

# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 5 • Tuesday, November 25, 2003

## Aggies finish 19th at NCAA finals

Staff & Wire  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M men's cross country team posted its highest national finish in more than 40 years with a 19th place finish with 447 points at the 2003 NCAA Cross Country Championships Monday at the cold and windy Irv Warren Golf Course in Waterloo, Iowa.

It was the second-highest team finish in school history behind the Aggies' 12th place finish in 1961. Stanford won the men's team crown in dominating fashion with 24 points while placing five runners among the top 12 finishers.

"One of the first goals we established when we came together as a team in August was a top 20 finish at the NCAA meet," A&M head cross country coach Dave Hartman said. "Their performance is a credit to the hard work this team put in this season

and during the summer. All that hard work paid off with our highest team finish since 1961."

The Aggies, who were making their second straight appearance at the NCAA Championships, were led by All-America performances by fifth-year seniors Tommy Bonn and Andrew Cook. Bonn, a Big 12 Champion in track and field, finished 39th overall while covering the 10,000-meter loop in 30:14.8 to earn his first All-America citation. Cook, who came to Texas A&M as a non-scholarship athlete, finished 50th in a time of 30:24.1.

"Tommy and Andrew ran extremely strong and smart races," Hartman said. "They got out quickly with the front group and then steadily moved up throughout the race. They came up with big-time performances in the biggest race of the year, which is what we had been training for all year."

## Aggies kick off season with a win

By Troy Miller  
THE BATTALION

For the first time in four years the Texas A&M men's basketball team took the floor without Big 12 all-time leading scorer Bernard King in the lineup in a 82-53 win over Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

Sophomore guard/forward Antoine Wright, the heir apparent to King, also began the game out of the lineup. Wright, along with senior center Andy Slocum, another usual starter, started on the bench.

"They didn't follow team policies," said A&M coach Melvin Watkins. "This year we have enough depth that we have some options."

Slocum came off the bench and logged 14 minutes in which he scored four points and pulled down seven rebounds. Wright had an un-Wright performance, shooting 25 percent from the field for seven points and just one rebound in 22 minutes of playing time.

Even without the production from Wright, the Aggies were able to rely on their depth to catapult them to the comfortable win.

Instead, the scoring came from senior guard Kevin Turner who started in Wright's place. Turner scored the first nine points for the Aggies (1-0) by going three-for-three from behind the three-point arc and giving the Aggies a 10-4 lead with 15:18 to go in the first half.

