

# Grimes, Hudspeth fall short

## A&M swimmers take shots at Olympic trials

### The Battalion News Services

Texas A&M swimmers Laura Grimes and Robert Flemming took their best shot at making the U. S. Olympic swim team this week in the Phillips 66 National Swimming Championships in Indianapolis.



Grimes

Grimes, the only senior on the A&M women's swim team, finished third in her 100-meter breaststroke head with a time of 1:14.54.

Fifteen-year-old Anita Nall of Towson, Md., won the event with a time of 1:09.29.

Assistant coach Jay Holmes

said Grimes is concentrating on the NCAA Championships which will begin March 26.

"She didn't feel right for this meet," Holmes said. "Physically, she wasn't prepared."

Fleming, a sophomore red-shirt, finished 18th in the men's 100-meter freestyle with a personal best time of 51.23.

Matt Biondi, the world record holder in the event and 1988 gold medal winner, won the event with a time of 49.10.

"Robert swam an excellent race," Holmes said. "He beat a lot of people at this meet that he's never beaten before. Thirty-six people made the cuts, so 18th was a strong showing for him."

In other news, the A&M men's and women's swim teams will send a small contingent (eight men and eight women) to the Indiana Invitational this weekend in

hopes of qualifying to the NCAA Championships.

The meet will begin Saturday.

"We're shooting to get our relay qualified," Holmes said.

"The men's 200-freestyle relay is currently 12th in the nation, and they take the top 12 for the NCAA's. We'll be looking to better our time because we're the team on the bubble that other schools will be looking to knock off."

Holmes said the women's 200-freestyle relay is sitting at No. 17, and the 400-medley relay is currently ranked 14th in the nation.

"They've got some work to do if they're going to jump up into the top 12," he said.

Individually, John Hudspeth is looking to qualify in the 200-backstroke. Currently, Hudspeth is ranked 24th. The top 16 finishers qualify.

# Men's tennis faces stiff competition

### The Battalion News Services

CORPUS CHRISTI - The Texas A&M men's tennis team will put its 8-0 record on the line this Friday at the H.E.B. Team Championships here.

The Aggies, off to their fastest start ever under longtime coach David Kent, will compete against five teams ranked in the Top 25. The eight straight wins is the

longest winning streak of Kent's 14-year career. The previous longest streak was six.

"We've got a good team this year, and we're playing extremely well when the match is on the line," Kent said. "We're on a roll right now. I hope it continues."

The Aggies first match will be against Big Eight powerhouse Colorado at 9 a.m. The Buffaloes are ranked 24th nationally.

The Aggies have defeated

Arkansas and Oklahoma State, two traditionally top 20 teams, this season. However, Kent, still sees the H.E.B. tournament as one of the biggest challenges of the season.

"We'll see just how good we are against the big boys down there," he said. "We've proven we can play with anyone. Now we just have to consistently play well to take a step to the next level of college tennis."

# Staley, women's team ready for two in Utah

### The Battalion News Services

The Texas A&M women's tennis team will begin one of its toughest road trips of the 1992 season today when the Lady Aggies take on No. 17 Brigham Young in Provo at 2:30 p.m.

A&M will face No. 23 Utah Saturday in Salt Lake City.

Leading the Lady Aggies is senior All-American Lynn Staley who will be shooting for a school record 89th career singles victory.

Staley will likely face BYU's Evica Koljanin, who Staley beat in 1991. Staley currently is tied with 1987 All-American Kim Labuschagne with 88 career wins.

"The career wins record is

something Lynn's been shooting for all her career," Lady Aggie coach Bobby Kleineck said. "Now it's well within her reach, but it's not going to be easy against this type of competition."

Lynn will have to be at the top of her game to beat BYU's and Utah's No. 1 player. But Lynn always seems to rise to the occasion."

# Moore, Owls surprise Longhorns, 103-97

## Loss leaves Texas tied with Houston for first place in Southwest Conference race

HOUSTON (AP) - Rice's Marvin Moore scored a career-high 26 points and the Owls took advantage of foul-prone Texas for a 103-97 victory Thursday night that kept the Longhorns from clinching a tie for the Southwest Conference basketball title.

The Longhorns' loss left them tied with the Houston Cougars for first place in the conference with a 10-3 record.

Texas, 20-10 for the season and seeking its first outright league title since 1974, plays Texas A&M on Sunday, while Houston plays Southern Methodist.

A three-way tie for first is still possible, should both Texas and Houston lose and Texas Christian (9-4) beat Texas Tech on Saturday.

The Owls, with an identical 20-10 season

record, reached the 20-victory plateau for the first time since the 1953-54 season.

Rice's 8-6 league mark, the Owls were the No. 4 seed in the post-season conference tournament.

The Owls, trailing 46-45 at the half, scored the first six points of the second half and battled to a 69-69 deadlock on a pair of free throws by Torrey Andrews with 9:50 left in the game.

From that point, the Owls outscored the Longhorns 19-7 and took an 88-76 lead with 4:36 left to play. Rice's Kenneth Rourke hit three straight baskets during the run.

Rice's charge was aided by the Longhorns' foul troubles.

Benford Williams fouled out with 4:55 to

play and Dexter Cambridge and Albert Burditt played the final nine minutes with four fouls each.

The Owls had to overcome a career high 38 points by B.J. Tyler, whose 3-point shooting helped the Longhorns to their halftime lead.

Texas led 11-10 when the Longhorns hit four consecutive 3-point baskets, two each by Rencher and Tyler, for a 23-10 lead with 13:45 left in the half.

But the Owls staged a 9-0 run to get back into the game.

Trailing 37-30, Rice went on a 9-0 run for a 39-37 lead but the Longhorns held on for a 46-45 lead at the half.

