

Ags back into action in Virginia

By MARK MERRELL
THE BATTALION

For senior All-American Clara Ho and the rest of the Texas A&M women's swimming team, the early part of the 2001 season has served as a rebuilding period. With 15 new swimmers added to the mix this year, it is understandable that the girls have struggled to a 2-4 season start.

After being off for nearly two weeks, the Aggies' extended Thanksgiving break ends this weekend as they travel to Virginia for the Cavalier Invitational.

"We lost a lot of key people last year, with graduating seniors and people who didn't return, so that's going to hurt us," Ho said. "But, I think as the season goes on, we're definitely improving."

Despite dropping their last two competitions to Southern Methodist University and the University of Arkansas, respectively, many individual times have been improving.

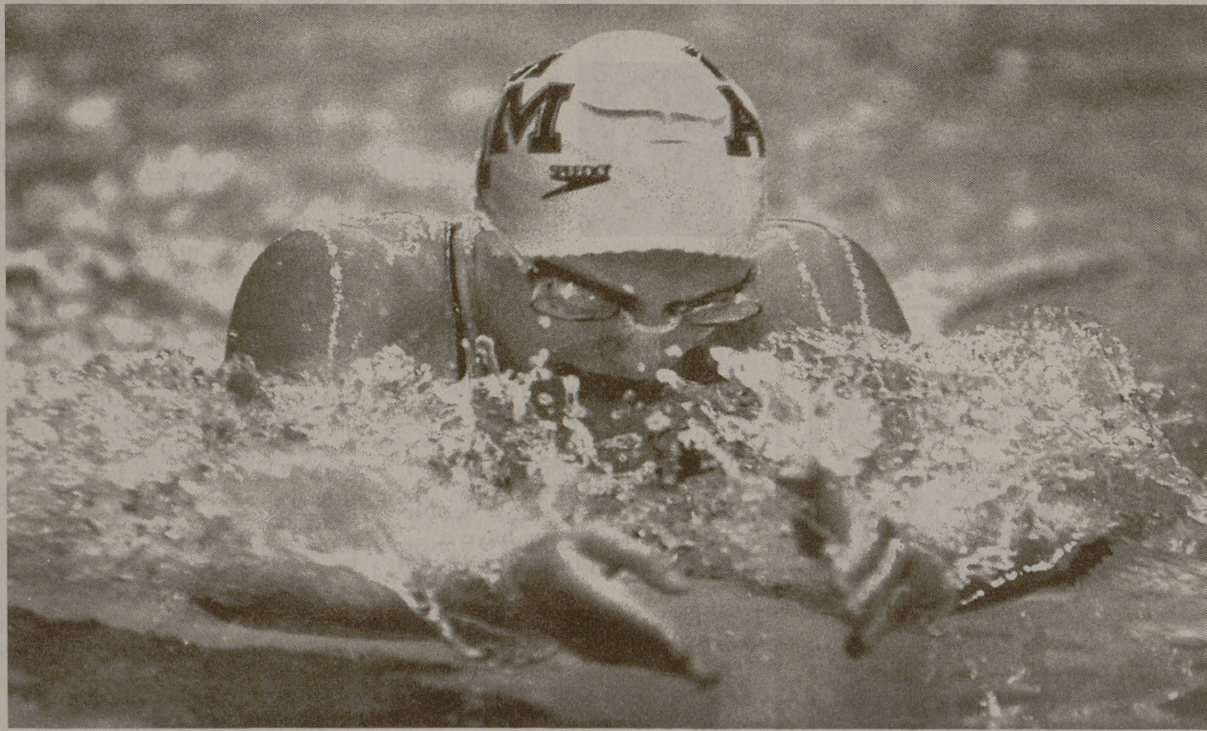
"We've had a lot of season

bests," Ho said. "We've been improving every meet. We'd like to see our record be better, but the fact that we're improving every meet is a good sign."

Against the University of Arkansas, Ho led the Aggies just as she has all season, placing first in both the 100- and 200-yard butterfly. Also, continuing a stellar performance was diver, Meghan Zack, who swept both the 1- and 3-meter diving competitions. On the 3-meter board, Zack is perfect during dual meets this season.

Headlining the list of eight universities this weekend is the host school, the University of Virginia, which is currently ranked No. 12 in the nation. Other competing schools include Yale, William and Mary and West Virginia.

While a win would be ideal for the Aggies, their main concern is improving individual times. "I hope that we have better season bests," Ho said. "And that we do better in our relays. I'd like to see our relays get ranked in the Top 25."



