

Aggies off to successful beginning



Track & Field
Jeremy Furtick

The Texas A&M Track and Field Teams began indoor competition last Saturday with a pair of fifth-place finishes at The Houston Indoor Opener on the University of Houston campus.

NCAA Provisional Qualifiers

Two Lady Aggies took a big step in their attempts to qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championship being held in Indianapolis, IN., on March 7-8.

Seniors Rosa Jolivet and Donyale Canada posted times good enough to earn themselves provisional qualifications. Jolivet provisionally qualified for the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 8:53 in the 60-meter hurdle event, while Canada posted a

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Ted Nelson
A&M Head Coach

7:48 mark in the 60-meter dash to provisionally qualify for the 55-meter dash in Indianapolis. Sixty-meter times are converted to 55-meter times to determine NCAA provisional qualifying marks.

Aggie Personal Bests

Three Aggies started the season by setting career indoor bests in their respective events. For the men, senior James Menze posted a second-place time of 15:21.08 in the 5,000-meter run while sophomore shot putter Mike Lowrance took third-place with a throw of 55-7. Senior Laura Keahey matched her career-best leap of 5-7 to nab third-place in the high jump.

Aggie Freshmen Begin Adapting

Texas A&M Head Coach Ted Nelson said he needed some freshmen to step in and fill a few holes on the men's and women's track teams. After the underclassmen's first NCAA competition there were no signs of greatness, but the freshmen did more than expected.

"Most freshmen get uptight in their anticipation and fear of not doing well," Nelson said, "but our kids didn't seem to let any of that bother them."

"There were no great performances, but they showed some promise and that they aren't scared of the competition."

Aggie basketball teams search for wins

Lady Aggies search for answers to their losses

By SARA DUESING
THE BATTALION

After a close game that ended in defeat against Kansas University Wednesday, the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team (7-9 overall, 1-5 in Big 12) prepares itself to shrug off the loss and face Kansas State University (9-6, 2-3). The two teams will meet Saturday night at 7 in Manhattan, Kan.

Now seeking their second Big 12 conference win, Head Women's Coach Candi Harvey said the team has been asking itself why the losses outnumber the wins.

"We should have and could have won against Kansas," Harvey said. "We're asking questions and talking about what we should have done as a team but talking about it and getting it done are two different things."

Knowing that a win on the road is even more difficult to attain than one at home, junior center Kim Linder said the team needs to just focus on playing the best they can.

"We haven't done as well as we want to on the road," Linder said. "If we can correct our mistakes like rebounding and execution, we can go out and get a win."

Harvey said after such a physical game against KU, the Lady Aggies will have to step up and respond to the aggressiveness of their opponents.

"We realized we played a special team, probably the

Sykora joins Lady Aggies

Texas A&M sophomore Stacy Sykora has added a third sport to her repertoire — basketball.

Sykora, a standout outside hitter on the A&M Volleyball Team and member of the track team, has decided to join the Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team.

"Ever since the Christmas break she has been here watching practice," Harvey said. "We evaluated her when she was a senior in high school and thought there would be the possibility of her wanting to play two sports. She is just a tremendous athlete, who just wants a chance to play basketball."

Sykora, who is from Bursleson, Texas, could become the second female to earn a letter in three varsity sports at A&M.

Sykora will be with the basketball squad as they depart for Manhattan, Kan. today for a Big 12 game with Kansas State Saturday at 7 p.m.



Amy Dunlap, THE BATTALION

Senior guard **Lana Tucker** tries to avoid the trap by a Kansas defender Wednesday night at G. Rollie White.

most athletic team, in KU, but we performed well," Harvey said. "We did get pushed around and if the officiating is going to allow that, we'll just have to adjust and execute when we can execute."

The Wildcats, who are ninth in the Big 12, defeated Iowa State University Wednesday and are looking to reach the .500 mark in the Big 12 rankings against A&M.

Harvey said the Lady Aggies need to improve on execution and consistency in order to win.

"[Kansas State] has a good defense and is well-balanced," Harvey said. "They're undefeated at home and they usually keep their opponents to a low score."

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Aggies battle Kansas State for first conference win Saturday

By MATT MITCHELL
THE BATTALION

After being swept away by a red and blue tornado Wednesday night, the Texas A&M Men's Basketball Team is happy not to be in Kansas anymore.

But a little bit of Kansas will follow them home as the Aggies return to the friendly confines of G. Rollie White Coliseum to take on the Kansas State Wildcats Saturday afternoon. Tipoff is slated for 12:45.

The Aggies (6-9, 0-5) will be looking to break an eight-game losing streak as well as gain their first Big 12 Conference win. One thing is certain, with K-State also winless in conference play, someone is going to replace that goose egg with a one.

Despite tough losses to Baylor, Nebraska and Texas, the Aggies have been in position to win close games.

Freshman guard Brian Barone said it is just a matter of getting over the hump with a win for the Aggies to right themselves.

"We are good enough to contend in this league, we just have to prove it to ourselves," Barone said. "We're still a young team, but we're getting better as the season progresses."

