



SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Aggies look for more consistency

A&M hopes Jones and Munsch will continue to roll

By Blake Kimzey
THE BATTALION

All-American senior middle blocker Monique Gerlach is like a needle in a haystack for the University of Colorado volleyball team. As one of just three upperclassmen on her team, Gerlach is somewhat of an enigma, surrounded by youth and inexperience.

To be exact, 10 underclassmen pepper a Colorado roster which, battle tested at 9-3, will provide the foundation for a duke-it-out Big 12 home opener tonight for the Aggies.

Colorado coach Pi'i Aiu likes to grumble about his team's inability to close out games; however, Colorado has only surrendered three close matches, all of which came on the road. Youth and inexperience, he says, breed mistake-riddled matches in crunch time.

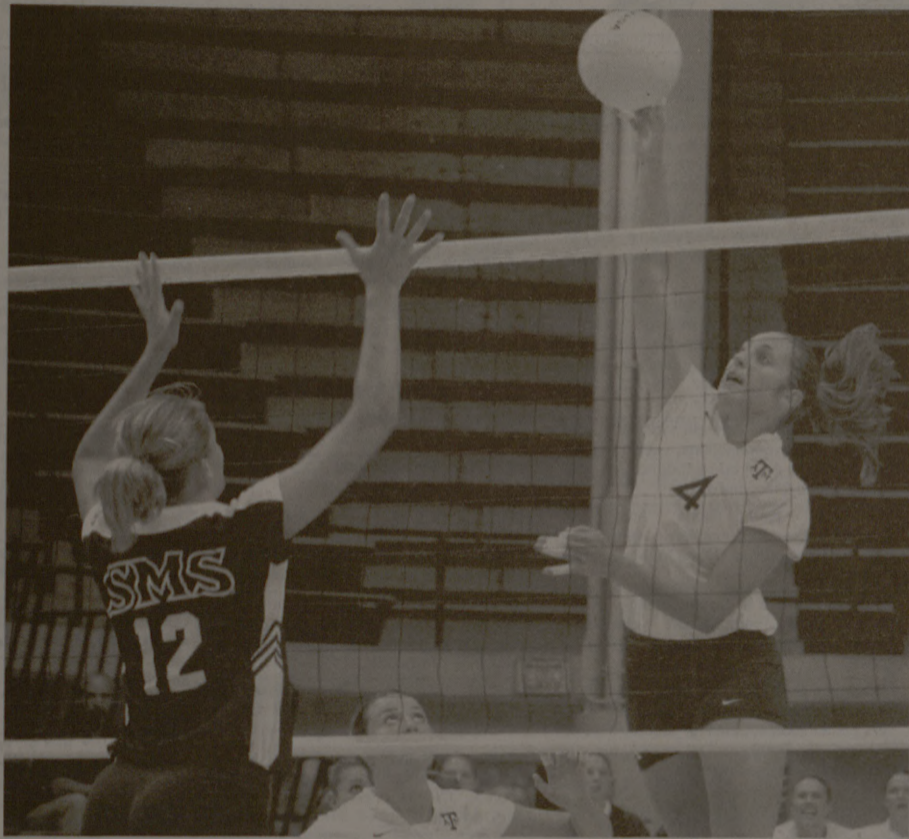
"We need to learn to close games out because youthful mistakes are very characteristic of this team right now," Aiu said. "We let our inability to secure winnable matches show against Penn State and at Kansas."

Aiu, the most successful coach in Colorado history, isn't shy about acknowledging the talent of his young team.

"However, despite our youth, we are as talented as we've ever been," he said.

The Aggies, by comparison, look much older with 12 players returning. A&M coach Laurie Corbelli knows that the demographic separation between Colorado and Texas will mean very little when the conference opponents square off.

"Statistically, we match up very close with Colorado," Corbelli said. "There is a very good chance this will be a long match because we usually go five games with



SHARON AESHBACH • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M junior middle blocker **Melissa Munsch** goes for the kill against Southwest Missouri State.