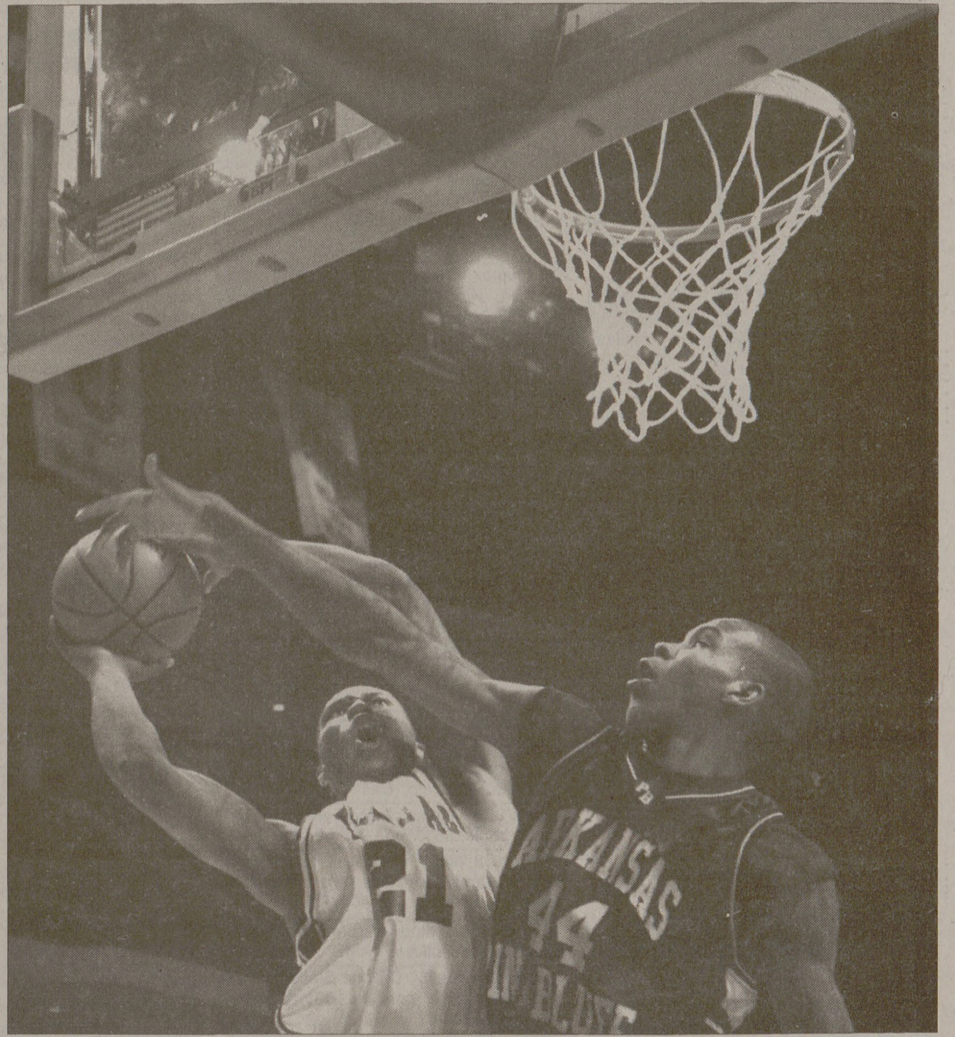
Turner finished the game with 17 points, including 15 from three-point range.

"Whenever the first shot goes in you know it's going to be a good night," Turner said. "We've got a long bench that can put points on the board if Antoine doesn't carry the load."

Turner was supplemented by senior forward Jesse King, who collected his first-career double-double by scoring 13 points and pulling down a career-high 11 rebounds.

King, who has been hampered by a knee injury suffered in his sophomore season, looks as if the injury is behind him as he has become more physical in the paint.

"I believe Jesse has not shown his best



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Aggie sophomore forward Antoine Wright goes up for a layup against Arkansas Pine Bluff's Jarvis Gunter in the first half of play Monday night. The Aggies won the season opener, 82-53.

basketball yet," Watkins said. "He will surely be a weapon that will provide scoring us some points."

After giving up an average of 89 points in the exhibition season, the defense held the Golden Lions to just 17 points in the first half and 36 in the second. The Aggies also collected 27 turnovers on the night.

"I think we played pretty good defense," said senior guard Leandro Garcia-Morales.

"We had some mental lapses. I think we're going to learn from that and get better."

Throughout the game, the Golden Lions never had the personnel to stay with the Aggies. Although the Aggies didn't play to the best of their abilities, Watkins said a win is a win.

"No matter what the competition is we need to play at a certain level," Watkins said. "We have to do that every night."

### SPORTS IN BRIEF

#### Zorn equals best at UT tournament

Texas A&M senior Mary Zorn captured her fourth consecutive Longhorn Invitational title by equaling her lifetime-best score indoors.

The reigning outdoor compound world champion won the tournament with a score of 1,171 (out of 1,200). That mark equals the score she shot at indoor nationals in March 2002. Zorn shot no less than 292 out of 300 in any of her four rounds.

World championship finalist Amber Dawson finished in second place with a near-lifetime-best mark of 1,156. Freshman Brenda Temperley jumped over sophomore All-American Amanda Raffaelli on the final day for third place, 1,131-1,127.

Freshman Corinne Yohann won the first tournament of her young Aggie career by unseating three-time defending champion Lorinda Cohen in the recurve division. Yohann fired a score of 1,106 for the title, her first score over the 1,100 mark.



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