

At a
GLANCE

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cowboys, two more on verge of playoff berths

NEW YORK (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs, Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers all can clinch NFL playoff berths this weekend.

The Chiefs (10-2) can win the AFC West title with a victory in Oakland over the Raiders (8-4), who lost earlier this year in Kansas City. The Chiefs also can clinch a wild-card berth with a tie, a Denver loss or tie, a Miami loss or tie or a Buffalo loss.

The Steelers (8-4) can clinch the AFC Central title by beating Houston. They can also clinch the division with a tie if Cincinnati loses or ties.

Dallas (10-2) can clinch at least a wild-card if it beats Washington. The Cowboys also can get into the playoffs on a loss or tie by Detroit, St. Louis or Tampa Bay.

Stars swap center Kesa for Whalers' Petrovicky

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Stars have traded centers with the Hartford Whalers, acquiring Robert Petrovicky for Dan Kesa in a move announced Wednesday.

Petrovicky, 22, was playing for the Detroit Vipers of the International Hockey League while Kesa, 24, was playing for the IHL's Michigan K-Wings.

Petrovicky has scored nine goals in 77 career NHL games over three years.

Kesa scored no points in three games with Dallas this season.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

NBA

Spurs 105, Clippers 86
Hawks 106, 76ers 81
Hornets 115, Knicks 105
Boston 100, Detroit 96

NHL

Rangers 5, Buffalo 3
New Jersey 4, Colorado 3 (OT)
Hartford 2, Tampa Bay 2 (tie)

NCAA

Texas Tech 81, Oklahoma 69
Utah 70, Texas 69
Connecticut 86, Northeastern 39
Georgetown 96, Southern NO 65
Duke 71, N.C. Greensboro 57

UPCOMING EVENTS

A&M Volleyball

The Lady Aggies host a second-round NCAA Tournament game Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

A&M Football

The Aggies host the University of Texas Saturday at Kyle Field at 2:30 p.m. in the SWC finale between the two teams.

NBA Basketball

Dallas at Orlando: 6:30 p.m.
Utah at Houston: 7:30 p.m.

Ags want road kill for season finale

□ The Aggie Swimming and Diving Teams both face tough tests on the road this weekend.

By Lisa Nance
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Swimming and Diving Teams will close their 1995 seasons as the men's and women's teams return to road action heading their separate ways to invitational meets.

The men's team will be at the University of North Carolina in Raleigh to take part in the Nike Cup today through Saturday, while the women's team travels to Austin to participate in the All-American Long Course Championships, a meet hosted by the University of Texas.

A&M Women's Head Coach Don Wagner said the Olympic year has dictated the difference in the teams' schedules.

"It's an Olympic year, so there are a number of meets that are long course meets, so some people will try to get their Olympic Trial qualifying times and/or their NCAA qualifying times," Wagner said.

In their last meet, on Nov. 17,

the A&M teams both raced to upset victories in dual meet action against the nationally-ranked Louisiana State Tigers at the Texas A&M Student Recreational Center Natatorium.

The A&M women defeated the then-No.16 Lady Tigers by a score of 152-88. They won 12 of the 13 events to bring them their first dual meet victory over LSU since a 65-46 win in 1990.

Leading the way for the Lady Aggies was senior Denean Knapp. Knapp scored victories in the 50- and 100-meter free and swam the anchor leg of the first-place 400-relay.

Also picking up two individual victories was sophomore Stacie Karnes. Karnes posted wins in the 200- and 500-free while helping the 400-medley relay to win with a time of 3:50.36.

Freshman Tammy Lee took first in the 200-back with a time of 2:03.25, a mere 15 one-hundredths of a second off the A&M school record of 2:03.10, set by Hadas Pade in 1993.

Other winners in the meet were junior Jennifer Guillory who won the 1000-free and sophomore M.J. Marengo took first in the 200-fly.

Sophomore Dane Mastagni rounded out the A&M list with a win in the 200-breast with a time

of 2:19.07.

The men's team won nine first-place awards on its way to a win. Freshman Jason Miles continued his undefeated reign in the 1000-free by winning his fifth consecutive victory of the season with a time of 9:29.67.

He also captured another first in the 500-free. Senior Scott DeWolf finished second to Miles in the 1000-free and finished first in the 200-fly.

Junior Rob Pantano won the 200-back after a second place showing in the 200-IM.