Colorado. We should beat each other up for two-and-a-half hours."

The No. 25 Aggies will be looking to sophomore outside hitter Laura Jones and junior middle blocker Melissa Munsch to set the tone for an A&M squad still looking for consistency at its current 8-3 mark.

After finishing fifth in the Big 12 last season and being ranked for the first time this year, the Aggies are looking to fortify their competitive stability within the Big 12 and beyond.

Looking to Jones and Munsch, Corbelli said, is a formative start.

"I've been pleased with the consistency of Laura Jones and Melissa Munsch," Corbelli said. "But, we've been mixing up our system

so much that it has been hard to find that consistency overall."

As the matriarch of a talented on-court group, Gerlach remains the epicenter of a team eager to ascend the ranks of the Big 12. Colorado assistant coach Jill Thomason said it will be mid-season by the time her team finally hits its stride.

"I think midway through the Big 12 season we will come together and show our full potential," Thomason said. "Our girls look to Monique (Gerlach) to set the tone, who has been an outstanding four year starter for us. She leads by example."

Match time is set for 8 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum, and will be televised live on College Sports Television (CSTV).

Clarett sues NFL to be eligible for 2004 draft

By Erin McClam
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Suspended Ohio State tailback Maurice Clarett sued the NFL on Tuesday, asking a judge to throw out a league rule preventing players from entering the draft until they have been out of high school for three years.

Clarett, who rushed for 1,237 yards and led Ohio State to a national championship as a freshman last season, is not eligible for the draft until 2005 under current rules.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court New York, claims the NFL rule violates antitrust law because it is separate from the league's current collective bargaining agreement with its players union.

"The rule is a restraint of amateur athletes who were strangers to the collective bargaining process," the suit says.

A message left for NFL spokesman Greg Aiello wasn't immediately returned Tuesday.

When NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue was asked earlier this month if he thought the league could win such a lawsuit, he replied: "My feeling as commissioner is that we have a very strong case and that we'll win it."

Clarett was suspended from the Ohio State team for at least a year after an investigation determined he broke NCAA bylaws concerning benefits for athletes and lying to investigators.

He claims it was "almost certain" he would have been taken in the first round of the 2003 draft had he been eligible, and would have made millions of dollars in a contract and signing bonus.

Clarett's attorney, Alan C. Milstein, filed the suit a day after he met with NFL executives in Washington to discuss whether Clarett would be eligible for the 2004 draft.

Aiello characterized it as "an exchange of views" and said the league would get back to them. He did not immediately return a call for comment Tuesday.

The lawsuit asks U.S. District Judge Shira Scheindlin to throw out the rule and declare Clarett eligible for the 2004 draft — or require the NFL to hold a special supplemental draft sooner.



CLARETT

SPORTS IN BRIEF

TCU asst. coach arrested for DWI

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — TCU suspended assistant coach Willie Mack Garza on Tuesday following his weekend arrest on charges of driving while intoxicated and failing to render aid to an injured person.

Garza was arrested early Saturday after fleeing an acci-

dent in Forest Hill, a small city near Fort Worth, police said. Garza, who coaches cornerbacks, wasn't on the sideline when the No. 19 Horned Frogs win over Vanderbilt Saturday.

TCU athletic director Eric Hyman said Garza is suspended with pay pending developments in the case. Hyman said he and coach Gary Patterson agreed that the suspension was appropriate.



Can you help us find these people?
We're trying to get the message out!



