

Women's swim team splits pair of meets

By JEREMY BROWN
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's swimming and diving team fell one race short of a sweep of the University of Houston and the University of Nebraska in dual meets this weekend at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium.



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After dominating Houston on Friday 170-120, A&M lost the dual meet to Nebraska on Saturday, 152-147.

"A couple of times [Nebraska] got first and we got second, third and fourth, but if we would have gotten a couple of more first places in there it would have made a huge difference," said A&M women's swimming coach Steve Bultman. "Actually, just one more would have made a huge difference."

The Aggies made it close despite winning only five of the 16 events. A&M's depth allowed it to have three swimmers score points in almost every event.

The dominance of the A&M divers also played a big part in keeping the meet close.

Junior Meghan Zack won the one-meter and three-meter springboard diving events, making her the only A&M woman to win two individual events against Nebraska. She had a career-best score in the three-meter springboard.

The rest of the A&M divers had a good meet as well, allowing Nebraska to only get one diver in the

top five in each diving event.

Sophomore Shariisse Blau in the 200-yard freestyle and junior Clara Ho in the 100-yard butterfly were the only other Aggie swimmers to win individual events.

Ho was competing for the first time since contracting pneumonia earlier this winter.

"It has been hard for me to deal with being away from the team," Ho said. "It's good to be back with everyone."

Freshman Michelle Bird, junior Michelle Riggins, sophomore Monica Nichols and Blau gave A&M its only other win by barely edging out Nebraska in the 400-yard freestyle relay.

While the meet against Nebraska was close, the Houston meet was a blowout.

By winning 12 of the first 13 events, A&M jumped out to a large lead over Houston, making the final three swims exhibitions.

Some of the A&M swimmers accumulated points despite competing in events they do not normally compete in.

"I thought it would be closer than that but the girls really stepped up," Bultman said. "We had a lot of season-best times."

The A&M women have one dual meet left against Rice on Thursday at the Rec Center Natatorium.

After the Rice matchup, the women will begin preparing for the Big 12 Championships on Feb. 15-17 in Austin.

"Basically, most of the hard work is done," Bultman said. "Now we start sharpening up and doing a little more focus on speed and base things, let them rest a little bit, and go to conference."

Saunders leads Aggies over Bears

A&M women defeat Top 25 opponent for first time since 1996

By BRIAN RUFF
The Battalion

The Texas A&M women's basketball team overcame a 41-point performance by Baylor's Danielle Crockrom to send the 25th-ranked Baylor Bears packing, 87-81, at Reed Arena on Saturday.

The game featured the Big 12 conference's top three scorers, and they did not disappoint, accounting for more than half of the matchup's scoring.

Senior forward Jaynetta Saunders had her best offensive performance at home this season, scoring 34 points and hauling in 11 rebounds. Defensively, Saunders also had four blocks and two steals on the afternoon.

"Jaynetta needed to hit those shots, and she did," said A&M women's basketball coach Peggie Gillom.

Baylor (13-3, 2-3 in Big 12) had two offensive standouts in the game. Junior point guard Sheila Lambert, the nation's third leading scorer, had 22 points and 12 assists on the day.

Crockrom was the leading scorer in the contest with a career-high 41 points and 22 rebounds. Her 22 rebounds were the most by a player at Reed Arena.

In the first half of play the Aggies (12-5, 2-4) battled back and forth down the floor with Baylor.