Junior Neil Randall scored a victory in the 200-free (1:42.46), while sophomore Kyle Marden (2:07.61) and freshman Niclas Egmar (2:08.15) finished one-two in the 200-breast. Pantano and Marden combined with freshman Jerrod Kappler and sophomore Pat McDermott to win the 400-medley relay with a time of 3:25.74.

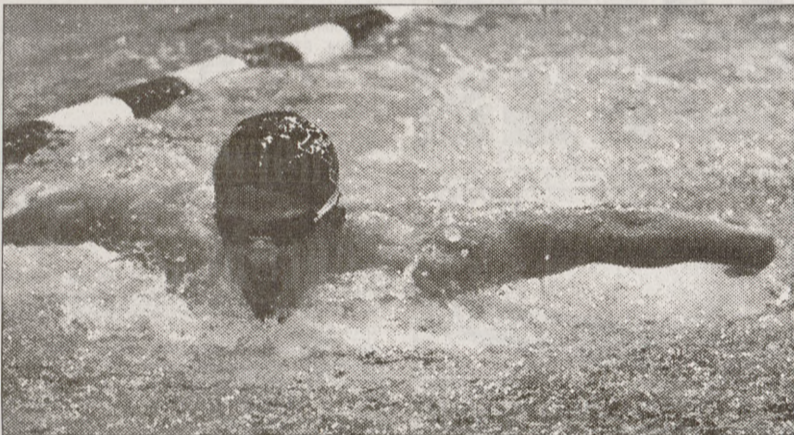
The difference in the meet for the men came down to diving. Freshman Mark Naftanel accumulated a school-record 327.82 points to win the three-meter title, while sophomore Jarrod Flores won his fifth one-meter crown in six meets with 305.02 points.

For the women divers, sophomore Jodi Janssen took first on both boards, scoring 254.92 points on the one-meter and 274.87 points on the three meter. Freshmen Jamie and Jennifer Spychalski finished fourth and fifth, respectively, in both competitions.

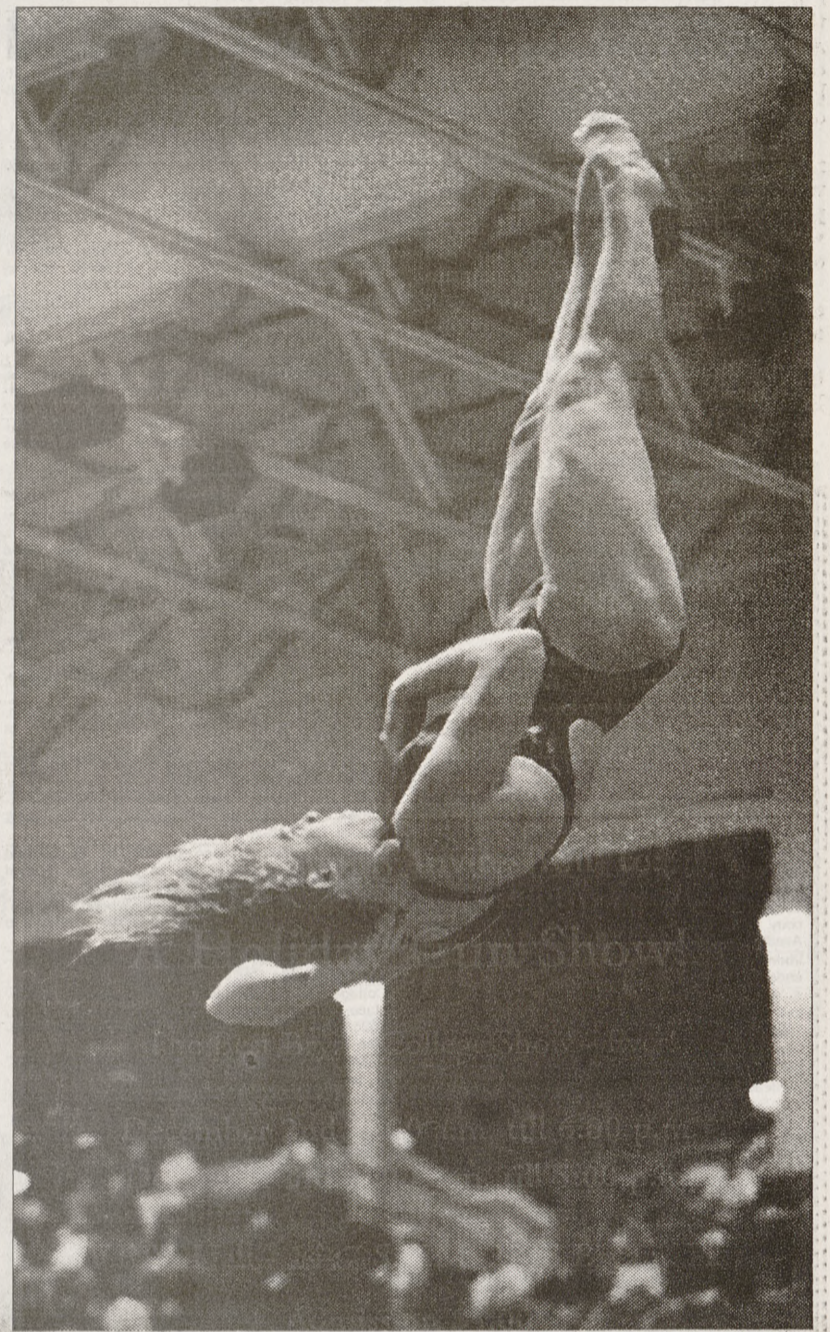
Wagner said that both teams are working really hard and committed to winning.

