

**WATKINS**

Continued from Page 6

"Melvin's voice started breaking," she said. "Tears started running down my face. Now, Melvin had to deal with this in his life. He told me how hard it was to tell the team he (Hayward) might not live. He said it really put the game of basketball into perspective."

"It threw us all off balance and caught us completely off-guard," Watkins said. "It was like we lost a loved one when it first hit. Then it was an education process to find out what was next."

Included in the "parenting duties" of Watkins is the disciplining of players. UNCC guard Sean Colson was suspended for violating team rules during Watkins' tenure with the school, and Watkins has proved himself unafraid of pulling the trigger on undisciplined players.

"I talk about life skills," Watkins said. "If I see something that will hinder a young man's growth and I have to take basketball away from him to get my point across, then that's what I will do. It's more to me than winning basketball games. You have to win at life."

That family philosophy helped his first UNCC team get past a rough beginning that saw the team lose three of their first five games.

Watkins was in his first year as the head coach and had no previous experience to be judged by except for his tenure as assistant coach to Mullins.

The faith of many supporters waned in the beginning, but the outcome was more than expected.

"They probably did (lose faith) a little bit, but they understood what I was about," Watkins said. "I was a new coach, and, quite honestly, I didn't have a track record."

"I knew time would be on my side, and in time, I could stay focused and stay on track. I stayed with those fundamentals that God entrusted in me."

Watkins is a man who rarely goes to bed before 2 a.m. ("I need a lot of time to find some quiet time," Watkins said.) and usually rises around dawn. Every morning when he wakes in his new surroundings, Watkins admits he will be thinking of one thing — winning a National Championship at Texas A&M and winning it all in the game of life.

# Join 'Club Victory'

Men's Volleyball Club Team overcomes adversity for high finish, women cheated out of finals



Women's All-Americans (from left to right) **Jesilyn Hatch, Melissa Mizell, Tracy Bell** and **Andrea Holland** achieved their third consecutive third-place finish.

**JEFF WEBB**  
Sports editor

The Women's Volleyball Club Team faced Colorado in a semifinal match in the national tournament and senior Amy Wil-

son came through in the clutch. Wilson served up two points for Texas A&M and was preparing for her third serve when something went wrong.

The electronic scoreboard was malfunctioning and the flip-cards at the scorer's table kept the incor-

rect score. Wilson's ace went unnoticed by referees and Colorado stormed back to win the match 17-15. CU went to the finals, and A&M went home with their hearts shattered with the knowledge of how close they came to winning it all.

"The stats showed she served four times for only two points," senior Tracy Bell said. "After they played their final match, the Colorado coach came up to our coach and said we should have won. The referees were apologetic, but more of our players made the all-tournament team. That was a sweet victory."

That victory was the only one the Aggies were able to enjoy after Colorado won the title. No one from the team was eligible for tournament Most Valuable Player honors because the team failed to reach the finals. The women's team placed third each of the last three years and four A&M players made first- or second-team All-America.

The women are looking like a contender going into next season as well. Six seniors, like Jenna Steinkoenig, played on the team this past season

and all the rest were freshmen or sophomores. The contributions from the team's bench were important for the team this year, but also served to build talent for next season.

"It was the most support from our bench," senior Melissa Mizell said. "The depth of our team was the best ever and people came off the bench and did well. We were a really young team this past year. Really, our team dominated the tournament and we felt we were the best team out there."

The Men's Volleyball Club Team finished in ninth place out of 48 teams in their tournament, which ranks as the team's best finish ever. The team had a disappointing finish in the Southern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association Tournament this year after setter Scott Simonds came down with food poisoning and another team member fell to illness.

However, the team bounced back from the adversity that plagued the team all year and performed well at the national tournament, especially against the University of California-Poly-Slo who

they beat to get into the...  
"Throughout the first rounds said. "Two guys in December, two guys in team and two guys in grades. We had a really compared to Cal-Poly line was huge and inches taller than us."

The men's bench had for the loss of so many players. However, the team improved their play before the tournament away into the No. 9 finish.

"They (the bench) really it up," Steven Raso wouldn't have made it did unless the second really well."

If the future of the looks excellent, the look to an even better

"We're only losing Simonds said. "As soon were over last year, I 'Next year, we're going 16.' The future is bright

## AGGIE SPORTS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

### Rec Center hosts fencing qualifier

The Texas A&M Fencing Club will host the Sectional Championships of USAA National Qualifier on Saturday and Sunday at the Student Rec Center.

### Ags beat Tigers; honors awarded

The No. 5-seeded Texas A&M Women's Tennis Team (17-9) defeated Missouri 7-0 at the Big 12 Tournament and advanced to the second round to face No. 4 Baylor today at 1:30 p.m.

The Aggies were defeated by the Bears 5-4 earlier in the season. In other tennis news, seven mem-

bers of the men's and women's teams earned individual honors at the Big 12 Conference banquet Thursday.

