

Women to swim in national meet

By GLEN JOHNSON
What would make a wet and tired swimmer suddenly gasp for breath and grin from ear to ear? It could be that she just won her race, or it could be that she was just told she qualified for national competition.

Once a year the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) holds a national championship swim meet in which the best women in American colleges and universities compete.

The Amateur Athletics Union (AAU) holds two meets each year in which the best swimmers of all ages are together. AAU qualifying times are consistently lower than AIAW times because of the wider variety of swimmers competing.

In order for a swimmer to qualify for nationals, she must beat the time of the 24th place swimmer in her heat at the previous national meet.

Women who make AAU times are eligible to go to the AIAW championships.

Winning places go to the top 16 swimmers in each event, along with the title of all-American.

So far this season, seven women from the Texas A&M University swim team qualified for the AIAW championships. Three women will compete in individual events, while five will enter relays.

Susie Lynde, a junior from Laguna Hills, Calif., qualified for the AAU championships in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1:31, and for the AIAW in the 400-yard individual medley with a time of 4:06. A medley is a race where four strokes are performed.

those who hope to make nationals qualifying times yet.

The last chance the women will have to make the times will be Feb. 24-26 at the Texas state AIAW championships. The women who qualify are already tapering off their times for that meet by concentrating on faster high-quality swimming rather than long-distance endurance.

"The girls are already so good that they will not have to undergo any drastic tapering off," Fossdick said. For instance, they will not have to shave down for the state meet. Shaving down means shaving off all unwanted body hair that causes drag in the water.

There are usually about 40 women from colleges and universities all over America who enter each event at nationals. And, it is not uncommon for A&M to send seven, as it has so far this season. However, for the first time, all signs look favorable for the women to place high in the national ranks.

"This year they're going to notice A&M at nationals," Buckles said. "A&M is going to make its mark up there."

"Doing good at the University of Texas meet was a good sign, and we've been improving at every meet," Shirley Hill said. "I think we'll do real well at nationals."

One of the reasons A&M has such a good women's swim team this year is the high quality recruiting by Fossdick. He acquired several women from California when scholarships were made available to women through the Athletic Department at A&M.

"If you are going to compete at a national level, you have to get nationally qualified people here, and they will not come without scholarships," Fossdick said.

Facilities such as a weight room and two pools to practice in, along with an extensive training program are two other reasons that the female swimmers are better than ever.

Naturally, experience will be an asset to the women. Most of them have been to nationals before and know what to expect.

All of the conferences across the nation are starting to prepare for the big meets that will bring a close to this season.

"Once we see what the rest of our conference and the others in the country look like, we can get an idea of how we'll do at nationals," Fossdick said. "I feel sure we'll place in the top 16."

Buckles has been swimming competitively for 15 years and holds A&M records in the 50-yard backstroke, the 100-yard backstroke, the 400-yard medley relay and the 400-yard freestyle relay.

This will be her second time to compete in the AIAW nationals.

Shirley Hill, a freshman from San Diego, Calif., will be swimming in the 100-yard freestyle at the AAU and AIAW nationals. She qualified with a time of 53.18.

