

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Volleyball fans: Take a page from Nebraska's book

This past weekend in Lubbock didn't go quite as well as most Aggies had hoped. The Texas A&M football team gave up 59 points, and it could've been worse had those last couple of passes toward the end zone with less than half a minute left in the fourth quarter found their mark.



JEFF ALLEN

Wednesday, the Aggies get another shot at the Red Raiders. Granted it's not Kyle Field and it's not football, but it is in College Station and it is right next to Kyle Field at G. Rollie White Coliseum. And given the way things have gone up to this point in the football schedule, perhaps it's for the best that it will be volleyball this time.

The Aggies will step out on

the hardwood at G. Rollie at 7 p.m. while looking at, in what typically is a best case scenario, about twice as many empty seats as full ones. So far, the team has averaged an attendance of about 1,600, which is good for college volleyball. In fact, it is one of the best in the nation, and it looks even better when compared to Tech's 500 fans per game.

Aggies, however, tend to avoid comparing themselves to Red Raiders, usually setting their sights a bit higher. When it comes to volleyball there's none higher than the University of Nebraska. According to Nebraska's athletic Web site, the Huskers averaged 4,390 fans last year at Nebraska Coliseum, the second highest in the nation. Impressive, considering the gym's capacity is listed at close to 4,000.

There was a time in

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SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

Yell leader Jonathan Lusk leads the crowd at G. Rollie White Coliseum in a yell during the Texas A&M volleyball team's victory over Colorado on Sept. 24.

Baylor rolling, A&M stumbling

BU confidence on rise after big win against Colorado

By True Brown
THE BATTALION

It has been a long time since Baylor football fans have had this much reason to believe the Bears could notch a win over Texas A&M, something that has not happened since 1985.

A quick glance at both teams' schedules, however, gives the impression that the two teams are headed in different directions. Baylor lost its first two, then rattled off three straight wins, including a big one Saturday against Colorado. The Aggies, meanwhile, captured wins in their first two, but have since lost three straight.

The Bears' win allowed them to start Big 12 play 1-0 for the first time since joining the conference.

"Baylor is coming in with some momentum," said A&M coach Dennis Franchione during Monday's Big 12 media teleconference. "(They have) a three-game winning streak and as much confidence as they've had in a long time. They're really playing pretty well."

In Saturday's upset 42-30 win over Colorado, first-year coach Guy Morriss finally saw his offense and defense step up during the same game.

Running back Rashad Armstrong rushed 37 times for 166 yards and two touchdowns, while quarterback Aaron Karas threw for 207 yards and three touchdowns during his 18-for-28 performance. Armstrong's performance gave him his third straight 100-yard outing against a conference team.

Baylor's defense stood strong as well. Safety Derrick Cash had eight tackles, a pass breakup and caused a fumble that was returned for a touchdown to give Baylor a 28-23 lead in the third quarter.

"We were glad to get the win," Morriss said. "We've got to get back in and get back to work. That's the nature of the beast because you're back out there seven days later. We've got to keep building on that win from Saturday."



FILE PHOTO • THE BATTALION

Texas A&M linebacker Scott Stickane, shown here trying to sack Pittsburgh quarterback Rod Rutherford on Sept. 27, and the Aggie defense could have their hands full with a confident Baylor team.

As a result, Baylor is in the midst of its first three-game winning streak since 1996. Morriss, however, downplayed the thought that A&M's confidence level makes the Aggies a prime contender for an upset.

"I don't know the frame of mind of Texas A&M," Morriss said. "The only thing I can be concerned with is the state of mind of our team and what we have to do. I think our kids' confidence level is growing. I think that they are understanding how to win ball games and what it takes to get it done. This was not a fluke."

Meanwhile, A&M will enter Saturday's game coming off an embarrassing 59-28 loss

to Texas Tech. The Red Raiders repeatedly picked apart A&M's defense and tallied 669 yards of offense. Tech quarterback B.J. Symons set a Big 12 record with eight touchdown passes.

Franchione may have his hands full trying to revive his team's confidence before the match-up against Baylor.

"It depends on how you handle it," Franchione said. "The leaders on the team have to handle it the right way, and the best thing to do is put it behind us, go forward and be focused for the next game. This is where leadership comes in. It's easy to lead when things are going well. The real leaders

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