

COME ON IN, THE WATER'S FINE

Junior Mark Naftanel a big splash for Aggie Diving Team

KATIE MISH
Staff writer

Mark Naftanel is not afraid to dive in head-first, and really is not worried about hitting the board, either.

"I think it's something you stop worrying about after it happens a couple of times," Naftanel said.

Naftanel, a junior at Texas A&M, started diving about 11 years ago, after he decided it was time for him to switch sports.

"I was in gymnastics, I was horrible, and the only thing I liked to do was floor," he said. "My next-door neighbor was in a swimming program at Texas Aquatics down at UT, so my mom talked to his mom and found out there was a diving program down there too."

Naftanel immediately enjoyed diving and has been doing it ever since. He said his parents really encourage him in his diving. He looks to them for direction, but they never hamper him from making his own choices. Naftanel said the other divers in his program at home also served as a source of motivation.

Naftanel chose Texas A&M over the University of Texas and Stanford. He said he chose to be an Aggie out of a sense of loyalty and what was in his heart.

"My brother and sister came here in the '80s. I got hooked on the traditions and the football weekend experience," Naftanel said.

He added that the opportunity to be at such a great diving facility with a great coach also helped to lure him here, despite the diving team being fairly new.

"I was kind of excited about coming in and sort of starting a new tradition," he said.

Naftanel is currently the only male on the diving team, due to an injury to red-shirt freshman Jessie Even. Naftanel does not like being the only male competing.

"Jessie's a great teammate and he's awesome," Naftanel said. "I can't wait until next year. It's killing him; diving, and it's killing me not having him dive."

Naftanel said although he is the only male diver, he

gets support from the female divers and the men's swim team, even though they compete in different events.

Coach Kevin Wright said he sees Naftanel as an asset to the other divers despite being the only male. He said Naftanel's strengths tend to set a precedent for the other athletes.

"He's a good all around student athlete and he's a really hard worker," Wright said. "That in itself keeps the environment good around here."

Naftanel's focus has improved from the last two years now that he is more seasoned to the competition. He said he is gradually learning to put away outside distractions when he is on the board.

He even attended all his classes last year during conference competition.

"I used to get real uptight about it, get butterflies in my stomach and get real nervous, but now I've sort of learned to take it like a normal day," Naftanel said.

There are still times when he gets down on his performance, but he and Wright are working on it.

"It can get frustrating, working on such minor things and little techniques," Naftanel said. "Just pounding and pounding and trying and you can't do it, but you realize it's part of the process."

Wright said a strong point for Naftanel is that he takes criticism well and does not take it as a personal attack.

"He has the capacity to be honest. If I tell him something that he needs to improve upon, as far as a mental outlook, focus or something like that, instead of taking it personally and considering it to be an insult, he'll listen, evaluate, and communicate about it," Wright said.

Naftanel said he has hopes that his swimming career will continue after he finishes college. He is shooting for the 2000 Olympics, but he will not stick around for 2004.

"I'll give it my all up to that point, but I have other goals and I'll want to move on," Naftanel said.

PHOTO COURTESY SPORTS INFORMATION



TENNIS

Continued from Page 7

Coach Bobby Kleinecke said the LSU match was a good learning experience for the women's team.

"I feel like we learned an awful lot from the LSU match," he said. "It was our first big road match and it should help us for the match at Rice."

The women's team defeated Rice

on two occasions last year, once in the regular season, 8-1, and again in the NCAA tournament, 5-4.

"The second match (in the NCAA tournament) was more indicative of the way a Rice and A&M match is usually going to go," Kleinecke said.

Sophomore Lisa Dingwall said today's match is important for her because Houston is her hometown and she would like to have a strong showing there.

"I want to go out there and show them (Rice) that I'm a good player, especially since I don't go to school down there (in Houston)," Dingwall said.

Despite the close match with Rice in the NCAA tournament last year, Dingwall said she is not concerned heading into today's match.

"I have total confidence in our team this year," Dingwall said. "I really do believe that we can go out there and dominate."

FREE PAGERS
\$3.95 pager
airtime
*Service
*Free Activation
*Accessories
*Discount Pricing System
764-5900

15th Annual Healthy Heart Run
benefiting the
American Heart Association
presented by the
A&M College of Medicine
10k, 5k, and 1 mile walk on
February 28 at 9 a.m.
Location: Reynolds Medical Building
Registration forms at Barnes & Noble,
Copy Korner or online at
hsc.tamu.edu/admis/funrun.html



your ship has come in...
Titanic posters now available at
Inspirations
Post Oak Mall
764-4444

Professional Resume Service
GRADUATE STUDENTS
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
CO-OP STUDENTS
LET US PREPARE A
PROFESSIONAL
RESUME, TAILOR-MADE
FOR YOU!
C & TS
COUNSELING TESTING SERVICES
CALL 846-2674
FOR AN APPOINTMENT

If You Have
Something To
Sell
Remember:
**The
Battalion**
Classified Can
Do It
Call 845-0569

msc variety show applications available now!

if you have more talent than:
*hanson
*bill clinton playing the saxophone
*mull vanill
*rosanne barr singing the national anthem
*vanilla ice
*john tesh doing anything
you should try out for msc variety show
...this ain't your high school's talent show!

show off your talent at msc variety show held parent's weekend, april 17
applications now available in the msc student programs office
applications due February 27
for questions or more info call Stacy at 845-1515
Presented by: 



Are You Sick
and Waiting?
**CALL FIRST
& Reduce Your Wait**
To make an appointment at A. P. Beutel Health Center:
☎ Call our Appointment Line at 845-6111, on
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
☎ After hours, call Dial-A-Nurse at 845-2822.

SERVICE HIGHLIGHT
HEALTH EDUCATION

- ✓ Sexual Health/HIV and Nutrition programming for groups and individual consultation.
- ✓ Resources and assistance on various health topics for class projects and personal health.
- ✓ Health Education is located in Room 016 of the Health Center or call 845-1341.

Student Health Services
A.P. Beutel Health Center
Division of Student Affairs
Texas A&M University

Accredited by
Association
for Ambulatory Health Care, Inc.

Health Center Hours
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday-Friday
www.tamu.edu/shs


Taking the
LSAT in June
or October?
Take a
**Mock
LSAT**
with the Pre-Law
Society & The
Princeton Review.

Including:
● Full-length,
REAL LSAT
● Computer Analyzed
Score Report
● Post-test, Professional
Consultation

When?
**Saturday
February 21st
9am-1pm**

Where?
Blocker Rm 163

The LSAT is hard enough
without taking a test that
someone *thinks* looks like
the real thing. Come
learn the TRUTH about
your LSAT potential.

 THE
PRINCETON
REVIEW
696-9099
The Pre-Law Society
(in the OPSA office)
847-8938

The Princeton Review is not associated with Princeton University nor LSAS.

**The
WIRE**

Now on The Battalion's web page
A 24-hour, multimedia news service for the Internet from
The Associated Press
• A comprehensive, up-to-the-minute news report combining the latest AP stories with photos, graphics, sound and video.
• Headlines and bulletins delivered as soon as news breaks.
<http://bat-web.tamu.edu>