

# Ag swim teams complete first day at meets

The Texas A&M men's and women's swimming teams made a splash on the first day of the Pitt Invitational swim meet on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh.

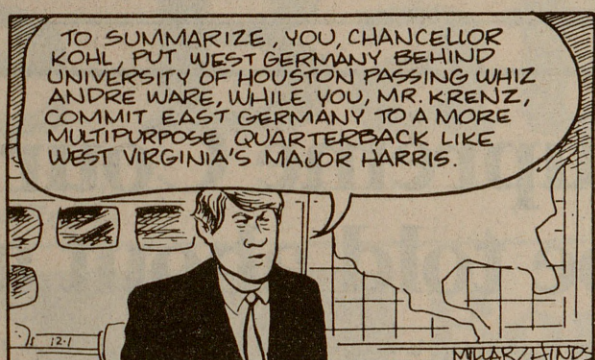
The Aggie men trail Pittsburgh 100-67 in the team race as the women are in hot pursuit of Pitt, trailing 86-85. There are six men's teams entered in the meet, seven in the women's.

The lone winner for the Aggies on the day was Joan Wojtowicz in the 1650-yard freestyle with an NCAA qualifying time of 16:25.63. Other women finishers in the mile for A&M were third place finisher Jennifer Newcombe in 17:24.40 and Brenda Greathouse, fourth in 17:28.78.

In the 800-yard freestyle relays, the men were led by Mike Varozza's pool-record leadoff split of 1:39.70 as they cruised to second place behind Pittsburgh. The women likewise nabbed second place as Wojtowicz anchored the Aggie quartet to a time of 7:39.10.

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# Horton makes smooth transition to safety

By Richard Tijerina

Early in the spring, second-team running back Larry Horton was given a choice. Either make the move to free safety or stay on offense, backing up Heisman Trophy candidate Darren Lewis.

The choice was easy. Horton has responded well to his switch to defense — he's started every game this season at free safety. He leads the Aggies with 91 tackles, and is tied for second in interceptions.

But though Horton now is shining at safety, it wasn't easy for coaches to convince him the move was the best choice.

Horton was apprehensive about the switch at first, even though he did play safety as well as running back in high school.

A compromise was reached. Horton would try safety out on a two-week trial basis during the spring.

Things worked out so well that Horton stayed at the position. But he still wanted to run with the ball, so coaches came up with a solution.

Kick returns. Horton is ranked eighth in the nation in kick return average with a 24.7 yard average. He returned A&M's first kick of the year 96 yards for a touchdown. It was the play of the game in a 28-16 win over Louisiana State.

Horton's seen his share of big plays in 1989, but they haven't all turned out quite as nice for A&M as his celebrated kickoff return. Against Texas Tech, quarterback Ja-

mie Gill burned Horton on a last minute touchdown to beat the Aggies, 27-24.

In last week's 23-22 A&M heart-breaker to Arkansas, Horton was on the wrong end of a controversial pass interference call late in the fourth quarter. On fourth-and-three at the Aggie 19-yard line, Razorbacks quarterback Quinn Groves threw a short pass to tight end Billy Winston. Horton, playing back behind Winston, jumped up and knocked the ball away.

However, line judge Ron Underwood ruled that Horton bumped Winston from behind before he knocked the ball away. Arkansas scored the winning touchdown five plays later.

"I was just reacting to what I've been coached to do," Horton said. "I saw the ball and had to go over the top for it."

But A&M Coach R.C. Slocum said the play was just too close to call, and that he had nothing but praise for the junior safety.

"He can be a cornerback, safety, running back — I think Larry can play any of the skill positions. He's a tough kid. I thought he did a good job (against Arkansas). You're talking about a guy who just moved over there."

"It's a shame that he hasn't been over there a couple of years — he'd be an All-SWC player."

That sort of recognition may come next year if Horton continues to improve. At least, he said, he's starting and helping the team.

"I'm happy," he said. "I don't have any disappointments as far as my move there or any of the plays

I've had. I'm still in the process of learning. It's a risky position, but it's a position someone's got to play."

