

Aggies down 'Huskers in overtime

BY JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

Bernard King wasted no time closing out his stellar freshman season in style. Only one minute into the game, the Texas A&M guard hit his first three-pointer to open up scoring against Nebraska and all but seal the Big 12 Freshman of the Year crown.

Before all was said and done, King held the Big 12 freshman titles for most points scored (468) and most points per game (17.3), and tied for most three-pointers (79). The first two records exceeded Iowa State forward Marcus Fizer's 1997 marks of 447 points and 14.7 points per game, while the 79 threes tie Kansas guard Jeff Boschee's 1998 standard.

The A&M men's basketball team rallied behind King's 30 points and 10 rebounds Saturday in Reed Arena to close the regular season with an 83-76 overtime win over the Cornhuskers and secure the tenth seed in the Big 12 Tournament.

"It was a big game for the kids," A&M men's basketball coach Melvin Watkins said. "Although it was a nail biter, for us to go out with a win on our home court says a lot for those young men."

King had other motives for the win than making a statement for the Big 12 title—the freshman was taking care of the Aggie seniors. The four A&M seniors combined for 28 points, led by Jerald Brown with 11 points and Aaron Jack with nine. Jason Boeker and Paul Jacobs closed out the seniors' performance.

"They've played hard for us for four years," King said. "I just wanted to come out and get this game for them tonight, let them leave with a win."

Despite dominating the first 30 minutes of action Saturday, the Aggies could not maintain the pace. After

amassing a 13-point lead, A&M allowed Nebraska to come back and take a one-point lead into the final minutes.

"It could have gone either way right there," Jack said about Nebraska's comeback. "Its just the way the game goes."

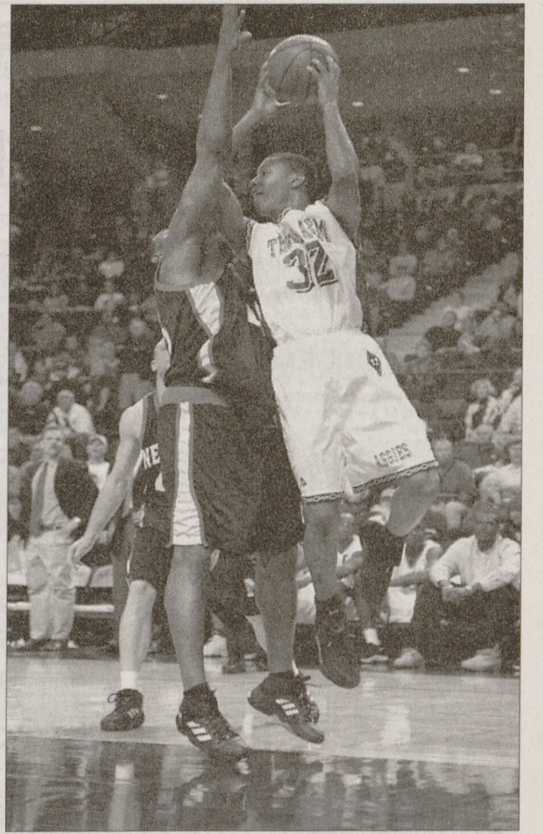
Nebraska was led early by senior Larry Florence and junior Kimani Ffriend with 12 and 11 points respectively. Yet sophomore Louis Truscott and junior Steffon Bradford would change the pace and bring the Cornhuskers right back into the mix. Truscott came off the bench to score 14, while Bradford had 20.

With Nebraska in the lead, freshman guard Jamaal Gilchrist sank a free throw for A&M to tie the game at 70 with one minute remaining. Nebraska would miss on their opportunity down the court, sacrificing the ball to A&M for the remainder of the game.

