

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Thursday, March 6, 2003

Aggies win big in home finale versus Baylor



ALISSA HOLLIMON • THE BATTALION

A&M center Andy Slocum dunks the ball in the second half against the Baylor Bears. The Aggies beat Baylor, 79-60, in their home finale at Reed Arena.

Slocum leads A&M scorers in showdown at Reed

By Troy Miller
THE BATTALION

Fans came to Reed Arena to see senior guard Bernard King shine on senior night, but Aggie fans were instead treated to a show by A&M junior forward Andy Slocum in Texas A&M's 79-60 win over the Baylor Bears.

Slocum, who sat out A&M's (14-12 overall, 6-9 Big 12) 77-69 loss to Baylor (13-13, 4-11) in Waco, proved to be the missing centerpiece to post up against Baylor sophomore forward Lawrence Roberts. Slocum was able to win the battle in the paint and lure Roberts to commit three first-half fouls that forced Baylor Head Coach Dave Bliss to sit Roberts for the remainder of the half.

"To not have (Roberts) in there, it really makes us have to change our offense," said Baylor junior Matt Sayman who led the Bears with 13 points.

After forcing Roberts out of the game with 3:57 to go in the first half, the Aggies went on a 14-6 run to take a half-time lead of 36-26. Slocum scored six of his 15 first-half points in the final four minutes with Roberts on the bench.

Slocum scored 18 points and brought down seven rebounds in just 16 minutes to lead the Aggies to victory.

"It felt good to come out and play good for a change," Slocum said. "I felt a lot better out there tonight."

The win assured the Aggies of their first winning season since the 1993-94 season when they went 19-11 and reached the post-season National Invitation Tournament and their first winning season under Head Coach Melvin Watkins. The victory also put the Aggies into a seventh-place tie with Texas Tech in the Big 12 Conference standings, assuring them of no worse than an eighth-place finish which would equal their highest finish ever.

"It's pretty obvious that we've got better

players," Watkins said. "We've had players that have been in this program improve, and I hope those are signs of us doing things right."

Baylor began the game hitting four of its first six three-point attempts earning the Bears an 11-4 lead. The Bears, who rank sixth nationally in three-point shooting percentage, hit just three of their next 25 three-point attempts.

"This game was really similar to our game (in Waco)," Bliss said. "They missed a lot of open shots up there."

The Aggies pulled away in the second half as King dished out 10 assists, matching his career high.

"I think he played a great game and he only got three points," Watkins said. "How often can I say that about Bernard King?"

The Aggies face Oklahoma State in Stillwater, Okla. Saturday to finish out the regular season and then head to Dallas to play in the Big 12 Tournament.

Swimming, diving teams travel to Austin

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

Time is running short in the 2002-2003 season for the Texas A&M men's swim team. The schedule that began in October will come to its culmination in three weeks at the NCAA Championships held at the Jamail Swim Center on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

Starting today on the same grounds in which the NCAA Championships will take place, the

Aggies will be afforded one last chance to get their feet wet in preparation for the season-ending meet at the American Short Course Championships.

The Aggies, who this week received a season high national ranking of No. 14, are coming off the strongest performance for the squad ever at a Big 12 meet. The showing at the Big 12 Championships, when the team placed second behind three-time defending national champion Texas, put the Aggies in a position to send a strong contingent of

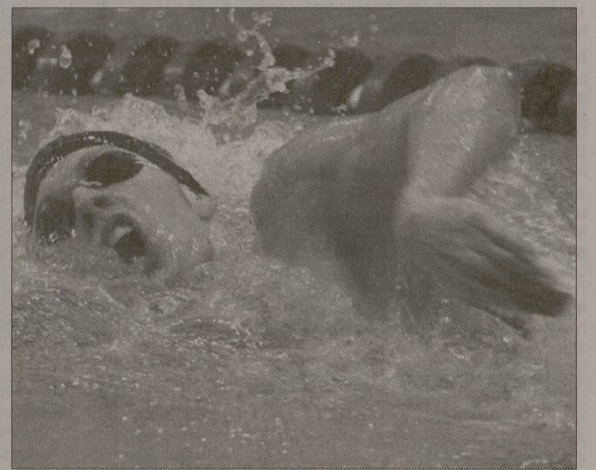
swimmers to the NCAA meet. Junior Matt Rose was the only Aggie to grab a guaranteed slot at the upcoming event, swimming a 43.45 in the 100-yard freestyle and setting a new A&M record while propelling himself to Swimmer of the Meet honors.

Despite Rose being the only Aggie so far to qualify automatically for the NCAA Championships, the team looks to have at least seven swimmers hit the pool at the end of this month. This number is equal to what the Aggies put in the pool last year when the club fin-

ished in 22nd place at the meet.

"Right now we're looking at seven swimmers," said Head Coach Mel Nash. "(Taking into account) past history, that's what should get invited. We have the one automatic, but some of the others are forgone conclusions."

This weekend's meet gives the Aggie men one final opportunity to solidify their chances for getting the invite to the NCAA meet. The more Aggies who receive individual invites, the better chance the



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A&M junior Matt Rose competes in the 100-yard freestyle.

See **Swimming** on page 9

*Embracing the Past,
Exploring the Future.*

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The College Station Strategic Plan

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On behalf of the citizens of College Station, home of Texas A&M University, the City Council will promote and advance the quality of life in the community.

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- Collaboration and cooperation
- Regionalism
- Active member of the Brazos Valley Community
- We support activities that promote municipal empowerment
- Excellence in customer service
- Fiscal Responsibility
- Promote health, safety, and general well being of our community
- Promote involvement and participation of citizenry

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*Community Development's
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Lincoln Recreation Center
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