

## A&M men's swimming remains No. 2 in Big 12

By JEREMY BROWN  
The Battalion

The Aggie swimmers showed just how tired they were Thursday as the No. 4 Texas A&M swimming and diving team had a rough start to the Big 12 championships.

A&M swimming coach Mel Nash said the top Aggie swimmers would get rest for the Big 12 championships so they could train longer for the NCAA championships.

A&M remained in second with 223 points but fell further behind No. 1 Texas. The Longhorns dominated the first day by winning all five events and extended their leading total to 441.

Nebraska remained in third place with 171 points. With 157 points, Missouri took the fourth spot from Iowa State, which has 153. Kansas is next with 80 points.

A&M's best performance of the night belonged to its 400-yard medley relay, which placed second with a NCAA consideration time of 3:15.20. Texas won the event with an NCAA automatic qualifying time of 3:07.69.

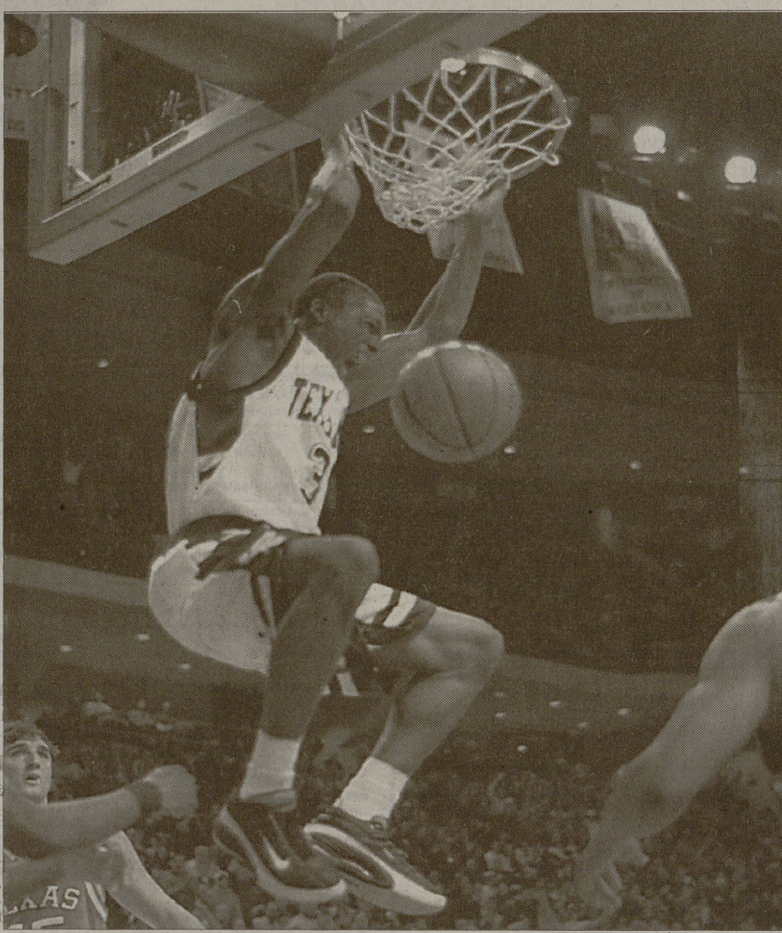
Despite having the fastest time going into the Big 12 championship, the A&M 200-yard freestyle relay finished third with a consideration time of 1:19.40.

Texas won the event with an automatic time of 1:18.27, while Iowa State finished in second with a consideration time of 1:18.77.

In the 500-yard freestyle, A&M sophomore Patrick Dideum placed seventh, while freshman Scott Hansen, who had the sixth fastest time going into the meet, did not qualify for the top heat and took 12th place.

Before the Big 12 championships, three of the four fastest 50-yard freestyle times in the Big 12 belonged to A&M, but none of the three swimmers who swam those times made the top eight. A&M senior Michael Colligan and freshman Matt Rose placed seventh and eighth in the event, both in consideration times.

In the 200-yard individual medley, A&M freshman Scott Mueller swam a consideration time of 1:50.13 but placed 10th.



FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION  
The Texas A&M men's basketball team fights for the 11th seed in the Big 12 as it faces Baylor Saturday.