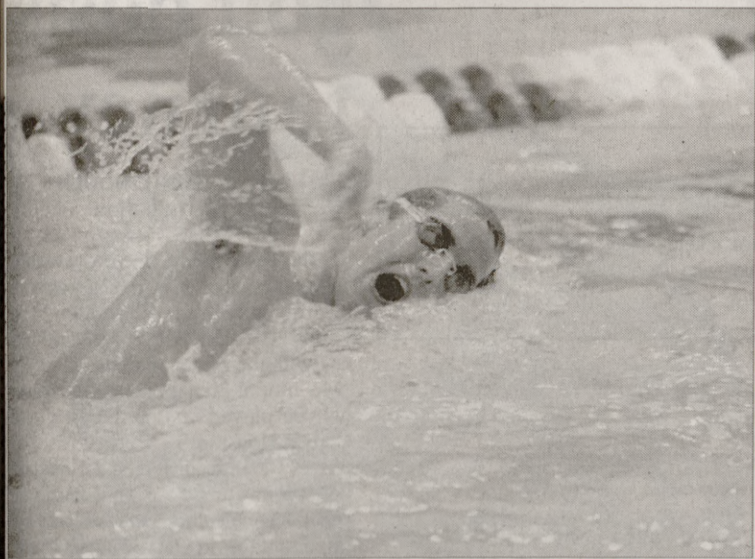
With Gilchrist at the point, the Aggies looked for the winning shot to close the game. First, Gilchrist looked for King on the perimeter, then to the big guys inside, back out to King—still no openings. The freshman was forced to take things into his own hands, slashing inside yet falling short of the basket. The Aggies were in overtime.

Gilchrist came through in overtime, converting the same slashing move inside to open up scoring and give the Aggies their final lead. The remainder of the team would step up in the overtime period, hitting 11 of 12 free throws to seal the win over Nebraska.

"I thought A&M just did a stellar job of hanging in there. King is a great freshman and they did enough things right to win the basketball game," Nebraska men's basketball coach Danny Nee said. "We just couldn't get in sync... but that's my problem. A&M did a really nice job of keeping their heads, playing hard and found a way to win the game."



SALLIE TURNER/THE BATTALION
A&M freshman guard Bernard King looks to pass the ball against the University of Nebraska.



JP BEATO/THE BATTALION

A&M junior David Morrow swims in the Big 12 Championships. The Aggies finished the competition in fourth place.

Ags place fourth at Big 12 Championships

BY MATT LAGESSE AND
JASON LINCOLN
The Battalion

clones began to brew.

Heading into the first event of the evening, ISU was clinging to a nine-point advantage over the Aggies.

A&M erased the deficit by the mid-competition when sophomore Patrick Kennedy finished second in the 200-yard backstroke. Kennedy established a new A&M record of 1:44.81 and an NCAA Championships consideration time.

"Having Pat Kennedy do what he did in the 200-yard backstroke was a year earlier than we expected," Texas A&M men's swimming coach Mel Nash said. "We now have six going to the NCAAs and that is one more than we thought we would have."

The Aggies' lead would be short-lived as ISU stormed back in the 200-yard butterfly with four swimmers scoring points.

A&M regained the lead with a pair of top-three performances in platform diving. Sophomore Jesse Even landed second place with 562.20, while freshman

See BIG 12 on Page 8.

Softball team places 2nd at Aggie Invitational II

BY BREE HOLZ
The Battalion

The Texas A&M softball team entered its final game of the GTE Aggie Invitational II in second place behind the University of New Mexico Lobos Sunday. The Aggies not only had to defeat the Lobos, but defeat them by three or more runs. They fell one run short.

The Aggies beat UNM 3-1 in their final game but lost in their first game on Saturday, 4-1.

A&M softball coach Jo Evans attributed the Aggies' only loss of the tournament to poor offense.

"I didn't like our approach at the plate at all," Evans said. "I didn't think we were patient or aggressive."

The Aggies and Lobos finished the tournament with a 5-1 record, while the University of Minnesota and the University of Mississippi finished at 1-5.

