

Women's swimming wins home meet

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

The deuces were wild for the Texas Aggie women's swimming and diving team Friday night at the Texas A&M Natatorium. The Aggies managed to claim two wins in the quad meet against No. 6 SMU (4-0), the University of Arkansas (2-2) and the University of North Texas (0-8). In the process, the Aggies (3-2) wrangled in second place finishes in 11 of the 16 events. Unfortunately for A&M, the SMU Mustangs carried the day by winning 15 of the 16 events.

"We knew (coming in that) SMU would be tough," said head coach Steve Bultman. "We talked about that (competing against SMU) and that they are where we want to be. We have to be able to not be afraid to step up and race against them even though they are a very good team. I was pleased, I felt like the girls weren't intimidated, and stepped up and competed well."

Despite trailing SMU in every event, all was not lost for the Aggies. Coming into the meet, A&M put Arkansas squarely in its sights to avenge a close loss in

Fayetteville last season. "Last year, it made me mad," said junior Millie Reynolds. "It was good to get revenge this year and show them who we are." The Aggies dominated the Lady Razorbacks on almost every front, claiming a 197-101 team victory.

"We knew SMU would be tough. We talked about that and that they are where we want to be."

— Steve Bultman
Women's swimming coach

"It was very good. Last year we went up there and had a real battle, it came down to the last relay, to actually beat them before even the last event was good ... We are very pleased to have won it like that," Bultman said. The Aggies dropped the Mean Green

from North Texas 201-88. It was a long night for the team from Denton, as it was overmatched against the more mature teams from SMU, A&M and Arkansas. North Texas struggled to escape from the cellar in most every event, but at the very least managed a consistent 9th and 10th place finish whenever possible.

The wins for the Aggies are one more step toward their eventual goal of breaking into the Top 20. The win was a team effort for the Aggies and helped to improve their confidence as they move on toward the meat of their schedule.

The Aggies raised the bar on their personal bests for the season.

"We can have more confidence in our racing (for the remainder of the season)," said junior Katy Lietzau. "... (it will help us in) being able to step up when it's time. Swimming this fast at this point of the season is really exciting because you know you're going to swim so much faster later. It makes me look forward to how fast we're going to swim at the end (of the season)."

The Aggies will return to competition on Friday, Nov. 16 at 6 p.m. against Louisiana-Monroe.

OSU

Continued from page 5

in the game with a one-handed touchdown pass for 27 yards from Long to Porter, cutting the Cowboys lead down to 21-14.

But things would turn south again for the Aggies on their next defensive opportunity.

The Cowboys drove 79 yards for a 5-yard touchdown run by Bell for a 28-14 lead going into halftime. The touchdown was Bell's third touchdown of the first half.

"Tatum (Bell) has obviously given us a great spark in the running game," said Oklahoma State head coach Les Miles. "He has great speed which is why it will be hard for people to catch him."

The Aggies came back out after halftime and looked like a completely different team at the start of the third quarter.

The defense forced the Cowboys to punt on each of their first three possessions without allowing a first down. The defense would hold the Cowboys scoreless for the rest of the game.

Meanwhile, the Aggie offense rallied, driving 46 yards on seven plays, but failed to get into the end zone.

Freshman kicker Todd Pegram kicked a 35-yard field goal inching the Aggies closer, 28-17.

On the Aggies' next possession, Long found senior wide receiver Bethel Johnson for a 23-yard touchdown pass. A&M opted to try for two points but failed. The touchdown cut the

Aggies' deficit to five points with just more than four minutes remaining in the third quarter.

The Aggies were driving into the OSU end of the field, down by just five points late in the fourth quarter.

After converting on fourth and inches at the OSU 31-yard line, the Aggies were one play away from taking the lead. However, much like the rest of this season, the Aggies couldn't catch a break.

On first and 10 from the 31, Long threw a deep pass to Johnson at the goal line that was broken up by OSU defensive back Chris Massey. The ball was intercepted on the deflection by defensive back Vernon Grant in the end zone for a touchback, crushing any hopes the Aggies had of escap-

ing Stillwater with the win.

