

# Ag swimmers struggle

By Tom Kehoe  
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M men's and women's swimming teams took it on the chin over the weekend at the 1988 National Invitational Dual-Meet Championships in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

The women opened the three-day competition with a victory over Southern Illinois University but suffered losses the next two days to the University of Florida and Clemson University.

The men were defeated by the University of Iowa, the University of Arizona and Florida.

Southern Illinois with a time of 16 minutes 28.94 seconds.

"That's really great for Joan," said Assistant Coach Jay Holmes. "It takes some pressure off of her in the spring."

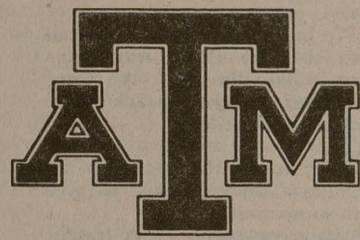
Searcy aided the Aggies by leading off the medley relay with a strong backstroke leg and winning the 100-yard backstroke against Southern Illinois.

"Courtney swam a great leadoff and went her lifetime best in the 100 back on one of the relays," Holmes said.

Other Aggie women winning individual events over the weekend were Susan Habermas, Laura Grimes, Jennifer Newcomb, Roxanne Nelson, Brenda Wright and Ginger Hurley.

The men were led by Mike Varrozza. Varrozza, a junior, contributed four individual victories and swam on four winning relays. He also qualified for the NCAA championship meet as he won the 100-yard butterfly in 48.51 seconds against Arizona.

Another outstanding performer for the Aggies was breaststroke and individual medley swimmer Todd Bartee. Bartee won three individual medley races and placed second in the 200-yard breaststroke twice while pushing teammate Don Boyd to victory in the same event.



"Todd Bartee is a solid swimmer," said Holmes. "He didn't want to swim the 200 breast the second day, but he jumped in and went his lifetime best."

"Overall the men swam well," Holmes said.

"The Arizona meet came down to the last relay."

That event was the 800-yard freestyle relay. The Wildcats barely outouched the Aggies in the grueling race by .08 of a second.

A&M's next competition will be over the semester break when they travel to Hawaii. They will participate in the Rainbow Invitational and in dual meets against other teams doing their Christmas training on the island.

# Texas gets Palmeiro, Moyer in 9-player deal with Cubs

ATLANTA (AP) — Rafael Palmeiro, the second leading hitter in the National League last season, was traded from the Chicago Cubs to the Texas Rangers in a nine-player deal Monday.

The Cubs also sent left-handed pitchers Jamie Moyer and Drew Hall to Texas.

The Rangers gave up lefty pitchers Mitch Williams, Paul Kilgus and Steve Wilson, infielder Curtis Wilkerson and two minor league players to be named later.

Palmeiro, 24, sparkled in his first full major league season. He batted .307 with 41 doubles, eight home runs and 53 runs batted in. He also had a 20-game hitting streak.

"We were looking for an offensive player, and we feel like we got our cake and can eat it, too," Texas general manager Tom Grieve said.

Grieve said it would be determined in spring training where

Palmeiro would play, either at first base or in the outfield.

The Cubs and Rangers each have built young pitching staffs, which are now reshuffled.

"We really wanted to help our bullpen, and everybody in baseball knows Mitch Williams has one of the best arms in baseball," Cubs general manager Jim Frey said.

Williams, 24, was 2-7 with 18 saves and a 4.63 earned run average.

He pitched in 67 games last season, and his 231 relief appearances are second-most in the majors in the last three years. Williams held opponents to a .203 average, the second-lowest among American League relievers with 50 or more innings.

Frey admitted the trade left a void in left field.

"Maybe we'll call another press conference soon to fill it," Frey said.

Kilgus, 26, was 12-15 with a 4.15 ERA in his first major league season.

He pitched three shutouts, fifth-highest in the AL, and tied the Texas club record.

Wilson, 24, was 15-7 with a 3.16 ERA in 25 starts at Class AA Tulsa. He also won three times in the playoffs.

Wilkerson, 27, batted a career-high .293 in 117 games. He started 77 games at second base and 14 at shortstop.

Besides Palmeiro, the Rangers got a young starter and reliever.

Moyer, 26, was 9-15 with a 3.48 ERA. He made 30 starts and allowed three earned runs or less in 23 of them.

He has pitched at least 200 innings in the last two years.

Hall, 25, was 1-1 with a 7.66 ERA in 109 relief appearances with the Cubs. He was 4-3 with 19 saves and a 2.34 ERA in 49 relief outings with Class AAA Iowa.

# College basketball isn't helped by resemblance to NBA

Still recovering from A&M's longest football season ever, my mind is slowly retrieving the files of winter sports. But it's really a kind of a learn-as-I-go process, since my favorite winter sport is usually indoor football watching.

