

Aggie takes gold in backstroke

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Jenny Thompson began the final day of competition by setting the second World Record in two days, Thompson, who was leaving before the finals, swam the meter butterfly in 26.05 seconds to set the world record. "I felt really confident coming in the win last night," Thompson said. "[The second record] was really surprising, but it just shows what might happen when we get to the end of the season."

Thompson only kicked off the show. The finals ended the United States' first World Cup day in grand fashion, showcasing some of swimming's biggest matchups since the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Freshman Texas A&M swimmer Jarod Kappler competed for the Canadian national Team Riley Janes led off the Aggies with a win in the 50-meter

backstroke against Olympians Josh Davis and Neil Walker from the University of Texas.

With a time of 25.09 for the win, Janes showcased some of the talent the Aggies bring into international competition.

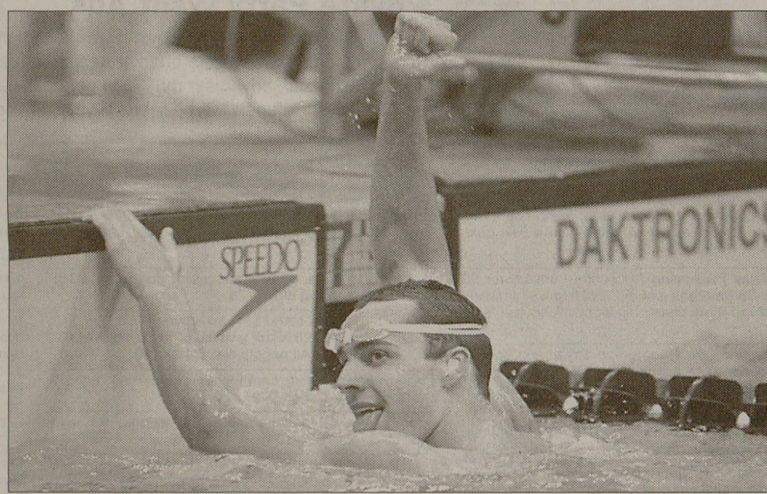
"We knew he was capable, but for him to do this at this time of the year against some of the biggest names in the sport is pretty impressive," A&M coach Mel Nash said. "He is a thoroughbred."

The Aggies placed three men and three women in the finals during the 2-day event for more than a dozen events.

Team leaders Devin Howard, Jarod Kappler, Monica Stroman and Tracy Evans were joined by several others including the two freshman stars of Janes and Clara Ho.

"We had five final swims and I was really happy," Aggie women's coach Robert Wagner said. "We rested about a week, and I can tell we still don't have a lot of speed, but the girls raced with a lot of heart."

"I'm excited about the direction our team is taking." All of the men's team and



A&M freshman Riley Janes celebrates after his 50-meter backstroke victory in World Cup competition Wednesday.

most of the women from Texas A&M will join their teammates in competition for the U.S. Open which starts today with preliminary events in the morning and finals beginning at 6 p.m.

"I thought it was a great experience," world-record holder and gold-medalist Olympian Janet

Evans, who commentated for ESPN, said. "A&M did a great job of hosting the meet."

"I think that we need to come back here. Everyone around the world enjoyed it, and it was a great showcase of what we can look forward to in the 2000 Olympics."

Struggling A&M offense leads to UT loss in Austin

The University of Texas defeated the Texas A&M Football Team (10-2, 7-1) 26-24 Friday when UT placekicker Kris Stockton nailed a 24-yard field goal with five seconds left in the game. The loss ended A&M's 10-game winning streak which began against Louisiana Tech University.



NOTEBOOK
Jeff SCHMIDT

Downward Spiral
With the loss, A&M dropped to No. 10 in The Associated Press rankings. The Aggies also fell to eighth in the Bowl Championship Series ratings. Barring any devastating plane crashes in the Andes Mountains, A&M's slim national championship hopes fell to none.

The prevent prevents
A&M's 17-point comeback (from a 23-7 deficit to a 24-23 lead) would have been the largest comeback in school history.

However, with 2:20 left in the game and the Longhorns with the ball, the A&M coaching staff elected to use a prevent defense to stop Texas from hitting a big play. It worked.

Due to the 3-man rush, the Longhorns were able to buy UT quarterback Major Applewhite extra time and use short passes to drive down the field for the winning score.

A&M coach R. C. Slocum said if he had to do it over again, he might have made some different calls in that situation.

The Little "O," part three
The thorn in A&M's side just got bigger. The Aggies, struggling on offense all year, managed just 173 yards of total offense against a Texas defense

ranked near the bottom of the Big 12. Including sacks, A&M "gained" minus-7 yards on the ground.

"We've got to be more consistent on throwing and catching the ball [to beat Kansas State]," offensive coordinator Steve Kragthorpe said.

Junior quarterback Randy McCown said the Aggies played tentatively early on offense.

"We never really came out and established ourselves," McCown said. "We just never did get into the flow of things. We didn't turn it on until the end [of the game], when we had to."

Quagmire
Fans may have noticed all the Aggies slipping and sliding all over the Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium field. Although there had been no recordable rain in Austin for weeks prior to the game, the field was very wet.

The Aggies wore their normal 7-cleat shoes, but the Longhorns were better prepared. Slocum said the Longhorns wore shoes with 30 to 40 cleats, allowing for better footing.