Improvement is the key, and after showing flashes of brilliance against Texas, the Aggies are anxious to continue their string of fine performances at home.

Kansas State (7-8, 0-5) has won all

four previous meetings against the Aggies. The most recent was during the 1993-94 season, a 63-54 win. This will be the first time the Wildcats have visited College Station.

The Wildcats return seven lettermen and three starters from last season, led by junior guard Mark Young, who averages nine points and five rebounds a game. But gone are the top two scorers from last year's 17-12 club that finished tied for fourth in the Big Eight with a 7-7 conference record.

The Wildcats also were invited to the NCAA Tournament, but lost in the first round. With a game looming Tuesday with 15-3 and the 18th-ranked University of Colorado Buffaloes, someone

Wildcats could be caught looking past the Aggies.

"We're still a young team, but we're getting better as the season progresses."

Brian Barone
Freshman guard



Lunch with Barone

Texas A&M Head Coach Tony Barone will buy lunch for the first 500 students arriving after 11:15 a.m. Saturday Jan. 25 prior to the Kansas State game at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Barone will treat these 500 students to a hot dog, chips and a soda. He will eat with the students and tell them the strategy of the game.

Track and Field head for plains

By JEREMY FURTICK
THE BATTALION

Water the horses, hitch-up the wagon and get ready for the drive to Oklahoma. The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Track and Field Teams will make the second stop on its trip to the NCAA Indoor Championships as they blaze a trail to Oklahoma City tomorrow to compete in the 23rd Annual Sooner Indoor Relays.

After kicking off the indoor season in last weekend's Houston Indoor opener, the Aggies are looking to continue to improve on their indoor events.

Last year in Oklahoma, junior Adrien Sawyer set an A&M indoor record in the triple jump with a mark of 41-6. She said the record has not crossed her mind while preparing for this year's meet.

"We all have our individual goals, either written down or in our minds," Sawyer said. "But we compete as a team. I can't worry about things like (the record)."

The Aggie newcomers experienced their first taste of indoor competition in Houston last weekend. Texas A&M Head Coach Ted Nelson said this meet will pose another new experience for the underclassmen.

"We're going to a different kind of track," Nelson said. "It is a 160-meter track. Our newcomers were



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Members of the A&M Track Team practice in front of Reed Arena.

introduced to indoor competition last weekend in Houston, but competed on a 200-meter track."

In addition to the shorter track, the Aggies will be competing on unfamiliar ground.

"Oklahoma has a board surface, not the all-weather surface we are used to," Nelson said. "It's going to be a real shock to the men and women who've never ran on that type of surface before."

One of A&M's main indoor questions was the ability of their indoor short-sprinters. Last weekend in Houston senior sprinter Donyale Canada helped ease those worries.

Canada finished fifth in the 60-meter dash, but was only seven-hundredths of a second out of first place. She also qualified provisionally for the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Nelson said the Aggies have

some momentum now for the indoor season.

"We were very competitive in Houston," he said. "We showed some promise in events we were concerned with, and also displayed a kind of positive attitude that will bring us success throughout the season."

A&M will be competing in a field which includes the Houston Opener men's and women's champions University of Texas, Baylor University, the University of Oklahoma, University of Texas at Arlington, North Texas, Texas Christian University, and Rice University.

The competition should be stiff, but sophomore shot putter Mike Lowrance said he prefers the challenge.

"It's more fun to compete in meets like that," he said. "It forces you to perform better."

A&M battles national champion Longhorns

By COURTNEY LYONS
THE BATTALION

The sky is dark. Driving around the city looking for a place to eat dinner. After turning a corner, someone notices a big "No. 1" is lit up in orange on the bell tower in the middle of campus and no one is hungry anymore.

The town is Austin, it is March of 1996, and the University of Texas Men's Swimming and Diving Team has just added another national championship to its collection of titles.

Now it is almost a year later, and the Texas A&M Men's Swimming and Diving Team is going down to Austin for a dual meet with the returning champions — a prelude to the Big 12 Championships.

Even though several members of Texas' championship team are no longer with the team, the Longhorns are not to be dismissed. They are also considered contenders for the Big 12 crown as well as the national title.

"They have a great freshman class," A&M Men's Swimming Coach Mel Nash said. "They are definitely in the hunt."

This weekend's dual meet will put the Aggie team to the test. Nash said he is looking to this meet to measure where the team stands going into the last stretch of the season, with only five weeks remaining until the Big 12 conference meet.

He said the team has had time to rest from their extensive road trip to Hawaii and California, and should be ready to handle the competition.

The meet will contain a short order of events which will feature sprints. The dual between the two rivals will also put the steadily improving Aggie 200-meter freestyle relay up against a tough Longhorn team.

"The freestyle relay has been a pleasant surprise this year," Nash said.

Over at the diving wells, A&M's senior Wade Diederich and sophomore Mark Naftanel will battle Texas on the boards, taking on their Longhorn counterparts in a rematch of December's Texas Invitational.

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