- Melissa Albers
- Traci Anderson
- Elizabeth Angrove
- Kristen Avery
- Blake Barger
- Cody Barnett
- Andrew Beckett
- Dana Bergstresser
- Rebecca Blackmon
- Steven Blackmon
- Katherine Blalock
- Alexander Brahm
- Sarah Brents
- Taryn Brown
- Christina Buffington
- Scott Busing
- David Byrnes
- Charleen Cabler
- Mark Caldwell
- Danielle Calfee
- Christopher Carter
- Esther Chen
- Meredith Childs
- Caroline Christian
- Jordan Coburn
- Jason Coleman
- Heather Conard
- Ryan Craig
- Tess Crider
- Pamela Curtright
- Alicia Dale
- Heather Davis
- James Davis
- Kathryn Dickson
- Jarrid Dietert
- Nicole Drannbauer

- Stephen Duncan
- Eva Dutton
- Adam Earl
- Kent Early
- Brittani Earp
- James Edwards
- James Engemoen
- John Farquhar
- Nicholas Fedea
- Kelli Ferrell
- Lindsey Fetty
- Sean Fox
- Shaun Frederiksen
- Johanna Freeman
- Ashlee Garcia
- Kathryn Garcia
- Sarah Garrick
- Blake Gerken
- Geoffrey Gideon
- Molly Gittemeier
- Amanda Glogowski
- Allison Goter
- Jerilyn Gottshall
- William Gould
- Stephanie Gunderson
- Kenneth Habitzreiter
- Allison Hanson
- Nicole Harper
- Lauren Hart
- Galen Hauth
- James Helm
- Megan Helton
- Marni Hemberger
- Jaime Hinojosa
- Julie Hollimon
- Adam Holt

- Joshua Howard
- Theresa Hubley
- Anne Huddleston
- Michael Jacobs
- Rebecca Jacobson
- Lauren Johnson
- Sheri Johnson
- David Jones
- Angela Karnuth
- Ryan Kerr
- David Kim
- Jae Kim
- Soo Kim
- Katherine Knauer-Salinas
- Aubrey Kotlarich
- Jennifer Kucherka
- Adrienne LaFleur
- Peter Lara
- John Lauderdale
- Anna Lee
- Maria Lee
- Christina Lundy
- Karington Lyle
- Christopher Malhiot
- Kristin Martin
- Scott Martin
- Christina Mathews
- Jane Mathews
- Ashley McClellan
- Jud McClure
- Matthew McGowan
- Stephen McMillan
- Joshual Meeh
- Nicole Mendoza
- Erika Miles
- Ashley Miller

- Jason Miller
- Matthew Miller
- Victoria Montemayor
- Elizabeth Morgan
- Sarah Morris
- Chontel Mutschink
- Billy Jay Nelson
- Jonathan Norman
- Joshua Noworatzky
- Michael Nutt
- Catherine Oberg
- Bert Olah
- Marisa Ordonez
- Lauren Parker
- David Peletz
- Karl Petersen
- David Polpelka
- Sommer Pool
- David Popelka
- Heather Powdrill
- Lindsay Priddy
- Paige Priour
- Mark Rand
- Alex Reeder
- Lauren Reynolds
- Catherine Roark
- Andrew Roberts
- Courtney Robertson
- Chance Robinson
- Lauren Rouse
- Colbi Sanders
- Jilaine Sandlin
- William Saunders
- Michael Schoel
- Lydia Schomaker
- Laura Shinn

- Chapman Shoop
- Andrew Siegel
- Raul Silva
- Jonathan Simpson
- Alexander Slaybaugh
- Amber Smith
- Jonathan Sneed
- Christopher Sohr
- Rebecca Stahlman
- Scott Steffen
- Jerrod Strickland
- Kathleen Sullivan
- Leslie Tamborello
- Alison Tanner
- Christine Tanton
- James Taylor
- Timothy Teague
- Lindsay Thurman
- Jerett Turner
- Christina Upchurch
- Seth Urbanek
- Frances Varner
- Kaitlynn Verret
- Laura Wagner
- Meggan Walker
- Steven Watters
- Brittney Wehring
- Leslie Weichert
- Jennifer Wickline
- Kelly Jo Wise
- David Witter
- Christopher Wood
- Oliver Wu
- Laura Zandstra



See Friday's issue of "The Battalion" for the message!!

United Campus Ministry (979) 846-1221.

