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NFL

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set a team record this season. "We can run and run and run, then I can go underneath, and Plaxico Burress can go deep. We're not easy to stop, but we don't seem too exciting because the offense is based on running."

Their opponents have some balance, too. Philadelphia is a defensive-oriented team. But in the last month, since quarterback Donovan McNabb took to scrambling again, the offense has come alive. The 33 points the Eagles scored in Chicago were

the most all season against the Bears, who had allowed 17 points or fewer in their previous seven games.

And Philadelphia will have to score in St. Louis — all the more so because their best cornerback, Troy Vincent, has a groin injury that could keep him out or limit his mobility.

New England is also a good defensive team — coach Bill Belichick has been one of the NFL's more innovative defensive minds over the last two decades.

But Tom Brady threw for 312 yards in the snow Saturday night in a 16-13 overtime victory over Oakland, rallying New

England from 10 points down in the fourth quarter with the help of a replay call that turned a Patriots' fumble into an incomplete pass.

And the Steelers seemed a little puzzled Monday about having to play New England after disposing of their bitter rival from Baltimore.

"We don't know these guys," Ward said. "We know Baltimore and the Jets and Miami and a lot of the other playoff teams. This team, we have to learn."

Maybe that's why the Steelers are favored by just 7 1/2 points.

Bean

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Baylor by a 40-25 margin.

"When you go on the field, you have to do a lot of things," said Baylor head coach L. Bliss. "You have to avoid trouble, make some free throws and get some rebounding. Three cost us today."

Junior guard Bernard scored 12 and sophomore forward Jesse King added 11, in off-the-bench roles.

"We'll enjoy this moment a while," Watkins said. "We have to get back at it. With Texas being our next opponent [Wednesday], that's the biggest game on our schedule."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

A&M falls to No. 19 Colorado

The Texas A&M women's basketball team lost to the University of Colorado, 70-70, Saturday in Boulder.

The No. 19 Buffaloes won 11-for-19 on 3-point attempts and also scored 17 points from the free throw line to give Colorado its eighth straight win over A&M.

A&M was led by senior guard LaToya Rose's 20 points. Sophomore guard Toccara Williams added 15 points and junior forward Kim Moore had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

At halftime, Colorado led by just one point, but could not contain the duo of Jennifer Roulier and Marissa Nightingale, who combined for 57 of Colorado's 70 points.

The Aggies will continue their two-game road trip Wednesday when they play Baylor at 7 p.m.

Men's swimming wins on road

The No. 19 Texas A&M men's swimming and diving team earned a 141-80 victory over the University of Louisiana-Monroe Saturday.

The Aggies were without the services of nine of their top swimmers, who were competing at the Dallas Morning News Swimming and Diving Classic.

Two redshirt freshmen, Joel Travnicsek and Ben Collins, captured wins at the meet. Travnicsek won the 200 butterfly and Collins won the 100 freestyle.

Women's squash captures win

The Texas A&M women's swimming and diving team won its second meet in many days against the University of Louisiana-Monroe, 157-86, Saturday.

A&M captured first place in all but one event.

Redshirt freshman Cassie Mucha captured wins in the 100 and 1,000 freestyle events. Freshman Kelsey Savage won the 200 breaststroke and 400 individual medley.

The win upped the Aggies' record to 6-4. A&M's next action will be Jan. 26 against the Rice Owls in Houston.

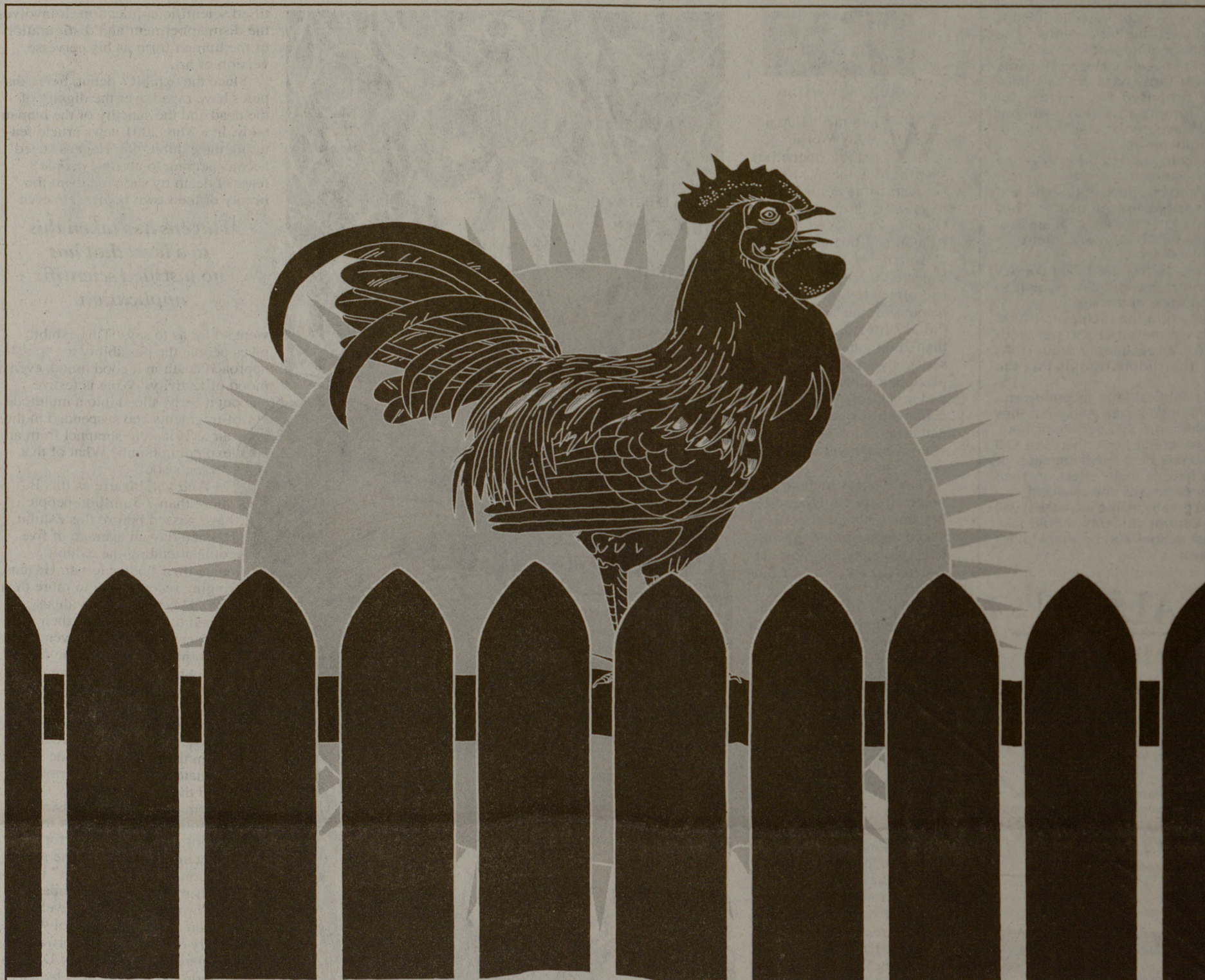
Softball team ranked No. 5

A poll of the Big 12 softball coaches has the Aggies at fifth place in the conference.

Defending Big 12 champion Nebraska earned first place, receiving seven of the possible nine first place votes.

Oklahoma, the Big 12 Tournament champion and Women's College World Series participant last season, earned the other two first place votes.

The University of Texas ranked No. 3 while Kansas No. 4, three points ahead of the Aggies.



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