

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Aggie coach sees A&M-UT rivalry from two sides

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

Usually when a Texan picks his side in the rivalry between the University of Texas and Texas A&M, he is either a Longhorn or an Aggie for life. Many times, his allegiance has been decided for him before birth.



KOENNING

But in the case of A&M offensive coordinator Les Koenning Jr., allegiances do change.

Koenning was a wide receiver for the Longhorns from 1977-1980. He first traded in the burnt orange for maroon and white in 1994 when he took over as wide receiver coach under former A&M coach R.C. Slocum.

Now Koenning is wrapping up the first season of his second stint in College Station in a rivalry game he knows all too well from both sides.

"It's a great game," Koenning said. "The thing that I see happening in this football game is a lot of our players on both sides played against each other in high school. There's a lot of relationships that you have between the kids. Now all of a sudden they split up and

play against each other."

As a senior captain for the Longhorns in 1979, Koenning's team rolled into College Station with a 9-1 record as sizable favorites over the 5-5 Aggies.

Koenning and the Longhorns limped back to Austin after a 13-7 loss to A&M that disrupted a probable Cotton Bowl bid.

"We did have aspirations of going farther (in 1979)," Koenning said. "A&M came in and played an outstanding game and beat us. They did a really nice job. Now I'm over here at A&M, and I hope we can do a really good job. There's nobody more that would like this opportunity to beat the University of Texas."

Now with the Aggies, Koenning said he hopes history can repeat itself as A&M will once again be a sizable underdog. This game signals the end of the season for the Aggies while the Longhorns have Bowl Championship Series draws championing in their heads.

But all is not lost for the Aggies. They know that a win over No. 7 Texas will push them in the right direction going into the off-season.

"(A win) wouldn't make our season," said sophomore safety Jaxson Appel. "It'll make us

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Ags not letting up vs. Baylor

By Kyle Davoust
THE BATTALION

G. Rollie White Coliseum was built in 1954 and has been home to the Texas A&M volleyball team since 1975. A&M's basketball teams also played there until 1998 when they moved to Reed Arena, leaving the volleyball team as the sole inhabitants of the old coliseum.

This arrangement suits volleyball coach Laurie Corbelli just fine.

"G. Rollie offers a great atmosphere for our players and fans, and it really has played a big role in our success," Corbelli said. "In the Big 12, this place should be considered as one of the best environments. The numbers, the noise, the spirit; it gets a lot louder in here."

Corbelli hopes this environment will help No. 21 A&M as the Aggies square off against Baylor tonight.

The Aggies (19-7, 11-5 Big 12) currently rank third in the Big 12 and are coming off an up-and-down week in which they lost to Colorado but rebounded with a win in Lubbock over rival Texas Tech.

Junior middle blocker Melissa Munsch was named Big 12 Volleyball Player of the Week for her efforts in those two games. Munsch led the Aggies with a .416 hitting percentage and an average of 4.3 kills, 1.8 blocks and 5.3 points per game.

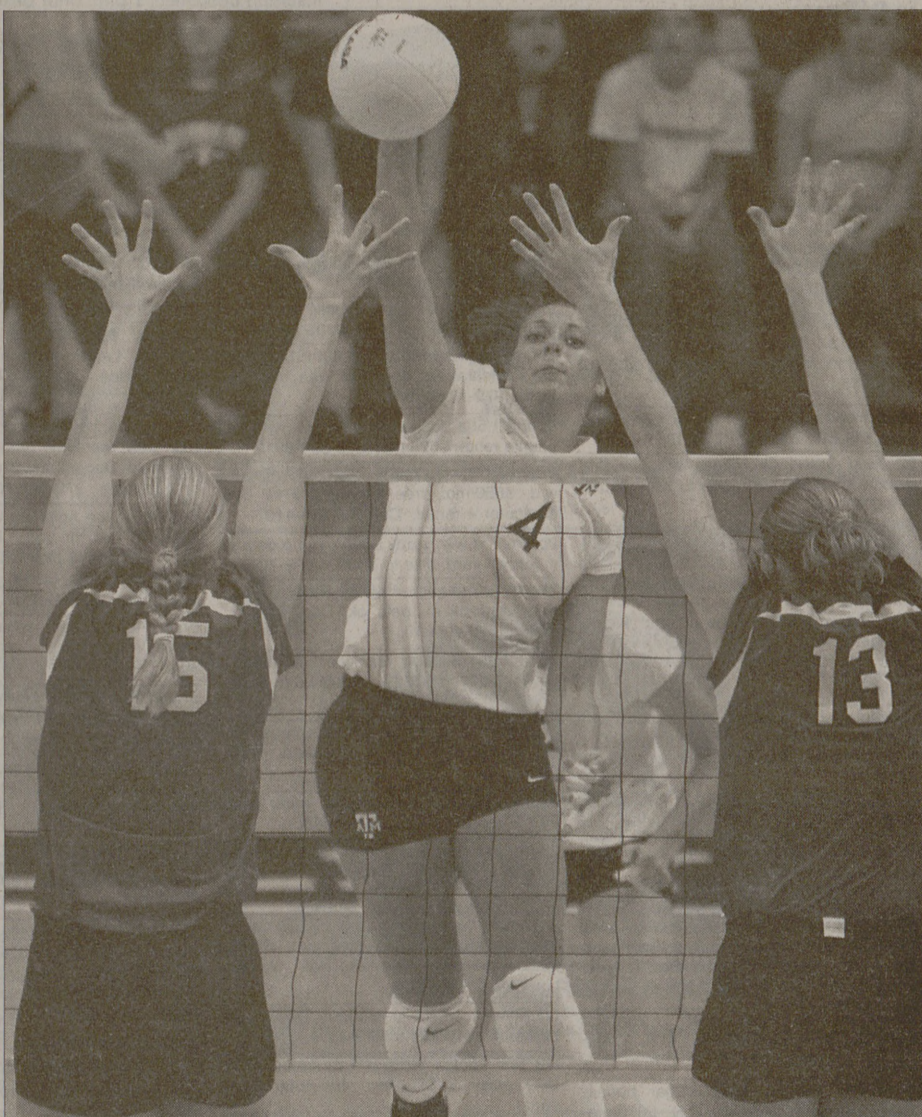
Entering the last four matches of the season, the Aggies are looking to stay fresh and prepare for the NCAA tournament.

They do not, however, plan to overlook any of their remaining opponents, even Baylor.

Baylor (12-18, 4-12) is in the midst of another disappointing season. One of its few bright spots has been the play of senior outside hitter Stevie Nichols, who last week moved up to third on Baylor's all-time kills list with 1,466.

Baylor coach Brian Hosfeld said he believes there is much more to be seen from his team.

"We have to show up and play consistently," Hosfeld said. "We simply haven't done that up to this point, but I believe that



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Texas A&M outside hitter Melissa Munsch hits past Nebraska's Sara Westling (15) and Ally Rebholz (13) on Nov. 5. Munsch and the Aggies host Big 12 rival Baylor tonight at 7 p.m.

our best volleyball is still ahead of us."

Munsch and the Aggies are aware of Baylor's capabilities and the unpredictable nature of Big 12 games.

"It doesn't matter if you're playing the top person in the league or the bottom person. Anyone can sneak up at anytime."

Munsch said. "I know that just we can't let up. Baylor is a team that snuck up and beat (No. 5-ranked Kansas State) and K-State is the top team in our league right now."

Corbelli expects the Bears to be prepared

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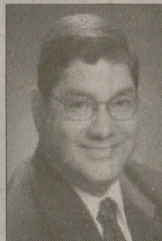
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