Texas went 4:39 without a basket during Rice's charge.

# Barones deal with criticism, tragedy in first year



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Tony Barone Jr. listens to his father, A&M coach Tony Barone, give some of his basketball wisdom during one of the Aggies' games.

he is my son. That's the fun part of it.

"What he puts up with is not fun. Whether Tony would be a 25-point scorer or whether he's a two-point scorer, I'm not so sure it would be fun on either end of the totem pole."

Playing time is not all the Barones have had to face this winter. Both met life-and-death situations before a game with Baylor on Jan. 18 when carbon monoxide infiltrated the Aggies' locker room, postponing the game and sending the entire A&M team and coaching staff to the hospital.

Barone Sr. said the experience was twice as troubling for him because he had to worry about the safety of his father.

"It was real creepy because not only was my team in jeopardy, but my dad was," he said. "He's very stubborn in the fact that he cares about people so much that he's not going to worry about what's going on with him."

"I was worried that he would be really hurt."

Eight days later, Corinne Barone, Tony Sr.'s mother, died after suffering a heart attack two days earlier. It was a crushing blow to a family that already had taken some hard knocks.

"One of the sad parts of that whole issue was that he (Barone Jr.) had a picture of me and him in a game that I was coaching," Barone Sr. said. "He was sending it to her, but he didn't get it off to her before she passed away. That was a tough thing for him."

The series of tragic events affected Barone Jr. greatly. In fact, he even debated sitting out of the game against Houston three days later.

"At the time, I didn't really

feel like playing," he said. "(After) I suited up for the Houston game, I asked my dad, 'Should I even suit up for this?' I was just being honest with him. I didn't want to put him in a situation where he put me in when I just didn't want to play."

The season has been equally frustrating for both father and son. Not only have they experienced personal tragedies, but the two are trying to stammer through a season that currently finds the Aggies in the Southwest Conference cellar.

Barone Sr. said that the pluses of coaching his son are far outweighed by the minuses, but the sacrifice that his son made to come to A&M makes it seem worthwhile.

"Tony came to A&M, but he could have easily stayed at Creighton," Barone Sr. said. "He came up to visit A&M and he liked the campus, and he liked the people."

"But that's not why he came here. He came here because one day he said to my wife, 'Dad's gonna need some bodies this year, and I want to be a part of that.'"

Both know that as long as there's more than one Barone on the bench, there will be someone finding fault with their actions. But no matter what happens, they will always have each other.

"As I tell the team, we have a whole lot of supporters and we have a whole lot of paratroopers," Barone Sr. said. "The less paratroopers we have, the better off we are."

"So the people who don't understand the whole workings of our team, I don't pay any attention to them. They're gonna be miserable their entire life."

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The younger Barone also has suffered from back pains ever since he threw his back out at the beginning of the season. Both Barones claim these are the reasons he has struggled this season.

Barone Sr. said seeing his son on his team has been enjoyable, but all the problems associated with it makes it harder to handle.

"People tell you, 'If you can't coach your son, you shouldn't have him on your team,'" he said. "My response to that is I enjoy having him on the team because

# Son feels pressure to play for father in big-time program

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Tommy would become a part of a talented Texas backcourt that included sophomore B. J. Tyler and freshman Terrence Rencher. Tyler transferred from DePaul after playing in 17 games and leading the Blue Demons in assists in four straight games.

Rencher was named New York's Mr. Basketball last season, averaging 17.4 points, 5.6 rebounds and 3.9 assists per game as a senior. But Tommy has played only 40 minutes in 19 games this season. He has scored four points and has two assists.

The numbers aren't much when compared to his accomplishments in high school. In two years at Austin Westlake, Tommy was named all-district twice and all-Cen-Tex one year. As a senior, he averaged a team-high 28 points per game.

"I'm not really pushed into any (difficult) situations (at Texas)," Tommy said. "The only pressure I ever feel is when I play at home sometimes."

"I think part of it is because I'm from Austin and the fans around there want to see me do well."

"Sometimes I think that makes me a little timid as far as offense," he said. "I wasn't taking some shots. But I think I'll get use to that."

When Tommy decided he wanted to attend Texas, his father sent him to Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania, where he averaged a team-high 19.1 points per game.

"I put him in prep school for a year to get away from home and think," coach Penders said. "He told me he wanted to play for me. I wanted him to make sure that's what he really wanted."

"About halfway through the season, he said he still wanted to come to Texas. I explained to him that I wouldn't offer him a scholarship, because I wanted to use as many scholarships as I could.

"So if he came, he would be a walk-on."

But when Tommy arrived in Austin there was anything but a welcoming committee. An Austin-area newspaper implied that Coach Penders and his staff had turned down a scholarship offer to Georgetown High School star Lance Hughes to allow Tommy a place on the team.

A 6-foot-4 guard, Hughes averaged 22 points and 10 rebounds a game as a senior and was selected All-district, All-region and All-

state three times. He is now part of Texas Tech's starting backcourt.

But Penders said Hughes was not offered a scholarship because the talented UT backcourt would keep him from playing his first two years. Penders thought Hughes would do better at a school where he could contribute right away.

"You're in a situation where people aren't always educated," Coach Penders said. "Lance Hughes was a great player, but he didn't necessarily fit into our program at the time."

"I always felt Tommy could be a walk-on here. We ended up giving him a scholarship but if we need it, he knows we'll take it away."

But coach Penders knows that his son belongs on the team.

"He's very athletic and is a solid contributor on our team," the coach said. "Somedays in practice he lights it up. He's the best 3-point shooter on the team."

Penders admitted he probably doesn't play Tommy enough. The coach said it may be the fear of special treatment for his son or it may simply be a bad coaching decision.

For Tommy Penders, it just doesn't pay to be the coach's son.

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