"The kids have worked really hard and are really committed to do what their goals are," Wagner said. "They are willing to do anything necessary to obtain their goals."

Both the men's and women's teams are ranked among the nation's best in the latest Speedo America Top 25 Poll. The women are at No.19 while the men are at No.25.



A&M's Scott DeWolf surges forward during the 100-meter fly at the meet with LSU two weeks ago.



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M diver Jenny Spychalski spins in midair during a dive at the Aggies' win over LSU two weeks ago at the Student Rec Center.

From the home office in Reed McDonald ...



TOM DAY

SPORTSWRITER

But don't be too afraid of big, bad Texas, for our Aggies have a lot of things going for them right now.

That's why it was fairly easy to come up with: The Top 10 Reasons Why Texas A&M will beat Texas on Saturday.

10. *UT quarterback James Brown isn't healthy.* He may be playing, but he isn't 100 percent. The Longhorn triggerman was forced to sit out during the Horns' 21-13 victory over Baylor last week after spraining his ankle against TCU the week before. While Brown is scraping the rust off his throwing arm, the Aggies should pick a few passes off. Hopefully, that will happen before a series of A&M sacks convinces Brown that his ankle hurts too much and that he should be on the bench.

9. *The A&M offense is ready to explode.* The Aggies have totaled

869 yards of total offense the last two weeks against Middle Tennessee State and TCU. Although the Blue Raiders and Horned Frogs aren't exactly being mentioned as national championship contenders, the A&M offense has shown definite signs of improvement.

8. *The Aggies are accustomed to playing and beating Texas.* Although A&M isn't experienced playing Top 10 opponents in the regular season — Colorado was kind enough to point that out — the Aggies just don't lose to UT. A&M has won 10 out of the last 11 meetings with the Horns, including last season's 34-10 trouncing in Austin.

7. *Any school that wears a color as hideous as burnt orange by choice doesn't deserve to win a game of such great magnitude.*

6. *Zach Thomas doesn't play for Texas.* That's right, the line-

backer from Texas Tech who cost A&M a chance to win the conference title outright with his game-winning interception and touchdown return against the Aggies on Oct. 7, won't be around to wreak havoc on Saturday. He and his second-place Red Raider teammates will be watching the game on TV.

5. *Defense wins championships.* Entering the game with the nation's No. 1 ranked defense, A&M will be looking for the Wrecking Crew to take charge once again this weekend. Although the Aggies are giving up only 244 yards a game on defense, they face a true test in the Longhorns. UT is ranked 15th nationally on offense, averaging 437 total yards a game.

4. *Hey, it's my (first) senior year.* They can't lose.

3. *Corey Pullig is the man.* The winningest quarterback in A&M

history (32-5-1), Pullig will be playing his final game at Kyle Field Saturday. With wins over Texas and A&M's opponent in the Sugar Bowl, he will tie SMU's Lance McIlhenny as the winningest quarterback in SWC history. Pullig isn't the flashiest player, he just wins football games.

2. *Because you can't walk into Kyle Field just 23 days before a major holiday and expect to walk out with a victory over the Fightin' Texas Aggies.*

1. *Playing at Kyle Field will be too much for the poor Longhorns to overcome.* The 12th Man gives the Aggies the greatest homefield advantage in all of college football and a record crowd is expected on Saturday. Besides, the Aggies have too much pride to let their 31-game Kyle Field winning streak fall victim to the hated Horns. A&M will be victorious.

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