

OSU win only start of Watkins' plan



GUY ROGERS/THE BATTALION

A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins applauds the crowd after Saturday's 64-59 win over Oklahoma State University.

Melvin Watkins came to A&M with a dream. He envisioned the Aggies giving the Big 12 powerhouses all they could handle in front of huge Reed Arena crowds, maybe even on national television.



AL LAZARUS

Watkins accomplished all of those things — in one week.

Excuse the Aggies' coach if he asks to be pinched. After a respectable showing against No. 8 Kansas last Monday — in front of 12,175 Reed Rowdies and a national television audience — the Aggies stunned No. 12 Oklahoma State on Saturday, 64-59.

"We hope that this is the beginning of what Aggie basketball will be about," Watkins said. "That we won't be so shocked when we do beat a ranked team."

You have to dig pretty far into the Aggies' record books to find their last victory over a ranked team. All the way back to 1987, to be exact, when A&M defeated No. 15 TCU in the first round of the SWC tournament.

The eighth-seeded Aggies went on to win that tournament, but such glorious moments have come few and far between since then. The program floundered for most of the '90s and was desperately in need of a change by the time Watkins arrived last season.

"A&M has made a decision to get better," OSU coach Eddie Sutton said. "They have a beautiful arena and many things to

sell when they go recruiting. Their coaches are doing a great job."

A&M freshman point guard Jamaal Gilchrist said while the Aggies were thrilled to get a win over OSU, they remain focused on the big picture.

"This is my first time beating a ranked opponent, and it feels good," Gilchrist said. "But in the future, [we] want to be one of the ranked teams."

With one top-20 recruiting class in the fold and another on the way, Gilchrist's wish may be fulfilled shortly. Watkins and his staff seem determined to build a strong team from the ground up, instead of going for the quick fix by loading the team with junior-college transfers.

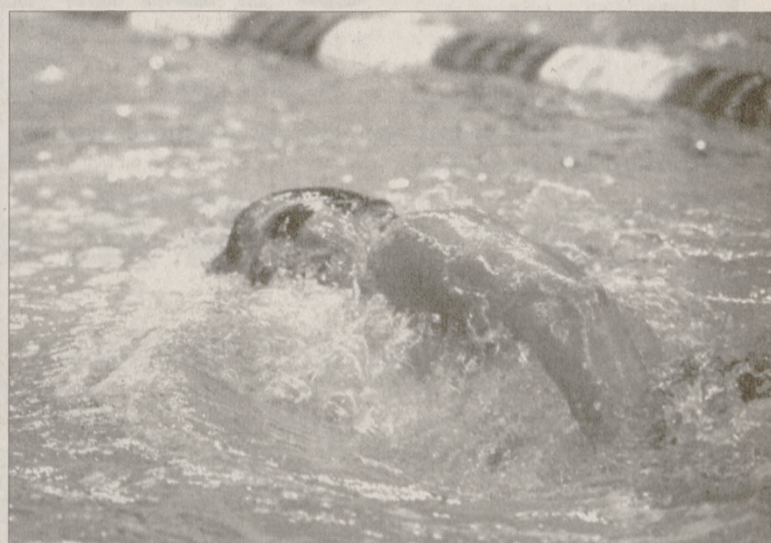
As fans stormed the court in the wake of Saturday's upset, Watkins stood apart from the mob, applauding those in the stands. It was his way of thanking the crowd and acknowledging its role in A&M becoming a school known for basketball as well as football. He's doing his part, and the fans seem to be intent on holding up their end of the bargain.

Watkins hurried out of his postgame news conference, explaining he had a long night of recruiting ahead of him. Instead of pausing even a minute to celebrate A&M's biggest victory in over a decade, he was concerned only with the next task at hand.

In one week, Watkins saw his dream of A&M's future become reality.

The scary thing is, he's just getting warmed up.

Al Lazarus is a senior journalism major.



PATRIC SCHNEIDER/THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's and women's swimming teams defeated the University of Kansas Saturday at the Student Rec Center Natatorium.

Swim teams begin spring with victory

BY BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

tioned was set by freshman Amy Osmun in the 200-yard backstroke.

If getting to know an opponent is essential to defeating them, then the Texas A&M men's and women's swimming and diving teams should have no problem with the University of Kansas at the Big 12 Championship meet.

That meeting will mark the third time the two schools will have locked horns this season, the second being Saturday at the Student Rec Center Natatorium, with the Aggie women defeating Kansas 163-132 and the men winning 165-123.

The victories pushed the Aggies' season dual meet records to 6-1 and 5-1, respectively.

A&M women's swimming coach Steve Bultman said he was very pleased with the way his swimmers performed.

"The girls swam great," Bultman said. "We had a lot of season-best times, we had a couple of lifetime-best times and we had one school record, so that was super."

The school record Bultman men-

tioned was set by freshman Amy Osmun in the 200-yard backstroke. One of the pre-meet concerns Bultman had was the way his distance swimmers would respond to the continued absence of one of his team captains, senior Tracy Evans.

