

Men's swim team hosts No. 1 'Horns

BY MATT LAGESSE
The Battalion

Following a physically draining practice Wednesday, Texas A&M swim team captain David Morrow beamed a look of confidence as he discussed his preparation for Saturday's match-up against the top-ranked University of Texas Longhorns at the Student Rec Center Natatorium.

"I am looking forward to swimming against UT," Morrow said, "It is going to be some of the best competition I face until conference and NCAA. We know that when we face UT we have to be at our best."

Thus far teams across the nation are finding that their "best swim" may not suffice as Texas has yet to lose a meet this year, enabling them to retain sole possession of the top ranking in the country.

The 15th-ranked Aggies have also proven to be a formidable force with a 6-1 overall record including a 129-114 victory Jan. 28 against LSU.

Devout adversaries in any other arena of NCAA competition, Morrow says that Texas A&M and University of Texas swim teams share a genuine respect for one another both in and out of the pool.

"We are friends with a lot of them," Morrow said, "After the meet is over we talk a little bit have fun and joke around with them, and when we are not

competing we root for each other."

Morrow also said that, ironically, members from both teams, in some instances, wind up becoming teammates when they compete on national squads.

Since the arrival of head coach Eddie Reese in 1979, the Longhorns have been a mainstay at the top of the swimming rankings.

Under the direction of Reese, Texas has captured five of the last 12 NCAA championships and has produced 13 Olympians.

A&M men's swimming coach Mel Nash said that Saturday's meet should provide an indication to how the Aggies compare to the rest of the swimming elite around the country.

"We have some places where we are extremely competitive and Saturday's meet is a great measuring stick for us to see where we stand relative to the rest of the country."

In the past this friendly rivalry has been one sided as the Longhorns, with Reese at the helm, have never fallen in a dual meet versus the Aggies.

Nash said that in order for the Aggies pull off the upset his team must concentrate their efforts on staying competitive throughout the meet.

"It is definitely an uphill battle for us against Texas," Nash said, "This may be their best team ever it is comparable to their late 1980's teams which won three NCAA championships in a row."



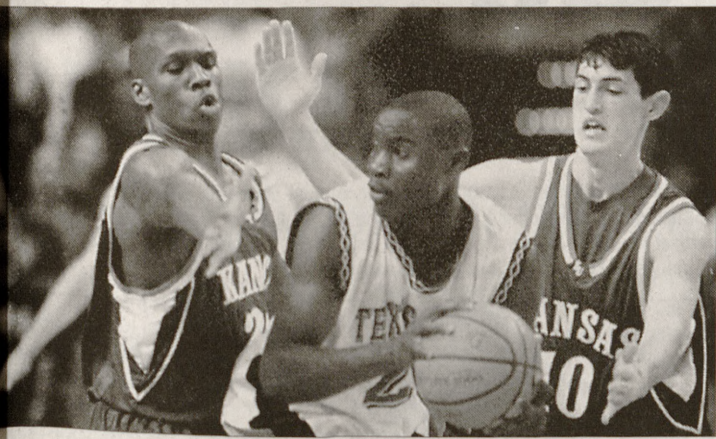
A&M junior David Morrow starts his 100-meter butterfly race. A&M hosts top-ranked University of Texas this Saturday.

JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

"We do have some places where we are stronger than they are and we need to take our wins event by event."

Along with featuring some of the elite swimmers in the nation, the meet

also serves as a prelude to the Big 12 Swimming and Diving Championships, scheduled to be held at the Natatorium March 2-4. The meet is scheduled to start at 1 p.m.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M junior forward Carlton Brown looks pass the ball against the University of Kansas Jan. 17 at Reed Arena.

Ags look to end skid against Colorado

BY AL LAZARUS
The Battalion

Maybe the fifth time will be the charm.

Winless in its four games since a Jan. 22 victory over Oklahoma State, the Texas A&M men's basketball team (6-1, 2-7 Big 12) will look to end its skid Saturday at Reed Arena against the University of Colorado (13-9, 4-6 Big 12). Tipoff is set for 5 p.m.