In women's, senior Monica Rebolledo, sophomore Kathryn Scott and freshman Eva Marcial took home the No. 4, 5 and 6 singles titles. Marcial and Scott also won runner-up honors as the No. 2 doubles.

On the men's side, senior Carlos Tori won the No. 2 singles title, and freshmen Rafael de Mesa and Cody Hubbell earned the Big 12 title for No. 3 doubles.

### A&M names Hill to Watkins' staff

A&M Basketball Coach Melvin Watkins filled the final spot on his staff Thursday, as Watkins named

Low Hill as an assistant coach.

Hill started at point guard on the 1984 San Jacinto Junior College team, which won the National Championship. He went on to Wichita State, where he earned all-conference honors.

Hill joins Steve McClain and Bobby Kummer, who were named last week, as Watkins' assistants.

### No. 11 Golf Team goes to Big 12's

Texas A&M plays in the second Big 12 tournament starting Friday at the Jimmie Austin University of Oklahoma Golf Course.

The Aggies return four members from last year's team, which lost by two strokes to Texas. A&M is ranked 11th in the latest rankings. The team will play 18 holes all three days.

## Charlotte breaks losing streak to Atlanta with big 97-87 victory

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Glen Rice outdueled Steve Smith to help the Charlotte Hornets end a pair of droughts and open their first-round playoff series with a 97-87 victory over the Atlanta Hawks on Thursday night.

Rice made 13 consecutive field-goal attempts during one stretch and wound up with 34 points on 15-for-19 shooting as Charlotte defeated Atlanta for the first time in five games this season.

The Hornets, who shot 59 percent — their second-highest percentage of the season — also broke a five-game postseason losing streak dating back nearly three years.

Smith scored 16 of his 35 in the first quarter for Atlanta, which had capitalized on superior speed from its guards to defeat Charlotte by an

average of 17 points during the

ular season.  
The Hawks were able to get again in the first half of the night, scoring 20 points on dunks and tip-ins, but Charlotte cut that figure to eight in the second half by using more perimeter shooting.

The Hornets, who shared the heads in an attempt to break their fortunes against Atlanta, got 12 points and seven rebounds from Vlade Divac, 10 points and seven boards from Antonio Anderson and 12 points and four from David Wesley.

Mookie Blaylock added 11 points, nine assists and five rebounds for the Hawks, who shot 51 percent against Charlotte in the regular season but 46 percent Thursday

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# Loose Diamonds

Marquise Cut				Oval			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.21	K	SI3	\$4150 <sup>00</sup>	.93	I	SI2	\$3146 <sup>00</sup> UGA CERT
.94	K	SI1	\$2915 <sup>00</sup>	.66	K	VVS2	\$1439 <sup>00</sup>
.83	H	SI1	\$3465 <sup>00</sup>	.54	H	SI2	\$1050 <sup>00</sup>
.63	H	SI1	\$2200 <sup>00</sup>	.32	H	SI1	\$ 550 <sup>00</sup>
.54	F	VS1	\$1400 <sup>00</sup>				
.49	F	SI1	\$1736 <sup>00</sup>				
.49	J	SI2	\$1155 <sup>00</sup>				
.44	F	SI1/VS2	\$1250 <sup>00</sup>				
.31	I	SI1	\$475 <sup>00</sup>				

  

Princess Cut				Round Cut			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
.65	H	SI2	\$1340 <sup>00</sup>	1.43	H	SI2	\$4750 <sup>00</sup>
.52	G	VS1	\$1638 <sup>00</sup> EGL CERT	1.02	J	SI3	\$2500 <sup>00</sup>
.51	H	SI2	\$1050 <sup>00</sup>	1.01	F	SI1	\$3500 <sup>00</sup>
.49	J	VS2	\$1075 <sup>00</sup> in Tiffany	1.00	I	VS1	\$3100 <sup>00</sup> OLD EURO CUT
				.95	G	VVS2	\$4900 <sup>00</sup>
				.80	H	SI1	\$1350 <sup>00</sup>
				.71	H	VVS2	\$2985 <sup>00</sup> IGL CERT
				.33	H	VVS	\$ 950 <sup>00</sup> IN TIFFANY
				.31	H	VVS2	\$ 800 <sup>00</sup> IGL CERT

  

Emerald Cut				Pear Shape			
Carat	Color	Clarity	Price	Carat	Color	Clarity	Price
1.53	I	SI1	\$7175 <sup>00</sup>	.92	K	VS2	\$2550 <sup>00</sup>
1.12	H	VS1	\$4900 <sup>00</sup>	.79	K	SI1	\$1850 <sup>00</sup>
.71	F	SI1/SI2	\$2150 <sup>00</sup>	.71	D	SI1	\$2830 <sup>00</sup> UGA CERT
				.49	H	SI1	\$1375 <sup>00</sup>

  

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