

No. 2-ranked UT favored

A&M swimmers at SWC meet

by Frank L. Christlieb
Battalion Staff

For lack of a better word, Texas A&M swimming coach Mel Nash uses the term "tossup" to describe his team's chances in this weekend's first-ever Southwest Conference women's championships at the University of Texas.

The UT Longhorns, ranked No. 2 in the nation, are the clear-cut favorites. But as for the rest of the teams, there's no agreement on the eventual final standings.

Nash, who has guided the Aggies to a 4-5 dual meet record this spring, said the possibilities for his team — and the seven teams fighting for second place and below — are endless.

"If we did everything right and some of the other teams swam bad, we could finish as high as third — and that's if we just went completely berserk," Nash said from his hotel room in Austin on Wednesday. "But I don't think that'll happen. Texas is the favorite, of course, and Houston should finish second. SMU and Arkansas have strong divers, so that will give them an edge over us."

"So it comes down to us, Texas Tech, Rice and TCU in the battle for fifth place. Literally, we could swim real well and finish last, which is kind of an ominous feeling."

The meet, being held at the Texas Swimming Center, began this morning at 11 with preliminaries in the 800-yard free relay, 200 medley relay, 200 individual medley, 50 freestyle, 500 frees-



Coach Mel Nash says SWC meet is 'tossup'

ty, 100 butterfly, 50 breaststroke, 200 backstroke and 1-meter dive. The finals in these nine events will be held tonight at 7.

The Aggies, who finished third in the state AIAW meet last spring, placed 22nd in the AIAW national meet. Texas won the meet, SMU ended up seventh in the nation and Arkansas was 30th.

This spring, Texas A&M has defeated Tulane, LSU, West Virginia and Rice and has lost to SMU, TCU, Texas Tech, Houston and Texas. At the pre-season SWC Invitational in December, the Aggies finished fifth behind Texas, Arkansas, Houston and SMU.

Aggie assistant coach Bill Miller said the competition should be strong in this year's initial SWC meet.

"The meet is quite a bit faster than last year's (AIAW) meet," Miller said. "It should be one of the best and the fastest conference championships in the country this year. We can finish

anywhere from fifth to eighth, but a lot will depend on what our girls want to do — how fast they're ready to go and how fast the rest of the conference is going to go."

Four of the Aggie divers have met standards for the first step toward NCAA nationals qualification. Maureen Beiter, Tracie Lips, Susan Burkhardt and Darcey Wilson will compete March 11-12 at Iowa State University for the opportunity to participate in the national meet, set for March 17-19 in Lincoln, Neb.

The Longhorns were ranked No. 3 in the national polls, but they defeated second-ranked Stanford 78-71 in a dual meet Feb. 5. UT has an 8-1 dual meet record this spring, losing only to Florida by three points. The Longhorns have qualified 12 swimmers and divers in 19 events for the NCAA meet.

The Houston Cougars, who return seven all-America swimmers from last year's team, finished 12th at the NCAA meet during 1982. Laurie Cook, who covers Cougar swimming for UH Athletic Media Relations, said the coaches are looking at a possible second-place finish this weekend.

"I think we have a great shot at second place, but we could do better if we just had more swimmers," she said. "Right now, we have only eight swimmers and two divers, and last year we had nine swimmers and one diver."

The Cougars' Beverly Rose, a sophomore all-America backstroke, has the fastest SWC time in the 50 backstroke this season, and has qualified for NCAA nationals in both the 50- and the 200-yard backstroke. UH's 400 medley relay squad, which consists of Rose, Elspeth Carnan, Katy Archer and Ingrid

Lawrence, has qualified for nationals with a time of 3:56.96.

On the other hand, Texas A&M started the season with 14 swimmers and six divers, but injuries have caused those numbers to dwindle drastically.

Consider these injuries, most of which haven't completely healed: Michon Breisacher (backstroke), tendonitis in her shoulder; Martha Gerken (butterfly and individual medley), stress fracture in her ankle; Susan Holliday, tendonitis in her shoulder; Susan Marks, a key performer in the breaststroke and freestyle events last season, has a serious lower back injury; Kathy Miten, the squad's only senior, has a shoulder injury, and Debbie Scheider, the Aggies' No. 1 backstroke performer last year, has tendonitis in her shoulder and has knee problems.