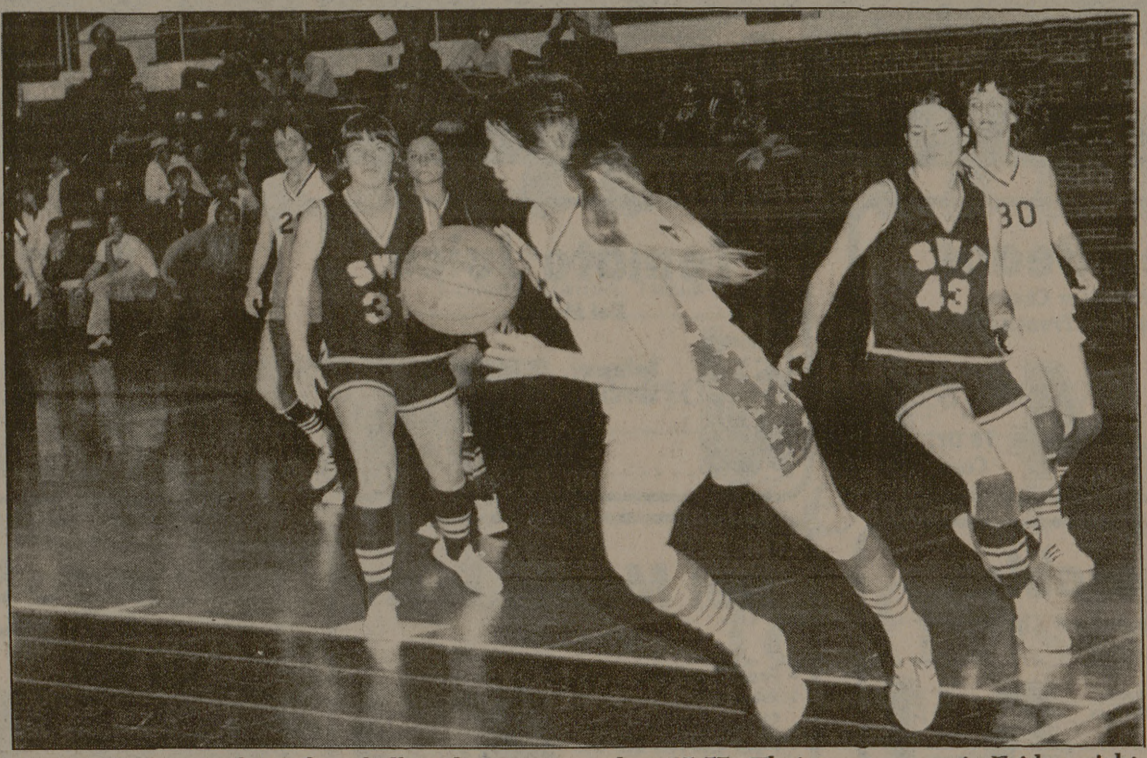
Hill has been swimming for eight years and has been to five AAU national championships.

Stacey Pletz, a freshman from Huntington Beach, Calif., and Julie Krenke, a freshman from San Jose, Calif., qualified for the AIAW championships in the 200- and 400-yard medley relays.

Debbie Starr, a junior from Missouri City, Tex., and co-captain of the team, along with Jennie Hicks, a freshman from Chula Vista, Calif., are eligible to compete in the 200-, 400- and 800-yard freestyle relays.

"Most of the women in the relays should make qualifying times in individual events too," Fossdick said.

The AIAW nationals are scheduled to be held March 16-19, during A&M's spring break, at Brown University in Providence, R.I. The AAU nationals are two weeks later in Canton, Ohio. Consequently, time is running out for



Susan Kimbro grabs a free ball and starts heading up court. Kimbro played well in the contest, but it wasn't enough as the Aggies lost 65-57. Their next game is Friday night against Lamar in Beaumont.

Battalion photo by Debby Krenke

Southwest Texas stops Ags

By DEBBY KRENEK
Battalion News Editor

The A&M women's basketball team went cold with three minutes remaining in the game and lost to Southwest Texas State University 65-57.

Making only two baskets in the final three minutes, the Aggies blew a tie that had prevailed between the two teams throughout the game.

"We missed too many shots right under the basket that we should have been making," coach Kay Don said. "We took enough shots, but we missed all the easy ones."

The Aggies, who have played six games in the past eight days, were sluggish the entire game. "Part of the reason the game seemed so slow was because we had to use a zone defense to cover their screen plays," coach Don said. "We have to do a lot of switching in zone and that slows us down."

A&M hit only 38 per cent of its field goal attempts and shot 58 per cent from the line. Southwest Texas scored 45 per cent from the field and 43 per cent from the line.

The loss brings the Aggies to a 12-11 season record with three remaining games in the season. A&M previously beat Southwest Texas 63-56 in San Marcos.

The Aggies face Lamar this Friday in Beaumont. They beat Lamar last week here 71-69.

"This game should be close because Lamar is tough to beat on their own court," coach Don said. "The game will be rough physically because Lamar is a very aggressive team."

Saturday, the Aggies will be in Houston for their final game on the road.

"Playing two games in a row will be hard on the girls, especially since the Friday night game with Lamar will be so physical," coach Don said.

