

# Aggie swim team dives into meet with No. 20 LSU

By Kevin Roark

Senior day means the closing of one door and the opening of another as Texas A&M will host LSU at 11 a.m. Saturday at the Student Recreation Center Natatorium.

"Last weekend was a club meet, [and] it was long course which is not what we normally swim," said Steve Bultman, head coach of women's swimming and diving. "We've got people trying to qualify for their country's national team and that's the kind of pool they swim, so we [went] over there to race to try and get them ready."

The No. 4 Texas A&M (8-0, 3-0 SEC) women's swimming and diving team doled out a strong performance in the Arena Pro Swim Series at Jamail Texas Swimming Center in Austin, led by a foursome of junior Claire Brandt, freshman Beryl Gastaldello and sophomores Franko Jonker and Sarah Gibson.

The quartet took top honors in the final race with a time of 4:09.13.

No. 20 LSU (4-3, 1-3 SEC) is coming off a tough home loss to Tennessee two weeks ago. Kara Kop-sco is making waves after she led the Tigers with three wins in their last competition.

Texas A&M men's swimming and diving (5-3, 0-2 SEC) also plays host to LSU (2-4, 0-4 SEC). This developing rivalry will be an exciting competition with both crews hunting their first conference win.

Freshman Brock Bonetti was named the SEC Freshman of the Week on Tuesday. Bonetti led the Aggies to a 132-104 victory over rival SMU with his backstroke and relay first-place finishes.

His 200-yard backstroke led a Texas A&M sweep of the top three places with a time of 1:45.21. His backstroke split started the Aggies off to a solid start

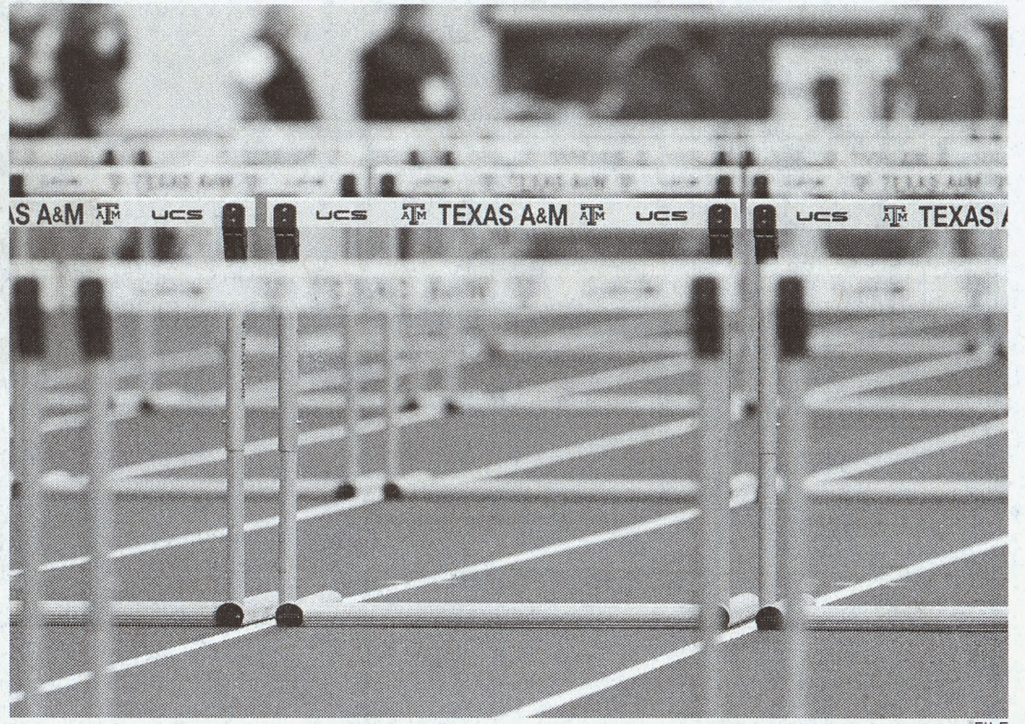
which ultimately led to a season-best time of 3:13.3. Bonetti also secured third place in the 200 IM, posting a time of 1:51.84.

Senior night brings bittersweet feelings to the players as well as the coaches.

"It means time flew," Bultman said. "That's all they talk about and I feel the same way. Just a year or two ago I was recruiting them and now they're finishing up their eligibility. It's a happy thing but it's a sad thing at the same time."

The swimmers and coaches both know how it helps to have a solid base to honor the seniors.

"We usually get pretty good crowds," Bultman said. "Our meets two weeks ago were earlier in the day and they were on a week day. So that's kind of tough to get people out. This is a weekend, a Saturday meet at 11, and hopefully we can get a good crowd."



FILE

# College Station the site of weekend indoor track meet

By Seth Stroupe

The Aggie track and field team will host the Texas A&M Quadrangular dual track meet Saturday in the Gilliam Indoor Track Stadium.

The Aggies are coming off a strong showing last weekend at the Texas A&M Team Invitational, where the men took first place by a commanding 71-point margin and the women finished 16.5 points behind Baylor in second place.