Johnson became the all-time leader in receiving yards on six receptions for 107 yards but said he would have liked to have one more at the end.

"(Massey) just made a good play on the ball," Johnson said. "But I should have timed my jump more."

Johnson's performance increased his total receiving yards to 1,592.

Slocum was impressed with the team's effort in the second half, despite the 28-23 final outcome of the game.

"I thought our team showed some great character to come back and play in the second half," Slocum said. "We shut their offense down and moved the ball, we just came up short."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Cross country teams complete successful trip to Big 12 Championships

The weekend was successful for the Texas A&M men's and women's cross country teams at the Big 12 Championships held in Columbia, Mo. The men's team claimed a third place finish behind Colorado and Texas.

The men were led by sophomore Jon Lewis and junior Andrew Cook, who earned All-Big 12 honors for their efforts. The pair placed 14th and 10th, respectively.

The women also ran strong on Saturday. The women claimed fourth place at the meet behind Colorado, Missouri and Texas.

Senior Melissa Gulli led the Aggies with a 7th place finish. She was followed on the team by true freshman Meredith Crane in 13th, and junior Sarah Steadman rounded out the Aggie top three.

Both teams will take to a run again on Nov. 16 at the NCAA South Central Regional Championships.

A&M men's swimming team falls to Texas, USC in dual meets held in Austin

The No. 17 Texas A&M men's swimming and diving team did not fare well this weekend in a dual meet against No. 1 University of Texas and No. 5 University

of Southern California. The Aggies dropped both dual meets, which were held at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center.

Bright spots for the Aggies included Matt Rose, who finished the 50 yd. freestyle in first place with an NCAA qualifying time of 20.27.

Rose also managed to snag second place in the 100 with a time of 48.97, trailing only the world record holder freshman Aaron Piersol, from Texas.

As a team, the Aggies finished third in the 400 freestyle relay coming in at a time of 3:03.9. The team claimed fourth in the 200 relay.

The Aggies will take to the pool next on Friday, Nov. 15, when they face Louisiana-Monroe at 6 p.m. at the Texas A&M Natatorium.

Volleyball team rallies over Colorado in five games

The Texas A&M volleyball team defeated conference opponent Colorado in five games on Saturday in front of 977 fans at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Carol Price set a career-high of 23 kills during the match, topping her previous best of 17 she set in the Aggies' last match against Oklahoma.

The Aggies won the first game 30-24 before battling in the second game and falling to CU.

There were 12 ties in the game and seven lead changes before the Buffaloes put the game away, 30-28.

The teams traded two more games

before the Aggies won the final game 15-5 to move to 15-7 overall and 7-6 in the Big 12 this season.

A&M will next play Baylor on Wednesday in Waco.

Baylor fires Steele as head football coach after 62-11 loss to Tech on Saturday

WACO, Texas (AP) — Baylor football coach Kevin Steele, whose team has won only one Big 12 game in his four seasons, was fired Sunday.

The firing comes a day after Baylor's 62-11 loss to Texas Tech, a defeat that ran his record to 9-33, 1-28 in the conference. Baylor is 3-6, 1-4 in the Big 12 this year.

Steele, hired before the 1999 season, has been feeling heat from alumni following several embarrassing losses.

Since the 35-32 win over Kansas on Oct. 5 to break their 29-game Big 12 Conference losing streak, the Bears were outscored 181-21 in four defeats, including a 41-0 loss in Waco against Texas A&M on Oct. 12.

"You can do all the rebuilding and coaching and recruiting that you want, but there's some simple truths in coaching," Steele said. "At some point as a football coach, you've got to win. If you don't win enough, something may happen."

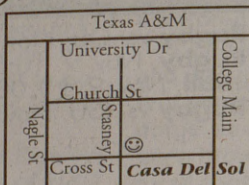
The school will begin the search for a successor over the next few weeks and will not comment on the search or decide on a replacement until the season has finished.

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