

Ags place 2nd at Championships

BY BLAINE DIONNE
The Battalion

"Remember boys, no points for second place."
While this nugget of advice from the movie *Top Gun* may have held true for Maverick and Goose, it could not have been further from the truth for the Texas A&M women's swimming and diving team on Saturday night.

It was then that the Aggies were officially made the sole proprietor of second place at this year's Big 12 Championship meet, held at the Student Rec Center Natatorium.

While second place is not exactly the most glamorous of finishes in most situations — silver medals do not make people swell up with as much pride as a gold at the Olympics and losing the Super Bowl has never gotten any football player a visit to the White House — this finish symbolizes the latest in the slow but steady developments of successful athletic programs at Texas A&M besides football and baseball.

Before this past weekend, the closest the A&M women's swimming and diving team had gotten to first place at the Big 12 meet was in 1998 when they finished almost 300 points behind champion the University of Nebraska and runner-up the University of Texas.

This year, while the Aggies had no real chance of overtaking the eventual champion Texas, they were forced to fight tooth and nail against the Cornhuskers for second place, eventually pulling away by virtue of a stellar 2-3-4-5 platform diving finish by Danielle Guarneri, Katie Williams, Meghan Zack and Callie Petroff.

Nebraska had no divers in the final competition, allowing the Aggies to gain a substantial lead they would not relinquish in the final race of the evening, the 400 yard freestyle relay, once again finishing second to Texas.

Out of all the success the Aggies enjoyed this weekend however, they only produced one individual Big 12 champion, Clara Ho in the 200-yard butterfly.

Ho said she hopes her time will be good enough to send her to the NCAA Championships.

"I am excited about it [the winning time]," Ho said. "Hopefully that time will make it in [to the NCAA's]."

On her team victory, Ho said she was glad to be a part of the breakthrough year.

"It's very exciting," she said. "That's a big move-up for us, I'm proud of our team."

A&M women's swimming coach Steve Bultman, in his first year at A&M, said he could not be happier for his team.

"We're really excited about it," Bultman said. "When I came in, one of my goals was to obviously get



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore swimmer Clara Ho swims in the 200-yard butterfly in the Big 12 Championships. The Aggies finished second, their highest-ever finish in the championships.

The swimmers to swim better and to eventually contend for a Big 12 title and to come up and get second right now, the whole team is elated by it."

One downpoint about the meet for A&M was the fact that they did not automatically qualify anyone for the Big 12 title and to come up and get second right now, the whole team is elated by it."

"We feel like we have two swimmers that will go for sure and we have a bunch on the bubble," Bultman said. "We're going to go to a last chance meet next week in Austin and hopefully we can get a couple of other ones to get a little better and see what we can do."

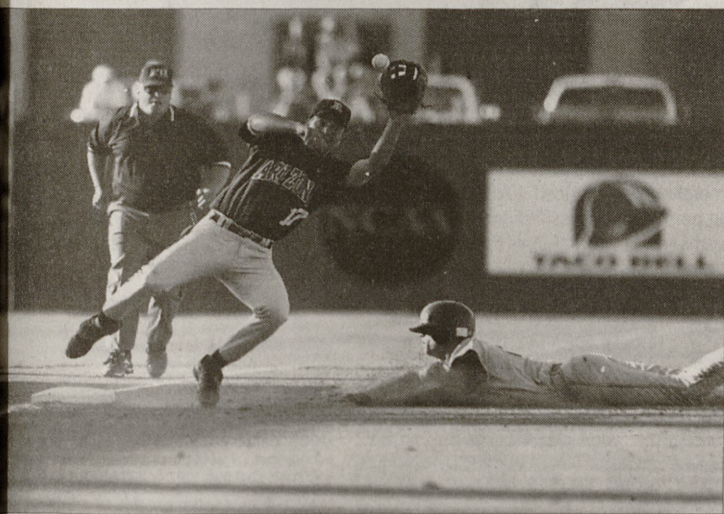
One team that had no shortage of qualifiers was champion UT. The Longhorns took 16 firsts of 21

events, a dominating performance that Texas women's swimming coach Jill Sterkel said she was surprised about.

"I didn't expect we could have done this good," Sterkel said. "We're very young and I think we're going to get a lot better over the next few years, taking us back to where I want us to be on the national level."

According to Sterkel, the most important aspect of her team's win was their cohesiveness as a unit.

"I think that the way we supported each other, the way they kept racing, the way they kept focused, they still didn't lose sight of what we needed to accomplish," Sterkel said. "I think that's a credit to a great team."



CHAD ADAMS/THE BATTALION

Baseball team takes 2 of 3 from Arizona

BY DOUG SHILLING
The Battalion

Coming into this weekend, the Texas A&M baseball team desperately wanted to start a winning streak.