The Aggies placed sixth in the Houston tournament this past weekend, winning two out of four games. They won their first game against Southwest Louisiana 91-60 and took a forfeit from Sam Houston for their second win.

"The girls played an outstanding inside game and made a high percentage of their shots," coach Don said.

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Netters finish second

The Aggie tennis team was very successful in their first tournament of the year, returning with a second place finish overall. The tourney was held in Beaumont at Lamar University.

The Ags number one seed, Charles Emley won all four of his matches while the number two doubles team of Tom Courson and John Kirwan wasted all their opponents also in leading the Ags to an early season 3-1 record.

A&M ended the match tied with Rice in total match points but the Owls were declared the winners since they beat the Ags 5-4 in the final match.

To get to the last round the Ags ousted McNeese State, 9-0 then walked on North Texas State at 8-1

pace and then doubled host Lamar 6-3.

The next match for A&M is this weekend when they travel to San Antonio to play Trinity in an indoor match. Trinity has just returned from Los Angeles where they beat the No. 2 and No. 3 ranked teams in the nation.

A&M splits with St. Mary

By STEVE MARTAINDALE
Texas A&M's Aggies and St. Mary's Rattlers took turns behind strong pitching to split a doubleheader opening the 1977 baseball season here Tuesday afternoon, both by scores of 2-1.

"Our pitching was fine," said Aggie coach Tom Chandler after the games. "We looked good in the field, too, but we need a lot of work hitting."

Mark Ross picked up the Aggie win with Jim McWilliams being credited with a save in the first game. Ross went five innings and gave up one hit while McWilliams allowed one unearned run during the final two innings.

The outing was the first for both squads this year, leaving 1-1 records for both.

Texas A&M will next meet Louisiana State University in a pair of doubleheaders Friday and Saturday in Baton Rouge. Monday the Aggies will be at home to host McNeese for a doubleheader at one o'clock.

Ross opened with three consecutive strikes for the Aggies' first out, first of four strikeouts for the afternoon.

The opening game remained in a 0-0 deadlock the first four innings. In the bottom of the fifth inning Shelton McMATH suffered through two strikes and held on for three balls before knocking the 3-2 pitch to the center field fence for a double.

With two outs, senior Buddy Grobe singled to center to bring McMATH in. Grobe led the Aggies in hitting the first game, going two-for-three.

McWilliams went to the mound for A&M at the top of the sixth to strike out the first two Rattlers while the third popped out.

The Aggies came to bat with a one run lead and St. Mary's promptly sent the first two batters back to the bench on flies to center field. Designated hitter David Pieczynski reached first on a walk and Bryan

native Harry Francis substituted as a runner.

Centerfielder Mark Thurmond followed with a single to move Francis to second and left fielder Mike Hurdle rapped a ground-rule double to left-center for a score.

Thurmond and Hurdle were stranded on third and second as McMATH fled out to center.

Aggie catcher Buster Turner, a sophomore from Liberty-Eylau, cut St. Mary's efforts to tie the game short with a rifle peg to second base to stop Rattler Marty Zolkoski on an attempted steal.

St. Mary's Danny Heep, the game's losing pitcher, opened the inning with a walk and reached second on a balk from McWilliams. Right fielder Clay Stolte advanced Heep to third on a sacrifice fly to center and Mike Zamora picked up an RBI when Aggie third baseman Winston Whiddon elected to take a sure out at first and allowed Heep to score.

Zolkoski reached first on a walk as the potential tie-runner, but his effort to reach second with two outs gave the Aggies their first win.

St. Mary's jumped on top early in the second contest and refused to slow down. Third baseman Charlie Migl grounded a single to left field with two outs and walked to second as Heep received four balls. Stolte picked up the RBI with a single to right before the Aggies retired the side.

Turner tied the game for the Aggies in the bottom of the second after hitting to center for a double. He reached third on a balk and sat there through two Aggie outs. Hurdle dropped a pop-up single behind the shortstop to bring Turner in and knot the score.

The two errors in the inning were the only two for the Aggies during the game.

Chandler credited Pieczynski and McWilliams, both junior transfers with good performances. Hurdle also received praise for his performance.

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