"We had a good start, I was very pleased with our first time on the track," said head coach Pat Henry. "We held some people out. We didn't double some people like we usually do, we did some things differently. We don't like getting beat like we did on the women's side, but we felt like we did the right thing with our personnel. With the men, we won really handily and we did some good things."

One of those "good things" mentioned by Henry was the performance by senior sprinter Shavez Hart. Hart took first place in the 200 meters with a time of 20.76. That mark

is the fastest time recorded in the 2015 season and is just one tenth away from Hart's personal best. In recognition of this feat, Hart was named the SEC Sprinter of the week.

"Shavez Hart is starting the season where he ended last year," Henry said. "That's kind of your goal, that's what you shoot for. If you're doing things at a certain level and you worked all year to get to that point, you don't want to start all over and then try to hit that three quarters of the way through the next season."

The Aggie squad's ability to carry past momentum into the current season was enough for Track & Field News to rank the women No. 1 and the men No. 2 in their inaugural dual meet indoor rankings. However, improvements need to continue in order to sweep this weekend's meet. Henry listed three teams particularly that he was on the lookout for.

"Texas Tech is nationally ranked on both sides," Henry said. "Tech has always had a good program and they'll be ready to go. Arizona State has been competitive in our sport

for years and years. And it'll be good to have Coach VanHoo-tegem and his Oklahoma team back in here."

Texas A&M fans will want to look out for senior sprinter Deon Lendore's match debut. Lendore won last year's Bow-erman Award — the highest honor in track and field. He is only the second Aggie to ever win the award, and he will be looking to make an impression in his first action this season. This weekend will also serve as a sort of homecoming for VanHootegem, who served as an assistant under Henry for two years in College Station before accepting his current position with the Sooners.

"Every time you line up in track, it's you against someone else. You can't hide," said Henry. "Our track season is kind of like a ladder. We took the first step last week; we take the second step this week."

The Texas A&M Quadrangular meet will take place Saturday from 12-3 p.m. in Gilliam Indoor Track Stadium. The meet will be broadcast on SEC Network Plus.

# Aggie tennis team gears up for ITA Kick-Off Invitational

By Milkyas Gashaw

The No. 10 Aggie men's and No. 11 women's tennis teams kick off their respective dual match play seasons by hosting the ITA Kick-Off Invitational this weekend at the Mitchell Tennis Center. The tournament kicks off at noon Saturday.

The women are coming off a dual tournament last weekend in which the Aggies sent a split squad to both the National Collegiate Tennis Classic (NCTC) in California and the Freeman Memo-

rial hosted by UNLV. Sophomore Rutuja Bhosale earned the highest ranked win of her career at the NCTC against No. 12 Taylor Davidson of Stanford.

The men's previous competition happened two weekends ago in the Morgan Run Tournament in California. Both senior Jeremy Efferding and freshman AJ Catanzariti finished the weekend with an unbeaten 3-0 record.

Women's head coach Howard Joffe said he's excited to see his players step out on the court and compete this season.

"I'm confident that our girls will contest the matches well and play well," Joffe said. "I'm also confident that as we grow, we will be a formidable team."

Bhosale said she was excited to see the hard work that her teammates put in.

"Everyone's really excited for the kickoff tournament this weekend," Bhosale said. "We've all worked really hard this fall season and we were very successful this past weekend. We're ready to start the season."

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puzzle answers can be found on page 4

**Newsday Crossword**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Baby hippo
- 5 Sour-tasting
- 9 November birthstone
- 14 Recital piece
- 15 Women's tour grp.
- 16 Preposterous
- 17 Narrow strip of land
- 18 Latch (onto)
- 19 Gets snug
- 20 Advice to the photo?
- 23 Inflexible
- 24 Needle bearers
- 25 Mark time
- 27 Physician's patron
- 30 Sews up
- 34 Tedious task
- 35 Cross swords
- 36 Raise the roof
- 37 Irish actor
- 38 Inflationary paths
- 41 To Kill a Mockingbird nickname
- 42 Elton John Broadway score
- 44 Solemn approval
- 45 Raise the roof
- 47 Showed discomfort
- 49 Locations
- 50 Shade of green or blue
- 51 Whitman work
- 52 Researched in depth
- 54 Group of authors?
- 60 Kipling's birthplace

**DOWN**

- 1 Insincere talk
- 2 Sector
- 3 Defeat soundly
- 4 Wrap preferred by PETA
- 5 Member of Apple's board
- 6 Fair grade
- 7 Operatic prince
- 8 Clammy
- 9 Soup holder
- 10 Unified
- 11 Overtake a Tampa Bay player?
- 12 Before, to Brutus
- 13 Exuberance
- 21 Cry of dread
- 22 Volunteer's offer
- 26 Frosty
- 27 31 Down person
- 28 Finest Hour (Churchill book)
- 29 Burdening physician?
- 30 Sound again
- 31 Skinny
- 32 Wed in haste
- 33 Mail drops
- 35 A little change
- 39 Worried walker
- 40 Serbian tennis great
- 43 Quebec crony
- 46 Gadabout
- 48 All the time
- 49 Permeable
- 51 Of punishment
- 52 Gossip about
- 53 Golden Rule word
- 55 Purposeless
- 56 Bona fide
- 57 South American capital
- 58 Leave off
- 59 Beds in tents
- 61 Cartridge contents

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