

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 1B • Tuesday, September 7, 2004

## SIDE NOTES

### ON 3B



The Texas Rangers continued their downward spiral, losing to the Chicago White Sox 7-4 Monday, falling even further in the playoff race.

After firing their manager mid-season, the Houston Astros have slowly climbed back into the post-season picture, winning 18 of their last 21 games, including a 11-5 win over the Reds on Monday.

### Coming Wednesday

Complete game coverage of the A&M-Texas State volleyball game at G. Rollie Coliseum.

### BRIEFLY

Tiger Woods is no longer No. 1 in the rankings. Vijay Singh knocked off golf's top man by beating Woods in a head-to-head match at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

After Troy Hambrick's harsh comments over Emmitt Smith's departure in Dallas, Hambrick will be backing up Smith once again, this time in Arizona.

A&M junior quarterback Reggie McNeal hurt a ligament in his non-throwing hand during Thursday's game against Utah, but isn't expected to miss playing time.

## Texas-sized battle

### Texas A&M volleyball ready to face off against Texas State

By Jon Gilbert  
THE BATTALION

The No. 14 Texas A&M women's volleyball team had a solid start to the season last weekend by winning two out of three matches in the McDonald's/Texas A&M Invitational Tournament. Tonight, the Aggies will attempt to add to that start as they host Texas State at 7 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The Aggies easily knocked off Georgia Southern and McNeese State 3-0 in both matches Friday. In the tournament final, the Aggies put up a good fight in falling to No. 3 UCLA 31-29, 30-27 and 30-25.

"It provided us with great experience, and hopefully we can learn from our mistakes," said A&M head coach Laurie Corbelli.

The fact that A&M competed and had a shot to win every game against the mighty Bruins is a positive sign.

"We were really close to them the whole time," said A&M senior outside hitter Melissa Munsch. "It wasn't so much what happened at the end of the games, as it was to a couple of errors and missed shots that we had in the middle. We know that in order to be one of the best teams, we have to beat the best. It did give us insight into what we need to do to become a top team in the nation."

The Aggies will be shooting for their 11th consecutive victory against Texas State. Like their opponent across the net, the Bobcats are coming off a tournament in which they made a strong showing, finishing second at the Fullerton Classic. Texas State defeated Iona and Delaware before losing to Cal-State Fullerton 3-2 in the final.

"The big thing for us is that we got to play some

kids," said Texas State head coach Karen Chisum. "We have a lot of young players, and we got to see them in action. Against Delaware, it was an up-and-down match, but our kids fought back and we were able to come out with a win. Yes, we're inconsistent, but it is early in the season and we have a lot of time to work on it."

Senior setter Krystal Kolkhorst and junior outside hitter Elizabeth Nwoke lead the Texas State team. Other players who could present big presences on the court include seniors Kacey Rogers, a middle blocker, and Stephanie Torrerosa, an outside hitter.

Chisum sees the opportunity in playing Texas A&M more than the underdog role that her team will have.

"It's an opportunity," Chisum said. "We are playing a top-20 team, possibly a top-15 team. I told the team today about A&M, the atmosphere at G. Rollie, and the crowd down there. It's going to be fun, and we definitely

are looking forward to the challenge."

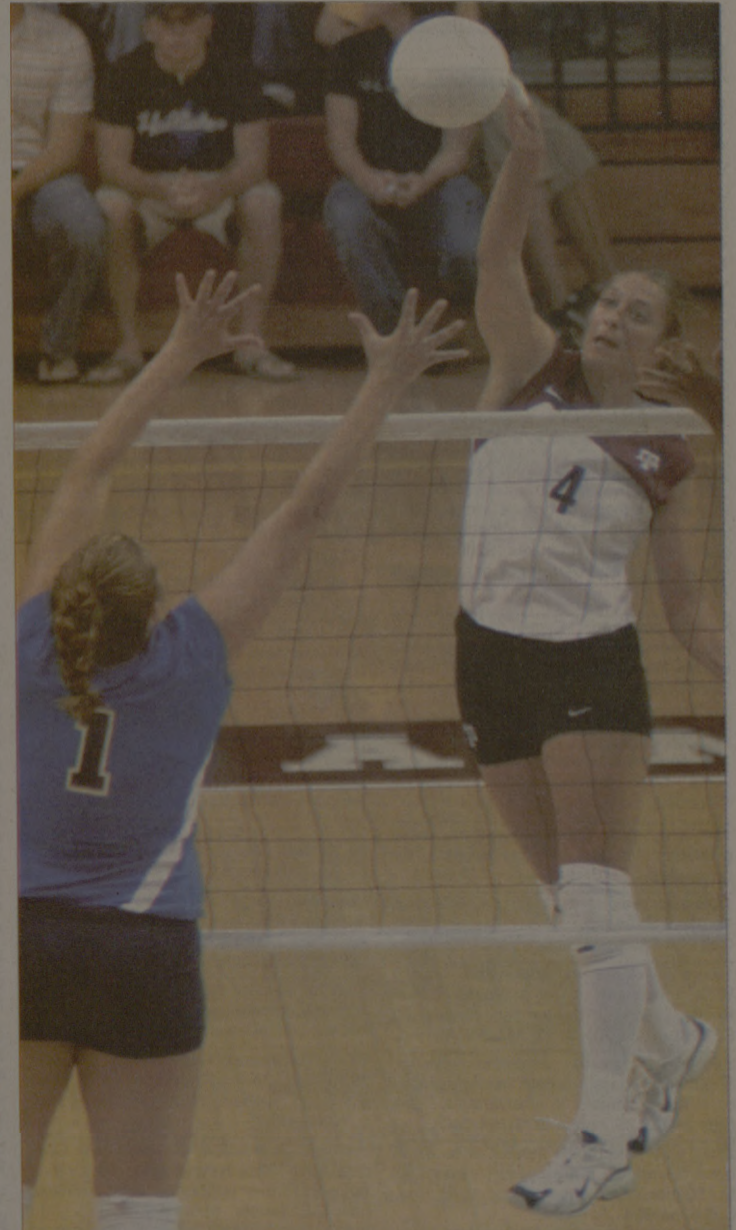
Conference play is just around the corner, and the Aggies understand how important it is to be playing well heading into Big 12 play. A challenge facing A&M tonight is to play with the same excitement and intensity that it used against UCLA.

"We have to really mentally focus on the task at hand,"

Munsch said. "It can be hard to get ready for a less caliber team after playing one of the best. But, Texas State is going to come in ready to play, and we must have that same attitude. This is one of our last chances to play well before conference play."

Corbelli doesn't feel there's an imminent challenge, however.

"This group of girls is excited for every practice and every game," Corbelli said. "It won't be hard for them to get ready for Texas State."



SHARON AESCHBACH • THE BATTALION

A&M senior Melissa Munsch tips the ball over the net towards UCLA defender senior Brittany Ringle on Saturday. A&M lost 3-0 to UCLA.

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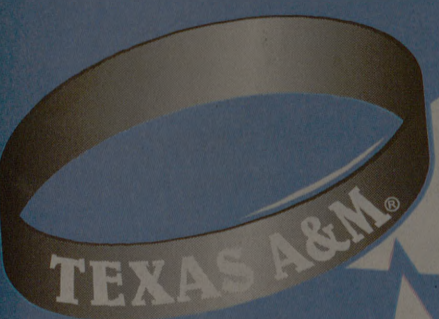
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