I'll predict that it will be one of the most physical games we'll play all year."

Carr remembers at least one game when he was at Fresno State and an opponent guaranteed a win.

"I don't remember exactly what team they were," Carr said. "I know what happened — they didn't win."

If the Bengals don't win Sunday, they know they're in for more national ridicule.

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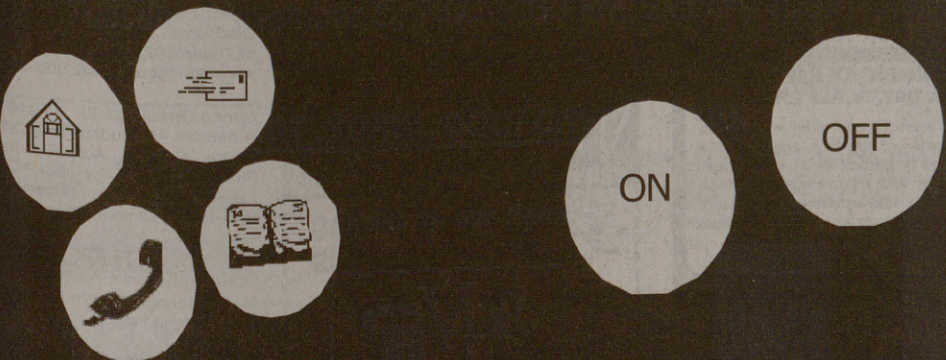
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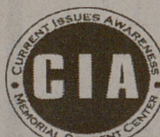
Is this Justice?



The electrocution of William Kemmler

Rev. Carroll Pickett, former chaplain of the Texas Prison System's Death Row, will speak about the death penalty and his book, *Within These Walls: Memoirs of a Death House Chaplain*.

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