

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Two Aggie archers make long trip to A&M

By Jeff Allen
THE BATTALION

It has not been that long since archery became a varsity sport at Texas A&M. In September 1999 the announcement came, and since then the team has become one of the strongest programs competing for A&M at the varsity level.

Unlike some other sports, there is little fanfare involved with archery. It is not often that the Aggies have reporters scurrying about practice; the team doesn't need fences to prevent spies from stealing their plays and their practice range has been transformed into a set of intramural tennis courts. Yet the A&M archery team has become a dominant force in the realm of collegiate archery.

This season, the Aggies placed six compound archers in the top eight nationally and five recurve archers in the top nine nationally en route to their third consecutive combined national indoor title.

A&M has won either the recurve or the compound individual title every year since becoming a varsity sport.

Much of the team's success this season is thanks, in large part, to two athletes who, paired together, have both styles of archery covered. The two women, both of whom came to College Station through the same Pennsylvania Pipeline, are senior Dawn Chudy and sophomore Amber Dawson.

Hailing from Media, Penn., Chudy began shooting early in life. Her aspiration was born when she would watch her older brother compete in 4-H archery competitions. "My brother was a couple years older than me, and we did everything together," Chudy said. But watching her brother from the sidelines wasn't enough. After a while, she decided to step up and take the bow herself.

In about fifth grade, Chudy picked up the recurve bow, a bow that is more simple than teammate Dawson's compound bow. So far the bow has paid off. Chudy has become one of the best athletes in her sport in the nation, and it so happens that the only type of archery competed in the world's most elite stage is with the recurve bow she uses.

"The Olympic games have always been my goal, ever since I was little. Actually I wanted to be an Olympic ice skater, but couldn't really ice skate, so there was archery," Chudy said.

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— Dawn Chudy
Senior archery team member

"A lot of people we grew up with have quit (shooting)," Dawson said. "When they went to college they just didn't have time for it. We both had good years last year. We did that because of being here."

Though only a sophomore, Dawson has made her mark in the Aggie archery record books. This year she claimed the south region in the National Indoor Target Championship, when she beat teammate Mary Zorn, a senior, in early March.

Zorn went on to win a bronze medal at the 2003 Indoor World Archery Championships in the compound individual competition and helped the United States team to the gold medal in the team portion of the competition.

Her score was good enough to earn her second place in the nation as well as a place in the Aggie team indoor championship alongside Chudy.

Chudy, though, went one step further, winning the Indoor National Championship and reaffirming her case for a possible bid for the Olympic team early next year.

"I feel that I have a really good chance of doing it," Chudy said. "I think I can get on the team."



RANDAL FORD • THE BATTALION

Senior archer Dawn Chudy takes aim as she practices for her goal of earning a spot on the U.S. Olympic team.

Top coaches to battle it out in NCAA Women's Championship

By Chuck Schoffner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — Tennessee's Pat Summitt is the stern disciplinarian with an icy glare, yet her players consider her a surrogate mother.

Connecticut's Geno Auriemma is the ultimate agitator, a wisecracking needler who enjoys zinging friend and foe alike. Different personalities to be sure, but two intensely competitive coaches with the same goal. Their teams meet Tuesday night to decide the national championship in women's basketball,

the latest installment of the sport's hottest rivalry.

Tennessee (33-4) has six titles but none since 1998. Connecticut (36-1) has won two of the last three championships and three overall.

Both coaches insist they don't dislike each other.

But friends? Hardly. Summitt invited Villanova coach Harry Perretta and his team — the only one to beat UConn this

season — to her house for a cookout before the Mideast Regional in Knoxville. The East Tennessee mountains would turn into flatland before Auriemma secured such an invite.

Auriemma caused a stir when he needed Perretta, one of his good friends, over his relationship with Summitt, saying the Villanova coach had "dumped me for the Evil Empire."

Hey, Auriemma pleaded, lighten up. He was just having fun.

"There is nothing evil about them — unless you live in Connecticut. Her program speaks for itself and her reputation certainly speaks for itself. Throwing

snowballs is part of what you do in a tournament. We are just throwing a couple of snowballs at each other."

Summitt's reaction to how she was characterized?

"Well, I have been called a lot worse in my career," she said.

This is the third NCAA title game between the coaches; UConn won the others, in 1995 and 2000. The Huskies beat Oklahoma last year and are 3-0 in national finals.

And this season, UConn has national player of the year Diana Taurasi.

Taurasi scored 26 points in UConn's 71-69 semifinal victory over Texas on

Sunday and is averaging 25.8 points in the tournament.

"She is fearless," said Tennessee's Kara Lawson. "I think she takes on a lot of responsibility, but she is confident that she can handle it."