## Aggies head to Waco, look for Baylor sweep

By JASON LINCOLN  
The Battalion

The Texas A&M men's basketball team looks to complete its second sweep of the season and move out of last place in Big 12 standings Saturday when it travels to Baylor.

A&M won the first meeting between the two teams, 73-69, ending a nine-game losing streak and kicking off three wins in a row.

The Aggies (10-18, 3-12 Big 12) are coming off a 97-69 loss to Nebraska. Baylor (16-10, 5-10) dropped a 71-68 decision to Oklahoma State Wednesday.

Nick Anderson led the Aggies with 14 points in that game, and the team shot 47 percent. A&M was out-rebounded 45-34, but five Aggie players posted double-digit scoring performances to hold on for the win. Jesse King scored 13, Bernard King scored 11, and Andy Leatherman and Nolan Butterfrass each posted 10.

Baylor's four double-digit scorers were led by Terry Black with 21 points. Black combined with Greg Davis, Demarcus Minor and Wendell Greenleaf to score 63 of the

Bear's 69 points.

"We did a pretty good job on Black last time," Watkins said. "We still will have to play one of our better games to win up there."

Both Minor and Anderson are coming off successful games despite not being able to grab the win. Anderson led A&M in Nebraska with 19 points, and Minor posted a game-high 23 points for the Bears in Stillwater, Okla.

Anderson and King teamed up for much of the year to lead A&M's offense. Since Dec. 29, when A&M played Manhattan in Hawaii, one of the two has been the Aggies' leading scorer every game.

Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. Saturday at the Ferrell Center in Waco.

Both teams are vying for seeding in the final game before the Big 12 tournament. Baylor will either finish eighth or ninth, while the Aggies could finish in any one of the bottom three spots. An A&M win would secure at least the 11th seed in the Big 12.

The Big 12 tournament will begin at noon Thursday.

### Sports in Brief

#### Olsen hosts 2001 Baseball Classic

The Texas A&M baseball squad will host the 2001 Continental Express Aggie Baseball Classic this weekend at Olsen Field.

The Aggies (5-7) will take on the Indiana State Sycamores, the Penn State Nittany Lions, and the UNLV Rebels this weekend. All three squads are trying to rebound from a slow start this season.

The Nittany Lions come in from Happy Valley with a 2-5 record, UNLV comes to AggieLand with a 6-9 mark, and the Sycamores have a 0-1 record on the season.

The Aggies come into the tour-

namment on the heels of the team's thrilling come-from-behind 7-6 victory over the Houston Cougars on Tuesday. Sophomore designated hitter Tim Petru led the Aggies by going 4-5 from the plate with three RBIs.

A&M will open the tournament on Friday night when it takes on the Nittany Lions. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. The Aggies will play a double-header against Indiana State and UNLV on Saturday, with game times slated for 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. A&M will take on Sycamore again Sunday at 7 p.m. and close out the tournament with a double-header on Monday night against the Rebels and the Lions at 5 and 8 p.m.

## Ags host softball tournament at the Complex

By AMAD OWIDI  
The Battalion

The Aggie Softball Complex will host the Verizon Aggie Invitational this weekend, as the Texas A&M softball team defends its home field against three teams that are all hungry for victory. The Aggies' competition this weekend includes the ranked University of Iowa Hawkeyes, Syracuse University Orangewomen and the Illinois State University Redbirds.

The Iowa Hawkeyes come into College Station flying high with a 4-1 record. The Hawkeyes' lone loss was to Illinois State, which

also will compete in the tournament. The Hawkeyes' trip to Texas marks the return of native Texan junior pitcher Kristi Hanks from Santa Fe, Texas. She leads the Hawkeyes' pitchers with a 2-0 record. Hanks leads the team with a .71 earned run average.

The Illinois State Redbirds swoop into AggieLand with a 5-5 record.

Two Redbirds also return to their home state this weekend — freshman infielder Jessica Harbeck from McKinney and sophomore pitcher Corey Harris from Dickinson.

After a three-week hibernation, the Syracuse

Orangewomen will return to action in the invitational with a 1-4 record.

The Aggies enter the invitational ranked 12th in the nation and riding a six game winning streak. The Aggies will look to keep things going the same way and change a few in the process.

"Tournaments are good because a lot of people get chances to play," said A&M softball coach Jo Evans. "A lot of games in a few days is good for us."

The Aggies will play six games in three days

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