A&M (16-7) began the tournament on Friday with a 5-0 win over Ole Miss and a 3-1 victory over Minnesota. Junior pitcher Amy Vining threw a one-hitter against Ole Miss and freshman pitcher Kara Weikel gave up only two hits to Minnesota.

"I was really pleased with our pitching," Evans said. "Amy was in a groove, and our defense didn't have to make any tough plays."

"Kara got a good confidence boost in the second game," she said. "The thing she did that she hasn't done in the past was she threw her game."

The Aggies had no problem defeating Minnesota 4-0 in their second game on Saturday. Junior right fielder Tiffany Esters hit a two-run double in the fourth and A&M scored two more runs in the fifth to win.

On Sunday, Vining took the mound

for the Aggies once again against Ole Miss and led A&M to a 2-0 win. She gave up only four hits to move her record to 11-4.

Esters singled to center field to score sophomore second baseman Lisa Klám in the bottom of the fourth inning to put the Aggies' first point on the board. A&M struck again in the fifth when freshman catcher Selena Collins doubled to center field to score senior first baseman Angie Long.

The Aggies jumped to an early lead

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Intramurals Rec Fitness Aquatics Golf Course TAMU Outdoors Sport Clubs

REC SPORTS HAS IT ALL

Tranquility Inspiration Excitement

Work and Play Everyday

INTRAMURALS	REGISTRATION	REC FITNESS	TAMU OUTDOORS	EVENT DATE	REGISTRATION
Handball	Feb. 28-Mar. 7	ON SALE! March 19—Unlimited Aerobics Passes for \$25.	Rafting Day Trip	March 25	Feb. 28-
Swim Meet	Feb. 28-Mar. 9	E.I.T. Fitness Instructor Training —March 21-April 27, Tue. & Thurs. from 7-8:30pm. Class size is limited to 30. There are only 4 spaces left.	Weekend Canoeing	Mar. 25-26	Mar. 22
• Intramural sports registration closes at 6:00pm. on closing date		FREE! Understanding Your Relationship Partner —Wed., Mar. 8 from 5:30-6:30pm. in room 281. Dr. James Robinson, Professor and Interim Head of Social and Behavioral Health, will explain why men and women are so mysterious to each other. Honest, funny and extremely informative, this lecture will appeal to everyone. Come early!	Intro to Rock Climbing	Mar. 25	Mar. 1-22
AQUATICS	EVENT DATE	NSCA Exam Review (Session 1) —Sunday, March 26 from 7-9pm. Session 1 will cover client consultation and program planning.	Kayak Roll Clinic	Mar. 28	Feb. 28-
Adv. Competitive Diving	Mar. 20-23 & Mar. 27-30	Contact DeAun Woosley at 862-3995 for more information.	Bouldering/Rock Climbing Trip	Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Mar. 27
Adv. Adult Learn to Swim	Mar. 20-23 & Mar. 27-30	Kung Fu —\$25 for 5 weeks. March 29-May 1, 6-7pm. Mon. & Wed. Register from March 6-27.	Women's Fly Fishing	Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Feb. 28-
Lifeguard Training Instructor	April 3-8	Tai Chi —\$25 for 5 weeks. March 28-April 27, 7:45-9:00pm. Tue. & Thurs. Register from March 6-27.	Lead Climbing	April 1	Mar. 28
Basic SCUBA	April 3-6 & April 10-13	Swing —March 28-April 13, Tue. & Thurs., from 6:30-7:30pm. Register now until March 28 at 5pm.	Hiking Lost Pines Trail	April 2	Mar. 6-29
JOB OPPORTUNITIES		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.	Kayak Workshop	April 1-2	Feb. 28-
GRAPHIC LAYOUT ASSISTANT—Job Hunting after Spring Break? Start your search with Rec Sports. Applications available in Room 202. For more info. call Angela Stanton-Anderson at 845-1001 or visit our homepage.			Backpacking Lost Maples	April 7-9	Mar. 6-
			AGGIE PUMPFEST	April 8	April 4
					Feb. 15-
					April 8

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