Tennessee has won 24 of 25 games since losing to Connecticut 63-62 in overtime Jan. 4. The Lady Vols are led by senior Gwen Jackson, who had 25 points in Sunday's win over Duke.

But to Jackson, finishing her career against the rival doesn't matter.

"I don't care who we play. I just want to win," she said. "It's my last 40 minutes of college basketball."



SUMMITT

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aggie baseball team taking on Rice Tuesday in Houston

The No. 17 Texas A&M baseball team will travel to Houston Tuesday to take on the No. 1 Rice Owls at Reckling Park.

Rice (31-1) has been ranked as the top team in the nation for four consecutive weeks and is riding a 29-game winning streak.

The Owls are only five games short of tying the national record for consecutive games won.

The Aggies (26-10) will send freshman left-hander Dan Donaldson to the mound against the Owls. The Houston native has a 1-0 record and an ERA of 3.57 this season.

Donaldson has pitched in eight games and recorded 17.2 innings of work.

Rice will counter with sophomore Wade Townsend who enters the game with a perfect 4-0 record and a 1.36 ERA this season.

In 53 innings of work, Townsend has struck out 75 opposing batters.

The two teams met earlier this season on Feb. 11 at Minute Maid Park in Houston where Rice defeated the Aggies 10-5.

The teams have played 253 times and A&M holds the series lead 172-81.

First pitch is scheduled for 7 p.m. and fans can listen to the action on 1620-AM in College Station.

Former Cougar coach denied Hall of Fame again

By Mark Babineck
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOUSTON — Despite producing 592 victories, 14 NCAA Tournament appearances, five trips to the Final Four and a bevy of NBA stars, former Houston coach Guy V. Lewis again missed the Basketball Hall of Fame on Monday.

"I feel like I should be able to get in, but (voters) don't think so," Lewis, accompanied by his wife Dena, told reporters after hearing the bad news from New Orleans. "That's all right with me."

Lewis had the backing of several prominent coaches and, after 17 seasons in retirement, was thought to have a good chance at finally joining basketball's other elite at age 81.

Instead, he'll wait another year. Until then, he had a message for the secretive 24-member honors committee that makes the decisions.

"Hell, man, wake up!" Lewis said. The committee did see fit to

induct former Boston Celtics center Robert Parish, former Los Angeles Laker forward James Worthy, former Harlem Globetrotter Meadowlark Lemon, color-barrier breaking NBA player Earl Lloyd, longtime Louisiana Tech women's coach Leon Barmore, Italian player Dino Meneghin and the late Chick Hearn, who broadcast 3,338 consecutive Laker games.

The seven were selected from a record group of 30 finalists and will be inducted in early September in Springfield, Mass. None of the men's basketball coaching finalists — Lewis, Lefty Driesell, Bill Sharman, Norm Stewart and Eddie Sutton — made the cut.

Both Lewises took note that five of the six U.S. inductees had ties to either the east or west coasts, suggesting he coached on the wrong coast.

"I think a lot of it is that," Lewis said. "Elvin (Hayes) and Calvin Murphy, both of those guys are in there. And I think they'd both like

me to be in there too."

Hayes was a star at Houston under Lewis in the late 1960s, leading the Cougars to Lewis' first two Final Fours, while Murphy was a Houston Rockets star in the 1970s.

Two other Lewis pupils, Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon, are likely headed to Springfield in the coming years. Lewis, despite the support of big coaching names like Nolan Richardson, Rick Majerus, Bob Knight and Don Haskins, isn't sure he'll join them.

"I guess they're mad at me or something," he joked.

Lewis was a pacesetter from the beginning. He broke UH's color barrier in the 1960s by signing Hayes and Don Chaney, a major move by a southern school at the time.

"The game was changed through Guy Lewis," Richardson told Houston television station KRIV. "He broke the barrier line for us in that part of Texas and it kind of spread throughout the South. For a guy who has done that much, I don't

understand the reasons behind him not being a Hall of Famer."

He also helped take college basketball to a national television audience for the first time in 1968, when No. 2 Houston hosted No. 1 UCLA before 52,693 at the Astrodome, with the Hayes-led Cougars beating the Lew Alcindor-led Bruins 71-69.

Lewis, who was a star player at Houston before taking over in 1956, did not have a losing record for the last 27 years of his 30-year coaching career, and his teams averaged 19 victories. He coached 15 All-Americans, 11 first-round NBA draft picks and is joined by only North Carolina's Dean Smith in having three players on the NBA's "Top 50" players list (Hayes, Drexler and Olajuwon).

Lewis, slowed physically by a stroke but still armed with a sharp wit, joked about what he needs to do to win over the voters.

"I'd like to come out of retirement and get a few more wins," Lewis said.

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