Emily Semrau and the Texas A&M women's swimming team will travel to Virginia to participate in the Cavalier Invitational starting today. The meet will conclude on Saturday.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Archery squad inks two for fall

Texas A&M Archery coach Kathy Eissinger announced Wednesday that the squad has signed two archers to shoot for the Aggies next fall.

Katelyn Kuchenrod, of Armstrong, Ill., and Jessica Sweeney of St. Albans, Vt., have signed letters of intent with the Aggies.

Kuchenrod, currently a senior at Armstrong High School, is ranked sixth in the country in the junior compound division and was a member of the 1998 junior world team.

Sweeney is a graduate of St. Bellows Free Academy and is ranked eighth in the country in the junior recurve division. Sweeney also finished fifth in the junior division at the 2001 indoor world trials in January.

Owners extend Selig's contract

(AP) — Baseball owners extended commissioner Bud Selig's contract through 2006 but did not take any action on the game's most debated issue — eliminating two teams before next season.

Owners also were told by their lawyers that the players' association may file an unfair labor practice charge with the National Labor Relations Board.

Selig said baseball lost \$500 million this year on revenue of \$3.5 billion.

He said 25 of the 30 teams lost money this year, said \$165 million was transferred this year from the six teams with the highest revenue to the six lowest, and said baseball will release specifics Dec. 6.

Cowboys' Carter gets another chance at start

IRVING (AP) — Quincy Carter has been a wide-eyed rookie on the Dallas Cowboys' sideline.

Carter was supposed to be on the field all season as the starting quarterback, but he's been watching instead of playing. A thumb injury and torn left hamstring have limited him to just one quarter since the season opener almost three months ago.

"I've been able to learn a lot more just being on the sidelines," Carter said. "I benefitted from just sitting back and watching. The biggest change is just knowing what to see from defenses and where

everybody is supposed to be on the field."

When the Cowboys (2-8) play Sunday at Washington, Carter will get a chance to show what he has learned as an observer.

"My cerebral game has improved," Carter said. "I'll be more prepared this time. I kind of just got thrown in there at first."

Coach Dave Campo said Carter is healthy and, barring another injury, will start the final six games.

Carter initially became the starter when Tony Banks was abruptly cut mid-way through training camp. There was less than a month for Carter, the 53rd

player drafted last April, to adjust to his new status before a season-opening 10-6 loss to Tampa Bay. Cowboys coaches limited the game plan for his first start.

He missed the next two games after injuring his throwing thumb in practice, and then suffered the hamstring injury in the first quarter of his return Oct. 7 at Oakland.

In 13 possessions in his two games, Carter was 10-of-24 passing for 38 yards with two interceptions, and he ran seven times for 37 yards. The Cowboys scored two field goals and had three turnovers.

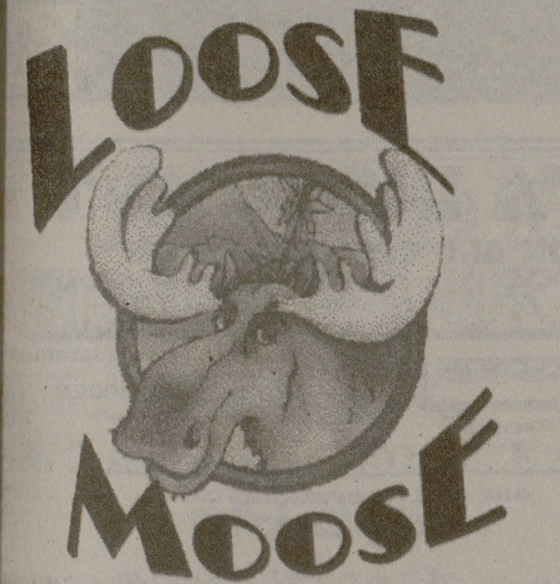
Anthony Wright, Clint Stoerner and

Ryan Leaf have also started in Carter's absence, marking the first time the Cowboys have ever used four starting quarterbacks in the same season. Leaf lost the last three games, his only starts.

"The communication I have with each quarterback is different. It takes some time to establish that," said receiver Joey Galloway. "With Quincy being a rookie and him coming off injury, I don't know how much we'll be able to throw at him right away."

The Redskins (5-5) have not lost since their 9-7 loss at Dallas on Oct. 15.

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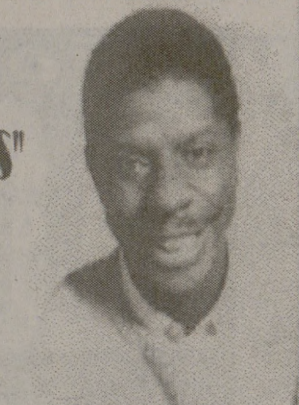
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