

SPORTS

THE BATTALION

Page 7 • Monday, February 9, 2004

Aggies have impressive weekend in the pool

A&M falls in hard-fought battle with No. 3 Texas Aggies drown Rice, UH

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The one-two finish would foreshadow much of the meet. The Longhorns finished in first place in 13 of 16 events, with A&M finishing second in nine of those 13 events. Impressively, 12 of the 14 swimming events were decided by less than two seconds.

In the 50-yard freestyle, A&M senior Matt Rose's time of 20.07 seconds was the 10th fastest in the NCAA this season. Not to be outdone, Texas' Ian Crocker, a former Olympic gold medalist, time of 19.41 in the same event was the third fastest in the NCAA this season.

"It hurts a little bit to swim that good and still get beat," Rose said about his second-place finish.

Rose would eventually redeem himself two events later, taking first place in the 100-yard freestyle.

On the diving side, A&M senior Adam Morgan won the one-meter springboard event, his sixth consecutive win in the event. Morgan said he knew he would have to step his performance up a level to get a win against Texas.

See Swim on page 9



JOHN C. LIVAS • THE BATTALION

Junior Alfredo Jacobo swims the 200-yard breaststroke against Texas Friday at the Texas A&M Student Recreation Center Natatorium. Jacobo had his streak of eight consecutive wins in the event snapped by Texas senior Brendan Hanson.

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

The No. 14 Texas A&M women's swimming and diving team ended its season on a high note with wins against Rice University and the University of Houston over the weekend.

A&M (10-1) first faced off against the Rice Owls on Friday night at the A&M Student Recreation Center Natatorium in front of the largest crowd to ever attend a women's swimming and diving meet. The Aggies performed well, defeating the Owls in a 142-109 loss.

A&M won 11 of the 14 events, placing first and second in seven of those events.

A&M junior Courtney Patterson placed first in both backstroke events, the second time Patterson has accomplished this feat in the last three meets. Patterson said her success and the team's success was due to their rigorous practices.

"We've never trained this hard before," Patterson said.

The Aggies traveled to Houston Saturday morning to take on the University of Houston, the last meet on their

regular season schedule.

The Aggies easily cruised to a 155-115 win over the Cougars, winning 14 of the 16 events. The Aggies' only losses both came on the diving side to Houston freshman Anna Kiess, who won both events.

A&M junior Danielle Townsend strengthened her chances at winning a third straight Big 12 Swimmer of the Month award with a win in the 100-yard backstroke. Townsend said a change in her summer training has helped her get to the level she's at currently.

"When you relax, you have fun with it and sometimes even win," Townsend said.

The Aggies will be practicing over the next two weeks to prepare for the Big 12 conference finals in Austin and NCAA championships, which will be held at A&M.

A&M head coach Steve Bultman said he was pleased by the home crowd turnout on Friday and hopes to see a similar crowd at the NCAA championships.

"We will definitely be looking for a big Aggie crowd to come and give our girls the needed support," Bultman said.

Aggie men's basketball loses again, this time to Baylor

By Jordan Meserole
THE BATTALION

"Dismal" is the best word to describe the Texas A&M men's basketball performance in a 72-64 loss to Baylor University Saturday night.

The Aggies (7-12, 0-8 Big 12) were given several opportunities to earn their first conference win this season against the Bears (7-14, 2-6), but could not seize the wide-open chances. The only opportunity the Aggies have secured now is the chance to finish winless in the Big 12 and end the season with 16 consecutive losses.

"We were just bad," said A&M head coach Melvin Watkins. "We deserved to get beat."

The Aggies dug themselves deep into a hole early in the game, turning the ball over three times and making only two of their first nine shots. The Bears capitalized on the Aggie miscues by jumping out to a quick six-point lead.

Midway through the first half, the Aggies seemed to get fired up after back-to-back three pointers by A&M senior guard Kevin Turner that tied the game, but the Bears quickly extinguished the Aggie fire by tying the game with less than three minutes left in the half.

Turner led the Aggies with 14 points, 12 coming from behind the three-point arc.

Baylor senior guard Matt Sayman nailed a long-range three-pointer at the buzzer to give Baylor a four-point lead, the closest the Aggies would ever come to beating the Bears for the remainder of the game.

Sayman scored a career-high 20 points for the Bears. He also contributed five rebounds and five assists.

The Aggies missed their largest opportunity to catch Baylor late in the second half when Baylor went nearly seven minutes without a field goal. A&M, however, would turn the ball over five more times and miss six more shots in that same time frame.

A&M finished the night with 23 total turnovers.

"You can't come in here lackadaisical and expect to win. We're going to put up a fight - this is our house."

— Harvey Thomas
Baylor junior forward

Watkins said it was frustrating to see the Aggies commit so many needless mistakes on the court. He said many of the turnovers weren't forced by Baylor, but instead were pure mental errors by A&M.

"You can't go anywhere and have 23 turnovers and expect to win a ball game," Watkins said. "We have to get the players' minds right because we are

BATT LINKS
more links @
www.thebatt.com

a much better basketball team."

Baylor, which was projected by many preseason polls to finish the season without a conference win, had three players finish with double digits and tallied up 13 steals.

Baylor junior forward Harvey Thomas had 20 points, six blocks and two steals. Thomas said he felt A&M expected to come to Waco and leave with a easy win.

"They came in lackadaisical," Thomas said. "You can't come in here lackadaisical and expect to win. We're going to put up a fight - this is our house."

Baylor head coach Scott Drew said he was pleased by the energy and focus of his players that earned them the win.

"For a team like us that hasn't won a lot of games, it's easy to play not to win," Drew said. "But that wasn't the case today. They came out wanting to win and got it."

The Aggies hope to end their dismal eight-game losing skid Wednesday night against Nebraska at Reed Arena at 7 p.m.

Watkins said the Aggies are talented enough to be getting wins and it is up to the team to work hard enough to get one.

"Saying we're going to get a win and getting a win are two different things," Watkins said. "They're going to have to do it and not just say it."

For more photos of the game, please visit www.thebatt.com.



JP BEATO III • THE BATTALION

A&M sophomore forward Luis Clemente gets blocked by Baylor junior forward Harvey Thomas. Thomas had six blocks to go along with his 20 points in Baylor's 72-64 win.

THE BATTALION

IN PRINT
ONLINE
ON RADIO



News
Sports
Opinion
Mailcall
Aggielife
Photo
Graphics
Comics
AP News
Classifieds



Simons Jewelers



Simon G.



SCOTT KAY

Incredible Selection

Featuring original designs by David Gardner and selections from Scott Kay, Gumuchian and Simon G, David Gardner's Jewelers has the widest selection of engagement rings.

Special Valentine's Financing!
Terms and restrictions apply.

DAVID GARDNER'S
JEWELERS ♦ GEMOLOGISTS

WIDEST SELECTION ■ ORIGINAL DESIGNS ■ EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE 522 UNIVERSITY DR EAST 764.8786 BETWEEN THE SUIT CLUB & AUDIO VIDEO