After beginning the season with seven of its first eight games on the road, the team thought getting back to Olsen would be the perfect remedy to get them on a roll.

They were right — it just took one game longer than expected.

After dropping the first game of their series against the University of Arizona Wildcats, the Aggies came back and won the last two games to win the three-game series against the Wildcats.

A&M baseball coach Mark Johnson said the team battled back and accomplished its goals in the series.

"Winning two out of three is something we needed to do," Johnson said. "It gives us a chance to grow with some positive thoughts. After a Friday night loss, a lot of teams will stumble and fall, particularly after our start."

"I thought we came back and played hard Saturday and played hard today

and did some things well. We're doing some things better at the plate, we're not all there yet but we're giving ourselves a chance to win."

The Aggies (5-6) jumped on the Wildcats (10-8) early in the rubber game of the series Sunday.

A&M left fielder Carlos Sepulveda got the Aggies on the board in the second inning when he hit a single that scored junior designated hitter Jeff Freeman. Sepulveda later scored on a single by sophomore third baseman Greg Porter that made the score 2-0.

A&M broke the game open the next inning with four runs to increase its lead to 6-0.

A&M freshman catcher Rusty Meyer got the big hit for the Aggies in the inning when he got a single with the bases loaded that scored Sepulveda and junior right fielder Daylan Holt.

A&M senior second baseman Sean Heaney said jumping on the Wildcats early was imperative for the Aggies.

"I think that was key, especially early in the game," Heaney said. "Coming

See SERIES on Page 7.

Intramurals Rec Fitness Aquatics Golf Course TAMU Outdoors Sport Clubs

KYLE FIELD RAMP ROMP

It's not TOO LATE to join the FUN!

Work and Play Everyday

TAMU OUTDOORS	EVENT DATE	REGISTRATION	REC FITNESS	INTRAMURALS	REGISTRATION
Backpacking Pedernales Falls	Feb. 25-27	Feb. 7-22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal Fitness Profile—Fitness assessment and body composition. \$10 if purchased with Personal Training Session or \$20 if purchased separately. Register at the Member Services Desk in the lobby of the Rec Center. Body Fat Assessment—\$5, Tue. & Thurs. from 2:30-4:00 p.m. F.I.T. Fitness Instructor Training—March 21-April 27, Tue. & Thurs. from 7-8:30pm. in room 304. This program is designed for the fitness enthusiast with limited or no experience instructing group exercise classes. Cost is \$50 for A&M affiliates with Rec Memberships, \$60 for Affiliates without Rec Memberships and \$70 for the general public. Register before March 17. FREE! 5 Ways to a Faster 5k—Wed. Feb. 23 from 5:30-6:30pm. in room 281. Susan Haven, Personal Trainer and Certified United States Track and Field certified coach will discuss ways to shave minutes off your time. Susan will give you proven training techniques of well known successful runners that will help you focus on the spring 5ks Susan will report on the success of the Rec Runners at the February 20th Austin Motorola Marathon and answer questions on marathon running. 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. 	Kyle Field Ramp Romp	Feb. 7-22
Intro to Rock Climbing	Feb. 26	Feb. 8-23		Badminton	Feb. 14-22
Lead Climbing at the Rec	Mar. 4	Feb. 9-Mar. 1		Pickleball	Feb. 14-22
Horseback and Hiking Day Trip	Mar. 4	Feb. 14-29	Sports Trivia Bowl	Feb. 14-22	
Caving Day Trip	Mar. 4	Feb. 14-29	4-on-4 Flag Football	Feb. 21-29	
TRIPS: SPRING BREAK			Sand Volleyball	Feb. 21-29	
Horsepack the Texas Frontier	Mar. 15-19	Jan. 24- Mar. 1	Squash	Feb. 21-29	
Sea Kayak the Texas Coast	Mar. 16-19	Jan. 24- Mar. 1	• Intramural sports registration closes at 6:00pm. on closing date.		
TRIP: MAY BREAK			JOB OPPORTUNITIES		
Rocky Mountain Climbing	May 20-27	Jan. 24- Apr. 25	<p>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.</p> <p>CERTIFIED PERSONAL TRAINER—Experience preferred. Will accept the following certifications: ACE, ACSM, NSCA, Sam Houston State University, and AFAA. Applications in room 202.</p>		
TRIP: AUGUST 2000			recsports.tamu.edu		
Sail & Dive the Bahamas	Aug. 19-25	NOW-June 15			

For Information call 845-7826 or Visit our Homepage recsports.tamu.edu Check out our flyers for more details on our programs.