

## Aggies host 12th-ranked Cowboys

BY JASON LINCOLN  
The Battalion

With a full four days between games, the Texas A&M men's basketball team had plenty of time to recuperate from a loss to No. 8 University of Kansas. With the break behind them the Aggies prepare for their fourth Top 20 opponent in only its fifth conference game.

The young Aggie squad will face one of its toughest battles yet Saturday, as they go up against the veteran squad of the 12th-ranked Oklahoma State University Cowboys.

"They are a veteran team, that's for certain...." A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins said. "Their number one strength is experience."

With six returning seniors that have a combined 14 seasons of experience, the Cowboys have the knowledge and expertise at each position to dominate the Aggie freshmen.

Leading Oklahoma State is senior forward Desmond Mason who is averaging over 18 points and seven rebounds per game. Mason is also coming off a 30-point night in the Cowboys win over No. 14 University of Texas on Wednesday.

Oklahoma State senior Brian Montonati has also

been making strides inside during the conference season averaging 13 points-per-game.

The key for the Aggies will come from the guards. Oklahoma State's aggressive inside game plays right into the strength of A&M's perimeter play. Matched up against veteran point guard Doug Gottlieb and shooting guard Joe Adkins, Aggie freshmen Jamaal Gilchrist and Bernard King will have a challenge to capitalize on OSU's weakness.

"Just like always, we have to make sure we value the basketball," Watkins said. "One good thing for us is that they don't tend to pressure the passing lanes and that is one thing we've had trouble with. On the other hand, they get very stingy when you get in close and they don't let you get good looks at the basket."

"Our main key is to try and get a good shot every time down the floor and not turn the ball over. It really plays to the strength of our guards when we're not pressured so much. It helps us out and doesn't wear us down."

In 1999 conference action, Oklahoma State and A&M made for an exciting matchup. The Aggies lost both season matchups against the ranked Cowboys, but would battle OSU to the finish, losing by only five in each game.

"We did a pretty good job of matching up with

them last year," Watkins said. "Both games were pretty competitive, we positioned ourselves to have a chance to win and we just came up a little short each time. Hopefully, we'll go into this game with some confidence from last year, knowing that if we play good basketball, we have a chance to beat this team."

In the previous match-ups fatigue has been the biggest factor in the Aggies downfall.

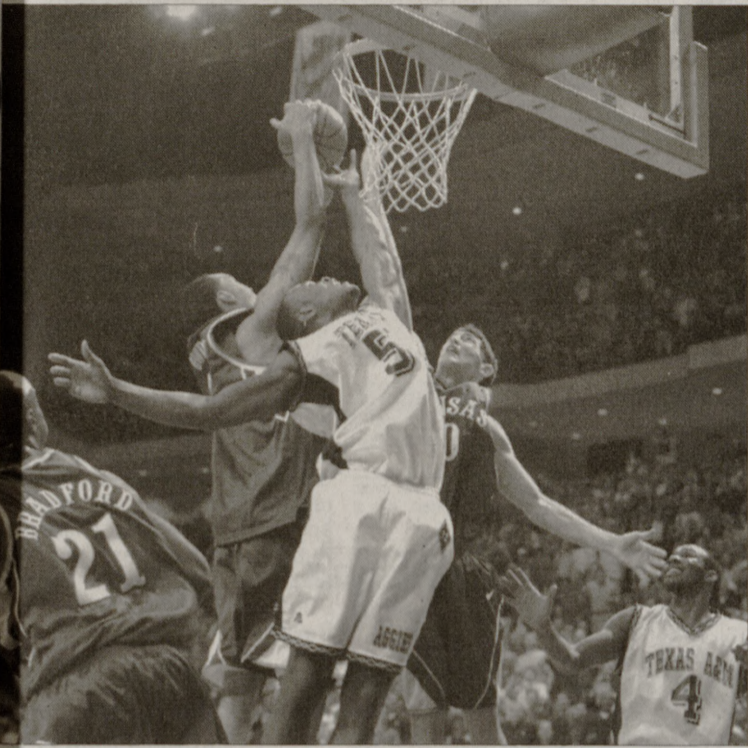
In home-court losses to UT and KU, Texas A&M has played right with their ranked opponents for the first half and the beginning of the second, before being outlasted by opponents with deeper benches and more experience.

"I think we've played for spurts, if we can manufacture that for a little longer than twenty minutes, we like our chances."

That is just what the Aggies did in their one conference win. Texas A&M kept Texas Tech University within striking distance last Saturday, enabling Andy Leatherman to win the game with a last second bucket.

The Aggies also hope to capitalize on a strong home court advantage at Reed Arena. In A&M's loss to the Jayhawks on national television, the Aggies

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GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Aggies A&M senior forward Jerald Brown goes up for a rebound against the University of Kansas Monday night at Reed Arena.

## Ags head to Nebraska

BY REECE FLOOD  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team will try to earn its second Big 12 Conference win of the season when it travels to Lincoln, Neb. tomorrow for a 7 p.m. showdown against the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers (2-2, 8-7).

The Aggies (1-4, 9-6) started the season off with a bang when they tallied a 8-2 non-conference record and went on to win their first conference game against Baylor University.

But things started going downhill when they lost the next four games to Oklahoma State University, the University of Oklahoma, Kansas State University, and the University of Colorado.

Coach Peggy Gillom said she does

not think A&M is being outmatched by superior teams, it is simply not executing to the level it is capable of.