"They (the A&M distance swimmers) swam, but Kansas was a little too strong for us there," Bultman said. "But they swam season-best times, so we can't complain about that."

Other first-place finishes for the Aggie women were in the 200-yard medley, with freshman Sharise Blau, senior Monica Stroman and sophomores Clara Ho and Kelly Bolton bringing home the hardware. Senior Monica Williams took first in the 200-meter freestyle Osmun in the 100-meter backstroke, Ho in the 200-meter butterfly and Burton in the 50-meter freestyle.

The men were paced by the continued success of junior David Morrow and sophomore Riley Janes.

See SWIM on Page 12.

'Huskers continue Aggies' losing streak, 74-71

BY REECE FLOOD
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team struggled early in its fifth straight Big 12 Conference loss to the University of Nebraska, 74-71.

A&M struggled with shooting and turnovers in the first half, but proved they could turn things around in the second half and compete with a good team.

The first half saw A&M shoot 33 percent and turn

the ball over 17 times. The game started with the Aggies missing their first four shots, allowing Nebraska to take a 7-0 lead.

But the Aggies appeared to come out as an entirely different team in the second half by holding on to the ball and shooting 52 percent. They even took their first lead of the game early in the half after senior forward Kera Alexander made a timely layup.

The lead was traded back and forth between the two teams before Nebraska went on an 11-0 run late in the

second half. Sophomore guard LaToya Rose and junior forward Jaynetta Saunders had key three-point plays to keep the Aggies in the game.

Saunders led the game with 21 points, while senior forward Prissy Sharpe tallied 15. Rose grabbed 14 points, including four three-pointers.

A&M's record is now 9-7, 1-5 in the Big 12, while Nebraska improved its record to 9-7, 3-2.

The Aggies return home to play the University of Oklahoma in Reed Arena on Wednesday at 7 p.m.

Intramurals Rec Fitness Aquatics Golf Course TAMU Outdoors Sport Clubs

Spring Excitement

Challenge

Team

Power

Work and Play Everyday!

INTRAMURALS	REGISTRATION	REC FITNESS	JOB OPPORTUNITIES
Pre-Season Basketball	Jan. 24-Feb. 1	• On Sale Now —Unlimited Aerobics Passes \$50. Fitness Punch Passes \$15, \$30, or \$45. One class pass \$2.	PHOTOGRAPHERS Typical duties include photographing Rec Sports events and activities and some studio work. Applications available in Room 202, in the Rec Center. For more information call Angela Stanton-Anderson at 845-1001.
Basketball	Jan. 24-Feb. 1	• Ski Conditioning —8 weeks of conditioning. Jan. 18-March 9, Tue. & Thurs. from 7:00-8:00pm in room 304. Classes are \$2 each or buy a punch pass or use your Unlimited Aerobics Pass. Contact DeAun Woosley at 862-3995 for more information.	MAINTENANCE WORKER Maintenance worker for indoor sport facility, equipment and Penberthy. Fill out an application in room 202, in the Rec Center.
Outdoor Soccer	Jan. 24-Feb. 1	• Yoga —\$45 for 10 weeks. Feb. 1-April 13, Tue. & Thurs. from 4:00-5:00pm in room 303.	CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER Experience preferred. Will accept the following certifications: ACE, ACSM, NSCA, Sam Houston State University, and AFAA. Applications in room 202.
Basketball/Outdoor Soccer Official Orientation Clinic	Jan. 24 7:00pm 281 Rec.	• Beginning Karate —\$45 for 10 weeks. Jan. 31-April 12, Mon. & Wed. from 6:00-7:00pm in room 303.	AQUATICS
TAMU OUTDOORS	EVENT DATE REGISTRATION	• Advanced Karate —\$45 for 10 weeks. Jan. 31-April 12, Mon. & Wed. from 7:10-8:10pm & Fri. from 5-6pm. in room 303.	Intro to Competitive Diving Jan. 24-27 & Jan. 31-Feb. 3
Intro to Rock Climbing Clinic	Feb. 5 Jan. 18-	• Tai Chi —\$25 for 5 weeks. Feb. 1-March 2, Tue. & Thurs. from 7:45-9:00pm. Free demo. Jan. 29 from 1-2pm in room 303.	Adult Learn to Swim Jan. 31-Feb. 3 & Feb. 7-10
Lead Climbing at the Rec	Feb. 12 Jan. 18-	• Kung Fu —\$25 for 5 weeks. Jan. 31-March 1, 6-7pm. Mon. & Wed.	
Intro to Rock Climbing Clinic	Feb. 13 Jan. 24-	• F.R.E.S.H. Start —This 10 week weight management program will provide the basic information you need to establish a balanced exercise and eating plan. Registration Jan. 18-Feb. 7. \$30 for Rec Members & \$50 for non Members.	
Back to School Sale—Jan. 24-Feb. 4. 10% off all Rock Climbing Equipment Packages and 10% off all chalk bags and selected climbing t-shirts.		• Massage Therapy —\$35 for Rec Members and \$45 for non Rec Members. Appointments can be made at Member Services.	
		For more information stop by the Member Service Desk in the Rec.	



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