

No. 4 men's swim team splits pair of dual meets

By JEREMY BROWN
The Battalion

Despite being pounded by the No. 1 University of Texas 238-131, the Texas A&M men's swimming and diving team proved worthy of its No. 4 ranking by cruising past No. 6 University of Arizona 228-143 in a double-dual meet this weekend in Austin.

"Even though we were ranked higher, it will still be considered an upset by the swimming community," said men's swimming coach Mel Nash.

A&M's weekend started on a high note when Patrick Kennedy in the 200-yard backstroke and Devin Howard in the 200-yard butterfly swam NCAA qualifying times and personal bests in time trials before the meet.

Howard swam an NCAA automatic qualifying time, while Kennedy made the consideration cut.

Nash also said that when the Aggies defeated Arizona two years ago, it was considered a fluke.

In the 50-yard freestyle, A&M scored a huge upset when David Morrow and Riley Janes took first and second, respectively, to beat Roland Shoeman of Arizona.

Nash said that he was surprised by Morrow and Janes because Shoeman is expected to compete for the NCAA title in the event.

Kennedy and Howard carried their success into the meet by winning the same events against Texas and Arizona.

Nash said the swimmers in the breaststroke did a good job against Arizona, especially Zach Widener who won the 100-yard breaststroke.

Nash said that both meets were decided about halfway through the competition.

Texas pulled away after the 500-yard freestyle and the 200-yard IM

by taking first, second and third against A&M in both events.

Nash said it is frustrating that when A&M has its best team in 22 years, the traditionally-strong Longhorns might have their best team ever. He said Texas is an unbelievable force this year.

"I was really pleased that as the meet went on we kept fighting and racing really hard," Nash said. "That is a sign of a tough team, which we will need to be for the NCAAs."

Nash said a lot of the A&M swimmers are still recovering from the heavy training that he has put them through and that times will be much faster at the NCAAs.

Kevin Kehlenbach was able to compete in the meet. It was the first competition he has seen since injuring his ankle in an accident with a plate glass window.

"His recovery and rehab is nothing short of phenomenal so far," Nash said.

Womens' basketball falls to OSU

STILLWATER, OK—The Texas A&M women's basketball team was plagued by poor shooting in the first half of play as the Oklahoma State Cowgirls defeated the Aggies, 85-69 Saturday afternoon.

The Texas A&M squad was last in action when they defeated the No. 25 Baylor Bears at Reed Arena on Jan. 20.

OSU's effort was aided by solid shooting throughout the game. The Cowgirls shot a stellar 51.6 percent from the field, while the Aggies mustered a 38.6 percent shooting average, that included shooting only 29 percent in the first half.

A&M looked to be well in control of the game early in the first, as they started the scoring off with a 11-2 run on



SAUNDERS

the Cowgirls. The Aggies would maintain a comfortable lead for much of the half, until the OSU went on a 13-point scoring run that put the Cowgirls up four with just over four minutes remaining in the half.

In the second half, Oklahoma State would increase their lead to 11, but soon after the Aggies battled back to take the lead 41-40 with 13 minutes left to play.

Texas A&M would not see another lead in the game, as OSU continued to shoot the ball well from the floor. OSU had increased its lead to 16 when the final buzzer sounded.

Despite A&M's poor shooting, senior forward Jaynetta Saunders continued her hot hand and added 31 points to the Aggies' effort.

The Aggies (12-6, 2-5) will be back at Reed Arena on Wednesday when they take on the No. 12 Oklahoma Sooners at 7 p.m.

START

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often, but you have to play with courage and intensity. We like that and we're glad about that."

Islander's Atonie Quinquis upset four-time All-American Aggie Shuon Madden, 2-6, 6-4, 11-9 at No. 1. It was Madden's first defeat at home since the 1999 season. On court three, Stuart Beauchamp defeated Keith From 6-2, 6-7 (2), (12-10) putting the pressure on the rest of the Aggie lineup. Cody Hubbell answered and clinched the match on No. 4, 6-2, 4-6, (10-8).

Madden found his game again, just a few hours after being upset, as he dropped just one point to Trinity's Sloan Rush after the pair were deadlocked at 4-4 in the first set. Madden

went on to win 6-4, 6-1.

"Hitting the ball I feel pretty confident," Madden said. "Movement indoors is a lot different than outdoors, you go forward every time you move back and then you have to go through that right now."

The Aggies debuted a class of highly touted freshman in front of the Aggie crowd this weekend. The three Aggie newcomers took care of business during the weekend. Tres Davis, a four-time national champion in junior's doubles, Khalid El Dorry, the top junior player in Egypt, and Nathan Price, the best player to come out of Oklahoma for the 2001 season made easy work of their opponents as each started their season off with a 3-0 records winning their matches in straight sets.

"I was pleased with Ryan (Newport) stepping up today," Cass said. "Movement of Khaled (El Dorry) played with great emotional intensity, Nathan (Price) played well and Tres (Davis) got bet-point, outdoors you move back and forth every match. This is really the first few weeks that this team has been together, and it was a great way to get the spring season started."

High wind made the Aggies' task difficult after getting just one practice in the Varsity Tennis Center since playing indoors at the Rice Indoor Invitational last weekend.

"Right now our main goal is to get used to winning," Madden said.

Madden will compete for the Indoor National Championship next weekend, followed by the Texas Cup, a dual meet with No. 20 Texas on Feb. 6 in Houston.

The Aggies next home match is against LSU on Feb. 10.

CYCLONES

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from the field and making it to the free-throw line a mere four times.

The second half was more of the same as Iowa State continued to pound the ball inside.

Foward Tyray Pearson led the way for the Cyclones in the second half, scoring eight of his 10 points and grabbing 10 of his 12 rebounds in the second frame.

Pearson was one of two Cyclones to finish with a double-double. Rancik finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds.

The Cyclones finished with a 46-32 rebounding edge

for the game, the fifth time the Aggies have been out rebounded in Big 12 play.

"On the road, we want to take the ball to the basket," said Iowa State coach Larry Eustachy. "We've got strength inside and outside. You have to have real balance."

As he has done all season, sophomore guard Bernard King led the way offensively for the Aggies.

King scored 21 points but was only 6-of-17 from the floor, including 2-of-6 from beyond the arc.

"We have to be ready for teams like this," King said. "If you're not up for a ranked team like Iowa State then something's wrong. If we lost and played well, I would have felt better, but we didn't play well."

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