"We've scouted the other teams very well and we tend to get their plays and do whatever," Gillom said. "But we haven't been doing our thing very well."

The "thing" the Aggies hope to do tomorrow night is to take advantage of Nebraska's weaker supporting cast.

"I don't think they have as strong a bench as they've had in the past," Gillom said. "We're hoping that our bench can come out and out-produce their bench."

In order for that to happen, the Aggies will have to improve on putting points on the board. In their last game against Colorado, the Aggies only managed to make

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## A&M men's and women's swim teams face off against Jayhawks

BY BLAINE DIONNE  
The Battalion

Y2K has been good to the Texas A&M men's and women's swimming teams. The 15th-ranked men and the 22nd-ranked women began the new millennium with first-place finishes at their meet in Boca Raton, Fla., beating the University of Nebraska, Florida Atlantic University and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.

The men went on to place third in their next meet, the annual Dallas Morning News Invitational.

"Our guys were ready to swim," assistant men's coach Jay Holmes said. "At the Dallas Morning News meet last weekend every team there was ranked in the top twenty, and we wound up getting third up there, so we were really good in places."

The areas in which the Aggies did well did

not appear until the second day of the Invitational, when they were in danger of finishing fifth in the final standings.

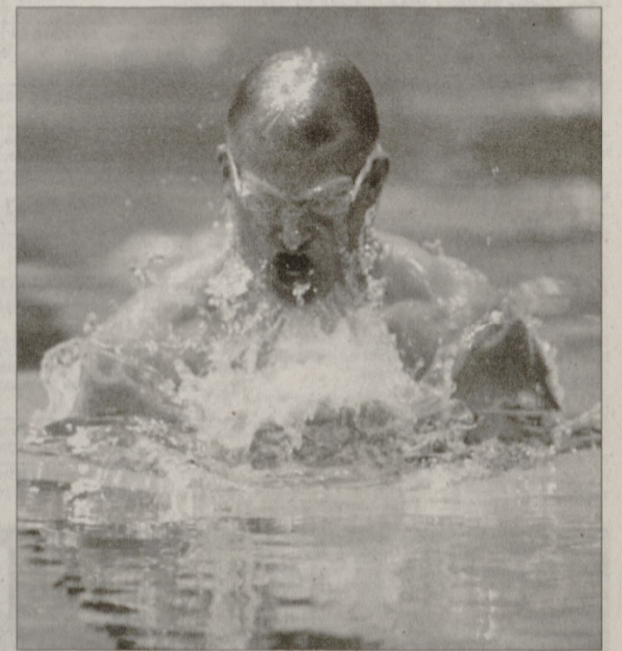
The 400-yard freestyle relay team of Scott Taylor, Erik Toth, Riley Janes and David Morrow made sure that would not happen, taking first place with a time of 3:00.42.

Morrow then raced to an individual first place in the 100-yard freestyle, beating the competition by seven-tenths of a second with a time of 44.49. Janes took second place in the 200-yard backstroke in 1:49.57, and Patrick Kennedy took first place in the consolation heat of the 200-yard back, clocking a time of 1:53.54.

In the diving portion of the meet, Jesse Even placed fourth in the three-meter springboard.

Holmes said Morrow's first-place finishes helped solidify his status as one of the

See SWIM on Page 10.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's and women's swimming teams host the University of Kansas Jayhawks Saturday.

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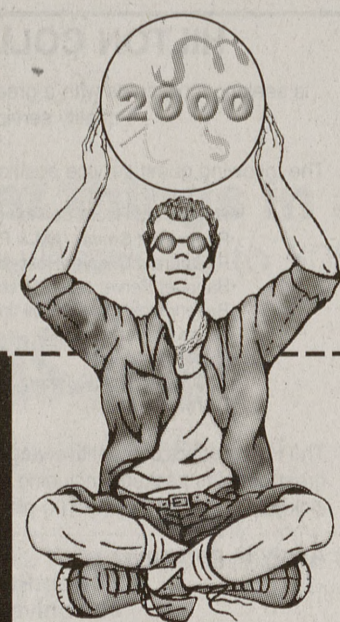
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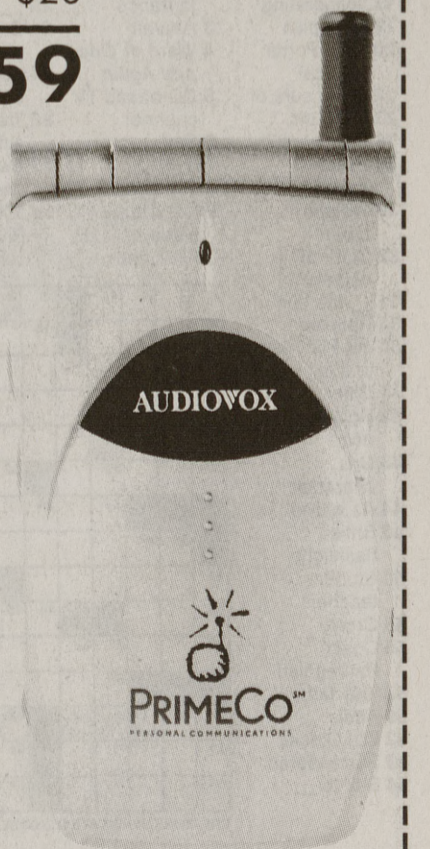
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