

# Aggie women swimmers taper off against Coogs

By **KENNETH PEMBERTON**  
Reporter

As the swimming season progressed, Texas A&M Coach Mel Nash hoped his No. 16-ranked women's team would be able to peak just before the end of the season and the Southwest Conference Championships. Over the weekend the season ended, but A&M didn't exactly peak against Houston.

A&M's regular season ended on a sour note Saturday as the women's team lost to the Cougars, 85-55. Nash said it wasn't so much that the team failed to peak, it just sort of tapered off a bit.

"We've got a week and a half of rest before the Southwest Conference Championships," Nash said. "It's a much needed rest."

The Aggies' attention now turns toward the SWC Swim Championships, beginning on Feb. 28.

"We have a sprint-oriented team," Nash said. "We do have some problems with distance swimmers but by the championships we should have them worked out."

Long-distance swimming is what really hurt A&M against Houston. The Aggies lost all matches over 200 yards except for the 400-yard freestyle relay.

Houston Coach Phill Hansen said the Cougars have peaked at the right time of the season.

"On paper, it looked like a close meet, but (Friday night's) diving gave us an edge — a cushion," Hansen said. "It was the best meet we've had all year. A&M is always tough when we swim against them."

Nash said the Aggies were confident going into the meet, despite Houston's overall team depth.

"Coming into the meet, I thought we could win, but Houston had quality athletes with a lot of experience," he said. "This is our second loss



Photo by **PETER ROCHA**

**A&M swimmer Vicki Moir comes up for a breath as she cuts through the water in the 200-meter breaststroke event. The No. 16 Aggie women's team lost to Houston over the weekend. A&M will next compete in the SWC Championships, Feb. 28.**

(against 6 wins). I'm not worried."

Nash was pleased with the performance of sophomore Britt Hoefs, who had a season best time of 2:09.78 in the 200-yard butterfly behind Houston's Teresa Rivera.

One problem Nash faces is the exodus of seniors this year. Apparently, he has solved that problem with top-notch recruiting, which he described as "better than ever."

Junior Jody Tanner said she was nevertheless pleased with this season.

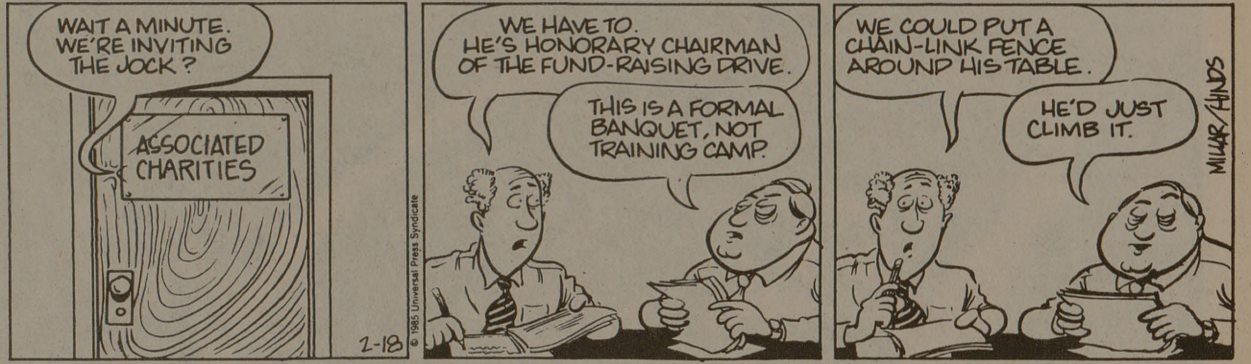
"We had the smallest but strongest team the Aggies have ever had," Tanner said. "We should do well at the (SWC) Championships."

Nash said the Texas Longhorns are highly favored to capture the SWC title, but the way the rest of the teams finish is still anyone's guess.

"Everyone pretty much knows that Texas will win the championships, but the exciting part will be the fight for second, third and fourth places. It will probably be between us, Houston and SMU."

## TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Tech, A&M still alive in SWC; Arkansas caught in logjam

Associated Press

The Texas Tech Red Raiders and the Texas A&M Aggies are back in the middle of the Southwest Conference basketball race, but it may be adios for the Arkansas Razorbacks.

"In all likelihood this knocks us out of the race," admitted Arkansas Coach Eddie Sutton after his Razorbacks were stunned on Saturday 52-50 by Texas Tech in Fayetteville.

Arkansas had won 19 straight games in Barnhill Arena and it was the first time the Red Raiders had won a game there since 1974.

"Our team didn't respond to the challenge of playing for the championship," Sutton said. "Maybe our players don't know what it takes to win. We just don't lose here."

The Arkansas loss coupled with Texas A&M's 67-60 victory over Texas Christian locked the Aggies and Red Raiders in second place with 8-4 records. Both teams are a full game behind Southern Methodist at 9-3. Arkansas is now 8-5.

In other SWC games on Saturday, ninth-ranked SMU ripped Louisville 72-64 to up the Mustangs' overall re-



cord to 20-5, while Texas edged Baylor 75-72. And on Sunday, Houston beat Rice 96-91.

Texas Tech Coach Gerald Myers, who defeated Sutton in Fayetteville for the first time, said "I think when a team is able to defeat another team with a great coach, it's a great feeling."

Sutton is now 119-7 in games played on the Arkansas campus.

"This is one of the most disappointing losses I've ever absorbed but give Texas Tech credit, they played very well and Bubba Jennings is one of the five or six best

players in our league," said Sutton. Jennings had 20 points in the victory.

Kenny Brown, who poured in 18 points for the Aggies against the Horned Frogs got a pregame pep talk from Coach Shelby Metcalf.

"Coach told us the Horned Frogs have beaten some good teams and we knew it would be a tough game," Brown said. "We knew they were capable of coming in here and beating us."

TCU gets a chance to redeem itself on Wednesday night when the league-leading Mustangs come calling.

Arkansas, Texas Tech and A&M all have home games. Houston is at Arkansas, Baylor is at Texas Tech and Texas visits A&M.

SMU ended its non-conference slate with victories over Kentucky, Oklahoma North Carolina and Louisville.

"At the start of the year we put on the schedule five big games like we never had before," said SMU Coach Dave Bliss.

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