Cornerback Kevin Smith, who will team with Horton next year to lead A&M's defensive backfield, said Horton's progress this season will make free safety a strong position in 1990.

"He's been doing well since the spring," Smith said. "He's an athlete — you can see it in his eyes. He has a lot of heart and he's going to give his all every time he goes out there."

But the Aggies can't wait until next year — they'll need Horton to be at his best this weekend when A&M hosts Texas. Longhorn receivers Tony Jones and Johnny Walker are deep threats, but Horton said he was confident the Aggies could shut them down.

"It gives us another chance, and our last chance this year, to prove

ourselves," Horton said. "Sure, losing to Arkansas hurt us, but it's not going to have an effect on us this week while we're getting up for Texas. This game here is just as important as Arkansas was, even though we're not playing for the Cotton Bowl."

Playing hard is nothing new to Horton. Nicknamed "Lick" for the hard hits he gives wide receivers, Horton knows just one style of play: aggressive.

"I look at myself as an aggressive type of player," he said. "I saw myself like that on offense too. I was always that type of player. I just played it differently on offense."

When he was being recruited, Horton always thought he'd be a running back. But being in the same class as Lewis, the chances of him making an impact at the position seemed slim at best.

## Game

(Continued from page 8)

devastating injuries.

Junior running back Darren Lewis is listed as questionable for Saturday's game after injuring his knee against Arkansas.

"Darren didn't work out Monday or Tuesday," Slocum said. "I would say it's doubtful he'd play at this time with his knee sprain."

A&M also is hurting on defense with injuries to noseguard Pat Henry (dislocated elbow), linebacker Anthony Williams (bruised shoulder) and cornerback Mickey Washington (broken scapula).

Although Aggie quarterback Lance Pavlas is completing 59.9 percent of his passes this season, Texas defensive lineman Ken Hackmack believes the Longhorns' pass attack could rattle A&M's offensive game.

"I think that Pavlas is a better run-oriented quarterback than a passer," Hackmack said. "He's a great one when he gets time, but in looking at the films, I think he gets rattled under pressure."

However, the Texas offensive line will have its hands full trying to give Longhorn quarterback Pete Gardere time to throw.

Gardere, who still is recovering from a bruised shoulder, will be hindered by A&M's punishing blitz-oriented defense.

"That's our style," Slocum said. "It's good that other teams are having success against them (blitzing). That will be our plan this week."

Under Gardere, a redshirt freshman from Houston Lee, Texas' offense has looked either very good — in its 28-24 upset over Oklahoma and its 24-20 upset over Arkansas — or very bad, like in its 47-9 drubbing to Houston and its loss to Baylor last week.

The Longhorns' running attack is

led by freshman redshirt Adrian Walker, who has become Texas' main weapon in its last three games. He averages 4.3 yards a carry, and needs only 124 yards against A&M to break former Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell's freshman UT mark of 928 yards.

If Lewis somehow can manage to suit up and play, he needs only 31 yards to reach the 1,000-mark for the season.

Gardere has passed for 1,511 yards this season — the best ever for a Texas freshman. But he hasn't faced a pass rush this year like he will on Saturday. The closest thing to A&M's defense he's seen this season was against Houston.

And in that loss, Gardere left the game in the fourth quarter — still feeling dizzy from the effects of a sack.

Also hindering Gardere will be the crowd noise. All 72,387 seats at Kyle Field have been sold. A few temporary seats along the track remain.

Houston quarterback Andre Ware and the Cougars' top-rated Run-and-Shoot offense, No. 1 in the nation, was shot down by the Aggies' blitz and hindered by the crowd noise at Kyle Field.

"With all the activity on campus — the bonfire, Elephant walk, a big crowd is expected," Slocum said. "The players will be around some excitement this week. That should help them bounce back."

Although A&M's 19-game home winning streak for SWC games came to an end last week, the Aggies still possess a five-game winning streak against the Longhorns.

The last time that Texas beat A&M was way back in 1983, when the Longhorns drubbed the Aggies 45-13 at Kyle Field.

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