



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Sophomore **Ashley Roark** competes in the backstroke at the Rec Center pool. **Roark** won the 400-yard individual medley in the Big 12 Championships last weekend at the University of Texas in Austin.

Swimming

Continued from page 1B

gauge it on — as a team we placed really well.” Highlighting the Aggies’ three wins was an impressive performance by freshman Paty Villareal. She won the 1,650 yard freestyle in a personal best time of 16:35.27, a time good enough to be considered for the NCAA meet. “I’m really happy,” Villareal said. “I wasn’t expecting to swim that fast, but I was ready to go. It had been a long season and I had been working hard. It was real exciting.”

Along with Villareal, the Aggies were able to pick up consideration times in nearly every event, including two of their relay squad events. But the Aggies were only able to wrap up one guaranteed spot in the upcoming championships. Sophomore Courtney Patterson swam 54.99 in the 100-yard backstroke, setting the school record, and clinching a spot at the meet.

Sophomore Ashley Roark claimed a conference championship in the 400-yard individual medley. Even with the strong performances, the Aggies’ future at the nationals is still unclear, leading many of the women to take the trip back to Austin this weekend.

Unlike many other NCAA sports, entire teams do not compete for the national title in collegiate swimming. Instead, individual swimmers strive for a predetermined time throughout the season to qualify for the final meet. When the swimmers qualify, they swim at the NCAA meet representing their respective schools, at which point the score is accumulated from those swimmers who make it. The more swimmers who qualify for the NCAA meet, the better chance a school has for doing well.

“We know for sure we have one swimmer, and then, if you look at what has happened in the past, we thought we had four individuals and two relays, but looking right now, it’s a fast year,” Bultman said.

The fast times this year have raised some doubt about exactly how many Aggies will be going to the nationals. The women are preparing for this weekend’s meet in hopes of lowering their times and clinching spots for the championship.

“At one point last weekend we were on cloud nine,” Bultman said. “We thought that we were golden, but then you watch other teams, and other swimmers are swimming so fast that now you have to wait and see.”

The Aggies are set to square off against the clock one last time this Friday and Saturday.

Archery

Continued from page 1B

teammate Amanda Raffielli.

In recurve shooting, the Aggies are led by senior archer Dawn Chudy. She finished last season as the nation’s best recurve archer, and finished the World Indoor Trials and the Texas State Indoor Championship as the top-rated collegiate recurve archer.

“From a recurve standpoint, Dawn is one of the best women archers we’ve ever had in the program,” Eissinger said.

Chudy and Zorn have received invitations to join the 2003 U.S. World Indoor Team and will be competing at the 7th FITA World Indoor Championships in Nimes, France, scheduled to begin just two days after the conclusion of the national indoor competi-

tion. The World Indoor Championships is the biggest event for indoor archers.

“It’s a tremendous honor to send two archers to the World Championships,” Eissinger said. “It is one of the premier tournaments in the world.”

The Southern regional of this week’s National Championships kicks off two days of competition Friday at 6 p.m. in G. Rolie White Coliseum.

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