Also, since UT running back Ricky Williams is a straight-ahead runner and quarterback Major Applewhite is a drop-back passer, the two used their techniques to prevent slippage.

A&M running backs Dante Hall and Sirr Parker had difficulty with their footing, and McCown, a runner and roll-out passer, also had problems.

Clean out the trophy case
Senior linebacker Dat Nguyen is a finalist for yet another prestigious award — the Bednarik Award. The award goes to the best all-around defensive player of the year. It is named after Hall of Famer and former two-way stalwart Chuck Bednarik.

Joining Nguyen as finalists are Ohio State University linebacker Andy Katzenmoyer and University of Florida linebacker Jevon Kearse.

SEE FOOTBALL ON PAGE 10.

Clemens: Rocket wants clearance for Toronto liftoff

NEW YORK (AP) — Available: The only time Cy Young Award winner. Price: Negotiable.

Roger Clemens, angered the Toronto Blue Jays will not spend enough money to field a contender next season, told the team Wednesday he wants to be traded, and the club said it will comply.

"This is certainly not done with any acrimony or with any anger on either side," Blue Jays general manager Gord Ash said.

He added the team will make every effort to complete a deal within 10 days. When Clemens signed with the Blue Jays in December 1996, team president Paul Beeston said if Clemens did not think Toronto could contend and asked for a trade, the Blue Jays would deal him.

Beeston left the Blue Jays during the 1997 season to become baseball's chief operating officer, but Ash said he will honor Beeston's commitment.

"It's a two-prong situation," Ash said. "There's a desire to be closer to home or with a club that has a better chance to provide him with a World Series ring."

The World Series champion New York Yankees, Houston Astros and Texas Rangers are considered the top contenders to land the 36-year-old right-hander.

Ash visited Clemens at his home in Katy, Texas, outside Houston last week along with the Blue Jays' two assistant general managers, Dave Stewart and Tim McCleary.

"There was a lot of listening," Ash said. The team's owner, the Belgian company Interbrew SA, does not want to spend as much money on players as the Yankees,

Baltimore or Boston.

Clemens became discouraged when the Blue Jays did not make a competitive offer to retain Jose Canseco, who hit 46 homers and drove in 107 runs this year.

Toronto was 88-74 last season, finishing four games behind Boston in the wild-card race.

The Blue Jays' biggest needs include a power-hitting outfielder, a third baseman and, like most clubs, a top starting pitcher.

Randy Hendricks, who represents Clemens, telephoned Ash on Wednesday to make the demand.

"There's a tendency to look at the bottom line, that you have only \$40 million or \$43 million and say you have no chance," Ash said, referring to his payroll range.

"I think you have to look a little deeper. You don't need to be at \$60 million to compete."

ATTENTION ALL DEAD ELEPHANTS CLASS OF 1999!

DECEMBER 4 BY 5:00 P.M. IS THE LAST DAY TO HAVE YOUR SENIOR PICTURE TAKEN FOR THE 1999 AGGIELAND YEARBOOK.

AR PHOTOGRAPHY IS NOW TAKING SENIOR PICTURES FOR THE YEARBOOK. AR IS LOCATED IN THE REDMOND TERRACE CENTER BETWEEN JASON'S DELI AND ACADEMY.

REGULAR AND EXTENDED SITTINGS ARE AVAILABLE.

HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00-12:00 AND 1:30-5:00. PLEASE CALL 693-8183 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

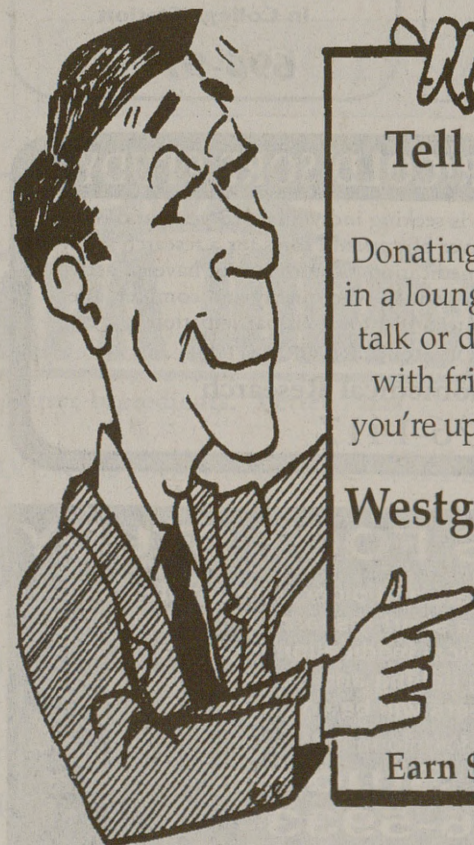
U.S. OPEN

SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS • DEC. 3-5, 1998 • TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

December 3-5
Prelims at 9:00 a.m.
Finals at 6:00 p.m.

Tickets:
845-2311
1-888-99-AGGIE

Texas A&M University
Natatorium in the
Student Rec Center



Tell your Friends

Donating Plasma, you sit back in a lounge chair & read, study, talk or dream in a place filled with friends. In 60 minutes you're up & away, cash in hand.

Westgate Biologicals

700 University Dr.
268-6050

Come...it's that easy.

Earn \$45 in the 1st week!