The Aggies are coming off a brutal six game stretch in which they faced Kansas, Iowa State, Missouri and Oklahoma State twice. The one game of the stretch that promised to provide a little lifting class would be a Feb. 2 contest against Baylor, ended with an 81-75 A&M loss.

After a 32-point loss to Oklahoma State last Saturday, the Aggies were not in position this week — a break sorely needed, A&M coach Melvin Watkins said.

"We gave the team a couple of days off to get back to their studies and rest their legs a little bit," Watkins said.

The Aggies likely will be without the services of senior forward Jerald Brown, who has missed A&M's last three games with a broken bone in his left hand. Watkins attributes the Aggies' current losing streak partly to Brown's absence.

"I thought we were really turning the corner and beginning to play some good basketball," he said. "Now, with Jerald out, our rotation's changed again and that makes it difficult."

Like the Aggies, the Buffaloes are entering an easier portion of their schedule. With only two ranked opponents remaining in its final seven games, CU is poised to make a run at the NCAA tournament with a strong finish.

Colorado coach Ricardo Patton said the Buffaloes know better than to look at Saturday's game as an easy win.

"We've got to certainly play well on the road against Texas A&M," Patton said. "I'm sure Texas A&M is looking at Colorado like, 'hey this is a team we can beat.' It would be foolish for us to think there are any easy games left on our schedule."

The Buffaloes, who have won only two road games this season, are coming off a 70-58 victory over Nebraska Tuesday in Boulder, Colo.

Halftime of Saturday's game will feature a ceremony honoring A&M's 1980 men's team, which defeated North Carolina in the NCAA tournament before falling to eventual national champion Louisville in the Sweet Sixteen. The Aggies finished the season 26-8.

No. 18 Wildcats travel to face women's tennis team

BY BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

When the Northwestern University women's tennis team left Chicago's O'Hare International Airport Thursday morning, there was a frigid 15 degree wind chill in the air accompanied with a stiff northeasterly wind.

When they landed at College Station's Easterwood Interstate Airport Thursday evening, they were greeted with a balmy 78-degree February spring day accompanied by what should be stiff competition from a hungry court opponent in the Texas A&M Aggies.

The Aggies will take on the Wildcats at the Varsity Tennis Center at 3:30 p.m. today.

Their match with the Wildcats marks the beginning of a full weekend for the Aggies, who also will travel to Baton Rouge to face the Louisiana State University Tigers on Sunday.

First thing is always first, though, and head coach Bobby Kleinecke said he is excited about getting 18th-ranked NU on his home court.

"I think this is a great opportunity for us," Kleinecke said. "It's a challenge, there's no doubt about it. But it's an opportunity more than anything else and that's what you look for

at this time of year."

After their dual meet last weekend against Sam Houston State and Stephen F. Austin, which featured more than a few rusty performances, the Aggies will need to be more than just confident to take advantage of this "opportunity."

Kleinecke said he was aware of his players' knowledge and he tried to use it in his pre-match planning.

"We talked to them about the game plans and what we're looking to do against Northwestern," he said. "We just verified with them what they thought and disagreed or agreed with some of the things and we were pretty close, so I feel pretty good about it. Now it's just a matter of going out and doing it on the court."



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Liberal Arts Career Week & Career Fair 2000

Special Events

<p>Thursday, February 17</p>	<p>Alumni Forum 6:00-8:00 p.m. Reed Arena Social 8:00-9:00 p.m. Reed Arena</p>
<p>Friday, February 18</p>	<p>Career Fair 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Rudder Exhibit Hall</p>

Workshops

<p>Monday, February 14</p>	<p>Resume Writing 7:00-8:15 p.m. Rudder 410</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 15</p>	<p>Interviewing 7:00-8:15 p.m. Rudder 510</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 16</p>	<p>Networking 7:00-8:15 p.m. Rudder 410</p>