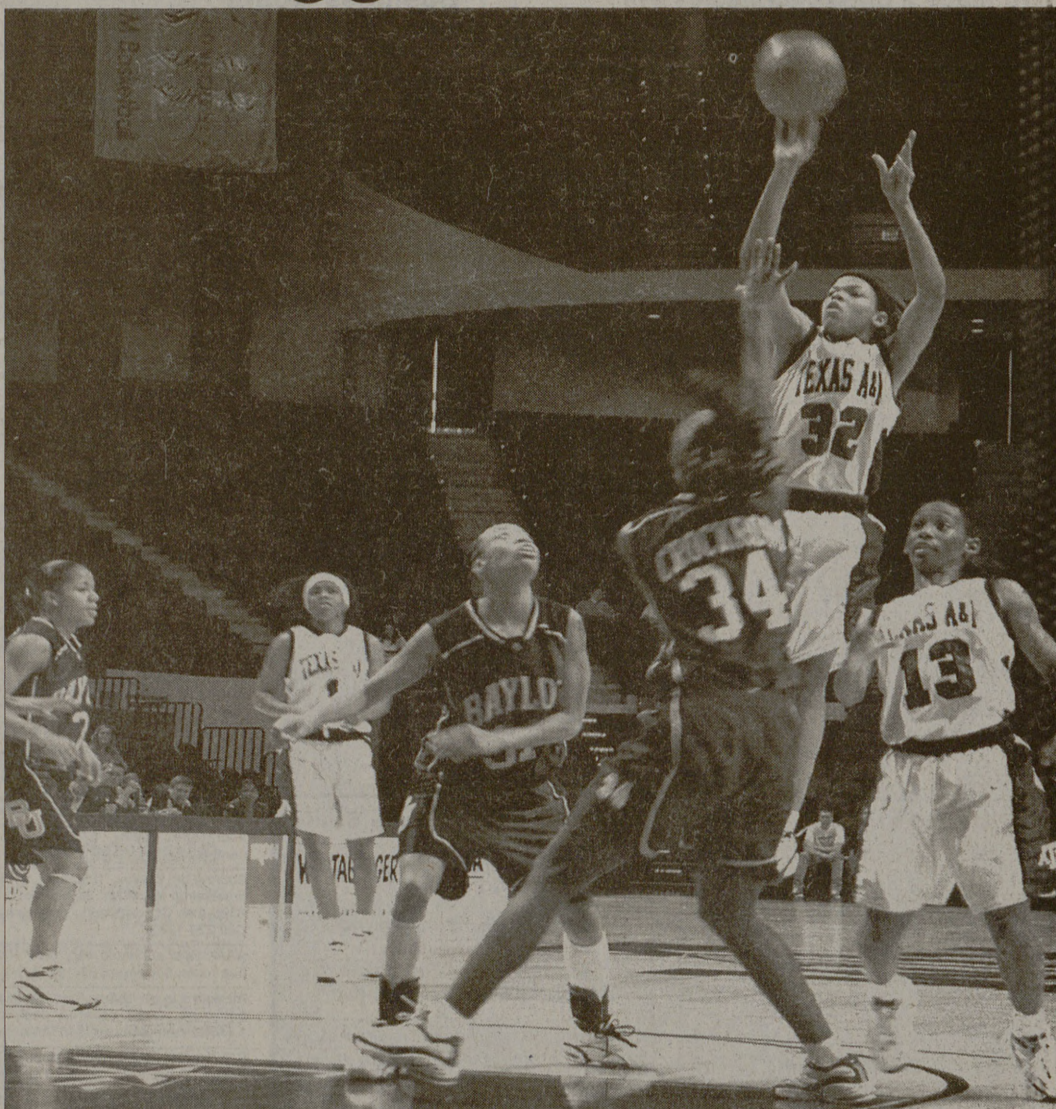
With just under 13 minutes left in the half and the Aggies trailing by three points, A&M went on its biggest scoring run of the game.

Saunders, along with junior guard LaToya Rose lifted the Aggies to a 13-point lead over the Bears, their largest of the game.

Rose accounted for 10 of the Aggies' points during the 16-0 run, including two 3-pointers.

With two minutes left in the half, the Bears cut the Aggie lead down to two points, but A&M would make one more run.

After Saunders missed her second free throw, senior guard Brandy Jones fought for the rebound and hit the layup to increase the Aggie lead to six.



SUSAN REDDING/THE BATTALION

Texas A&M senior forward Jaynetta Saunders goes up for a shot over Baylor's Danielle Crockrom in the Aggies' 87-81 victory over the Bears on Saturday at Reed Arena.

With just seconds left, freshman guard Tocara Williams took the ball into the lane and got a shot to fall that looked to end the half.

An errant Baylor inbound play landed the ball in Williams' hands again, and the hot-handed guard fired a pass back towards the basket, where Saunders caught the pass in midair and

put the ball off the glass just as the buzzer sounded.

The series of plays gave the Aggies a 10-point lead and a mountain of momentum going into halftime.

See UPSET on Page 9.

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