Nash said the injuries have kept the Aggies from having a better season.

"The thing about it is that each (injury) comes from a different direction," he said. "Most of the girls came in during the fall with the injuries from something they'd done in the summer. The combination of everybody falling apart at once really dropped us down."

"If we had everyone healthy, potentially, we'd be in a dogfight for third this weekend, but as of now, I guess we'll have to wait until next year."

Miller said several of the team's younger swimmers will need to perform well for the Aggies to place among the top five teams.

"The freshmen have really done a good job for us," he said. "Jodie Tanner has done very well, and she's going to help us here this weekend. Melanie

Schmauch and Edlin should help as well. Vicki has come on during the part of the season and has recovered well from an early (hip) injury.

Here's a list of Texas best season times entering SWC meet:

- 50 freestyle — Mel Schmauch, 24.80
- 100 freestyle — Jodie Tanner, 54.08
- 200 freestyle — Eileen Burnett, 1:56.82
- 500 freestyle — Burnett, 5:12.03
- 1,000 freestyle — Burnett, 10:45.24
- 50 butterfly — Schmauch, 27.32
- 100 butterfly — Schmauch, 59.59
- 200 butterfly — Martha Gerken, 2:14.81
- 50 backstroke — Jodie Tanner, 28.71
- 100 backstroke — Tanner, 1:01.73
- 200 backstroke — Vicki Lawrence, 2:13.48
- 50 breaststroke — Vicki Lawrence, 32.66
- 100 breaststroke — Vicki Lawrence, 1:09.31
- 200 breaststroke — Vicki Lawrence, 2:31.07
- 100 IM — Tanner, 1:51.25
- 200 IM — Susan Marks, 2:14.88
- 200 medley relay — Moir, Schmauch, Tanner, 4:51.25
- 400 medley relay — Moir, Schmauch, Doull, 10:37.35
- 200 free relay — Schmauch, Tanner, Doull, Burns, 1:51.25
- 400 free relay — Tanner, Marks, Schmauch, Doull, 3:37.35

SMU surprises A&M, 76-66

United Press International While the SMU Mustangs were dealing out some unexpected misery to the Texas A&M Aggies, the last man on the reduced Texas Tech bench became a hero in an overtime victory for the Red Raiders over the Rice Owls.

SMU surprised Texas A&M, 76-66, with center Jon Koncak scoring 24 points and a brief wrestling match bringing about the ejection of guards Reggie Roberts (A&M) and Dave Gadis (SMU).

"It's been a long time since

SMU has been in a post-season tournament," said Koncak. "We want to try to win 18 or 19 games and get in one this year. That's our goal." SMU raised its season record to 15-10 with the win over the Aggies, who fell to 14-13 overall and 7-6 in the Southwestern Conference.

The Arkansas Razorbacks left a wakeup call for the second half in Austin Wednesday night and when the alarm went off they responded like a team ranked fifth in the country should.

"I think the squad might have been a little flat tonight," assessed Arkansas coach Eddie Sutton.

But no matter what the mental makeup of his team might have been, Sutton's bunch finally prevailed over the lowly Texas Longhorns, 84-67, and stayed on target for next week's showdown with No. 2 Houston in Fayetteville.

In Houston, non-scholarship player Tobin Doda hit two free throws with two seconds remaining overtime to bring Tech a 69-67 triumph over Rice. Tech has only eight players on the team and of those eight Doda has seen

the least playing time this season. The win moved Tech to a five-fifth-place tie with Texas Tech and kept alive the Texas chances for a third-place finish and a bye past the first round of the SWC post-season tournament.

In Austin, only a stock thousand showed up in the circus Frank Erwin Events Center for what was one of the big attractions of the SWC season.

But because the Longhorn basketball program has a list of dropped out of sight this year there wasn't much electricity in the air when Texas tipped against Arkansas.

The Longhorns, however, tried to liven things up in the first half and trailed by six at intermission. Through the first half Texas forward Bill Wendlandt set in order to clear the ball for who was trying to break Texas' full court press. But star Darrell Walker played as if he had hit a wall.

That action fired a sparse crowd and with Walker having trouble putting away, the hint of a huge was in the air. Scores of hustled into the arena in the half, having heard that prize might be breathing arena.

But Walker and Alvinson made things safe in the second half — Walker put on his usual defensive Robertson scoring 22

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