

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Tuesday, February 18, 2003

Aggies face first road test of season at SHSU



Junior right-hander Robert Ramsey delivers a pitch against the University of Houston on Sunday. JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

This year's edition of Texas A&M baseball has brought new faces that have already made their mark on the Aggie season. After four games, the newcomers are leading the way, and they face their first road test Tuesday at Sam Houston State University at 2 p.m.

The Aggies (3-1) are fresh off of a 2-1 record at the Minute Maid Park College Classic in which their lone loss was to No. 2 Rice University. A&M notched an 11-1 victory over the University of Louisiana-Lafayette and a 4-2 win over No. 11 University of Houston.

Junior Logan Kensing started the UH game for the Aggies and handcuffed the Cougars for eight innings before sophomore Robert Ramsey entered the game in the ninth to record his first save of the season.

Three Aggies appeared on the all-tournament team, and the lone position player to make the list is a new

face to the Aggie squad, Scott Beerer. The third baseman hit .333 with three runs batted in (RBI) and two runs scored to earn all-tournament honors.

"Every time I get two strikes, I'm just thinking to protect the plate and battle," said Beerer, who singled off Houston junior reliever Gene Flores to bring home his third RBI of the weekend. "I got some pitches to hit with two strikes."

Beerer is not alone as a force at the plate for A&M. Junior transfer Justin Ruggiano leads the team with a .444 batting average. Ruggiano also hit the game-winning home run in the ninth inning to beat A&M-Corpus Christi in the season opener.

Junior first baseman Brian Bowe, who transferred from New Mexico Junior College, is second behind Ruggiano in hitting .417 this season. Bowe hit .455 in the tournament.

"They've stepped in from programs that maybe have 100 people out to watch a ball game," said A&M Head Coach Mark Johnson. "Then they go into Minute Maid Ballpark and there's 8,000. We

talk about not playing to the event, but play to the game. I've been pleased so far."

The Bearkats (4-3) were swept in a three-game series by the No. 1 University of Texas Longhorns in Austin last weekend. Sam Houston is looking forward to playing at the friendly confines of Holleman Field, where they hold a 2-0 advantage over the Aggies. Playing at a smaller ballpark such as Holleman Field may also be a welcome sight to some of the Aggie newcomers.

"Coach has said that it's a smaller school, not as many people, and not as big of a crowd," Bowe said. "I'm used to that in (junior college). Playing in front of all these people (at Olsen) is what was the big difference for me."

Last season the Aggies swept the three-game season series with Sam Houston.

"We're in a good groove right now," Bowe said. "We're starting to hit the ball, the pitchers are throwing really well, and we're going to be good this year."

Ags head to Big 12 Championships

By Marcus White
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's and women's swimming and diving teams will head to Austin Wednesday to compete in the 2003 Phillips 66 Big 12 Swimming and Diving Championships held at the Lee and Joe Jamail Texas Swimming Center.

The No. 15 Aggie men (4-2, 1-1) have finished in second place the past two years behind NCAA powerhouse Texas.

The Longhorns are currently

ranked No. 5 among men's NCAA swimming and diving teams after defeating No. 13 Arizona State, 192-152, and No. 15 Arizona, 205-138, in their last dual meets of the season. Led by Head Coach Eddie Reese and five-time All-American senior swimmer Chris Kemp, Texas has cruised to three consecutive national titles.

While swimming and diving are generally thought of as individual sports, the Longhorns have realized the importance of team unity during the past several years.

"The reason we have won the

National Championship in each of the last three years is because ... we backed each other up," said Team Captain and junior swimmer Brendan Hansen. "You have to be a team or you will fail without the support."

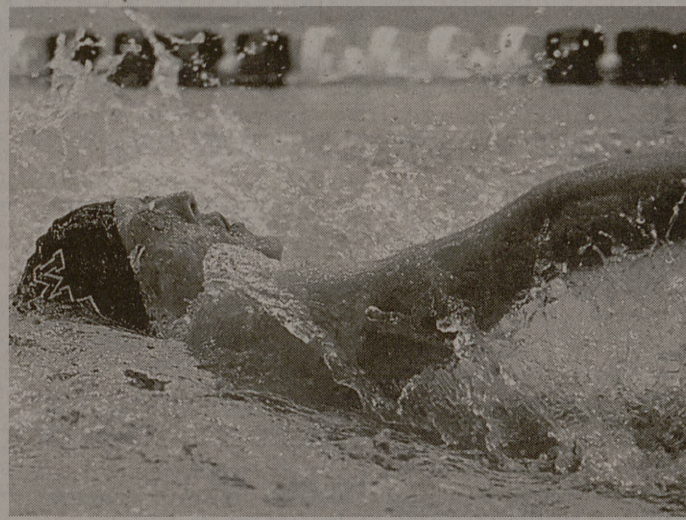
Reese, who has captured 23 conference titles and nine NCAA championships during his 25-year tenure at Texas, was recently named the head coach of the United States Olympic Team in the 2004 Games in Athens, Greece.

The Aggie men hope to build on an impressive 141.5-96.5 victory over long-time

rival Southern Methodist University in their last dual meet of the year. A&M swimmers and divers posted several personal and season bests against SMU as the team made preparations for the start of the championship season.

"I am just off my best times ever," said senior swimmer and A&M Captain Zach Widener. "When I shave and taper, I expect huge drops from my previous best times."

Two returning Aggies captured individual conference



Junior Matt Rose swims against LSU in A&M's last home meet on Jan. 18. RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

See **Swim** on page 7

12th MAN FOUNDATION 2nd Spring General Meeting

COME HEAR COACH JOHNSON AND THE AGGIE BASEBALL PLAYERS TALK ABOUT WHAT'S IN STORE FOR THIS SEASON.



Door Prizes

When: Wed. February 19th, 2003

Where: The Zone Lobby

Time: 7:00 pm

Free Food!



11th Annual Baseball BBQ

Join us for good food and fun!

When: February 21, 2003

Where: Olsen Pavilion

Time: 4pm-6pm

Cost: \$5 (for non-members)

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



ENGINEER WEEK NATIONAL ENGINEERS' WEEK: FEBRUARY 15-22

Saturday, February 15th

8:00am SWE Fun Run Research Park

Monday, February 17th

10:00am - 4:00 pm Kickoff Celebration Academic Plaza

Play Games & Win Prizes @ Raffle: XBOX*PALM*DVD PLAYER*MORE

5:00pm - 9:00pm AICHe Basketball Tournament Rollie 351

Tuesday, February 18th

10:00am - 2:00pm Engineering Projects Day Zachry Lobby

11:00am - 1:00pm FREE Pizza Lunch Zachry Lobby

7:30pm Dr. Bennett: Dean of Engineering Zachry Rm. 102

"9 DAYS AT GROUND ZERO"

Wednesday, February 19th

10:00am - 2:00pm Students Interests Gallery Zachry Lobby

7:00pm - 10:00pm AIAA Bowling Tournament Triangle Bowl

Thursday, February 20th

10:00am - 2:00pm Photo Scavenger Hunt starts @ Zachry Lobby

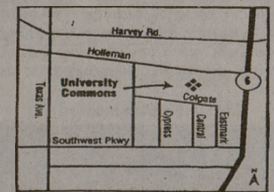
7:00pm - finished LIFE Pool/42 Tournament Alfred T. Hornbacks

for more information visit: <http://sec.tamu.edu>

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