But I am not so enamored with football that a sport like basketball can't steal a bit of my interest. So here's a shot at the hoops.

First of all, my experience in the sport consists of being a center on a third grade team, numerous playground efforts, and watching college players and pros play. But even with such limited experience, it's easy to notice that the game has gone through some giant changes over the years.

The easiest thing for me to notice has been the closing of a gap between the style of play between the National Basketball Association and college ball. The NBA has always been known for its fast-moving,



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Assistant Sports Editor

rough-and-tumble format. But this is fairly new to the college ranks.

It amazes me that a goal of college players is to get a shot at playing with the "pros" in the NBA. I find it hard to believe that enjoyment of the game would be a motive to play in the NBA, when similar games take place in neighborhoods all over the place.

The NBA is the crudest, most disorganized of all forms of basketball. Players shove, elbow, knee, trip, punch and otherwise manhandle players of the other team. It's incredible. These players are at least in their 20's, and many in their 30's, and they get on the court and act like ten-year-olds.

One of the most amazing things to me is to watch the transition of a college player to a pro. Guys like Kelly Tripucka and Kiki Vandeweghe, who played for Notre Dame and UCLA, were standard "good guys" in college. But, in the NBA, you can find them right in the midst of the pushing, shoving and fighting.

Something happens when a college player gets a shot at the pros. They have to get tough to make it. It's not that they have to get better or practice more—but that

they have to learn such important moves as the forearm shiver and the uppercut.

The worst thing about it is that college programs are molding themselves after the NBA.

Just a few years ago, almost any college game around showed teamwork, coaching and sportsmanship. Today, college games are filled with ball-monopolizing "solo acts," lenient coaching and as many elbows thrown per minute as the NBA.

What is causing the college game to "go pro?" Part of the problem could be the additions of the 45-second shot clock and the three-point shot.

The shot clock has taken away a lot of strategy in the college game—such as the four-corners play.

Sure, we've all been frustrated more than once when a team simply held the ball, and the lead, and let the game clock expire. But

when the four-corners suddenly disappeared because of another time-saving device, you realize it was a big part of the game.

And the three-point line—another NBA-influenced addition—has done as much as taking away from the team effort as anything. Now every team has to have a "specialist" who can shoot the outside shot.

Today the "good" college teams are the fast-moving, physical ones that have a specialist for everything from shot blocking to passing to stealing.

Specialization seems to be a key. Sure, teams are going to have one or two guys that score more than the others. But it's enjoyable to watch an entire team work and flow together with the deft of a single person. That's what team sports are meant to do.

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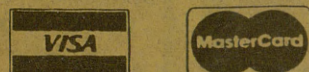
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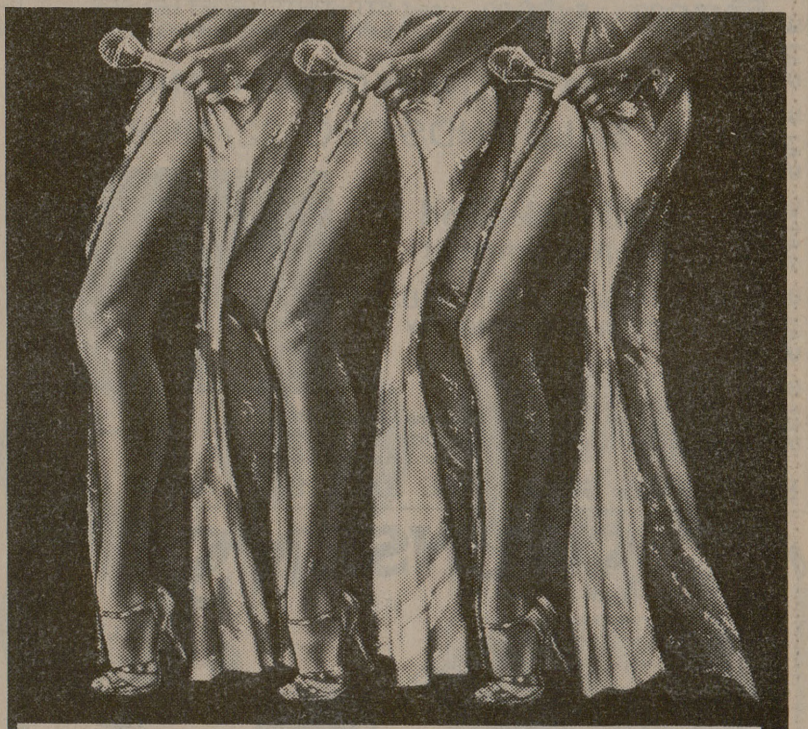
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