

Returning Champions Will Be Hard Pressed at Texas Relays

AUSTIN, Tex., March 31.—(AP)—More than 700 entries have been received and probably 300 more will be posted by deadline time today in the twenty-first annual Texas Relays. Universities and colleges from eight states in the Southwest, South and Mid-west will have teams here with three records expected to fall and a half dozen others in danger. Defending individual champions have little or no chance of repeating, these including Rollin Frasier of Kansas State who won both the shot and discus events last year. Huge Fortune Gordier, Minnesota's mighty man, not only is expected to beat Frasier in both events but to set new records. He whirled the discus in the neighborhood of 180 feet and puts the shot 54—both well over the Texas Relays marks.

The only 1947 champions not scheduled to return are Bill Martinson, 100-yard dash winner, and Herb Grote, javelin star from Nebraska. Martinson transferred from Baylor to Oklahoma A&M and is not eligible this year.

Harry Cooper of Minnesota, who pole vaults 14 feet, will probably take a back seat even if he should surpass the relays' record of 14 feet 3/4 inch. Earle Meadows, the 1936 Olympics champion and former world's record-holder, will appear in an exhibition. Meadows, now operator of the book store at Howard Payne College, has been soaring well over 14 feet in his comeback drive this season for a place on the U. S. Olympics team.

Already entered are 330 tracksters from 24 colleges and universities, 42 from junior colleges and university freshman squads and 354 from 34 high schools. The shot put and discus records of the university-college class and the mile relay mark of the university division are those that appear pretty certain to fall. The university relay record is 3:17.8, set by Texas A&M last year. The same Aggie team returns.

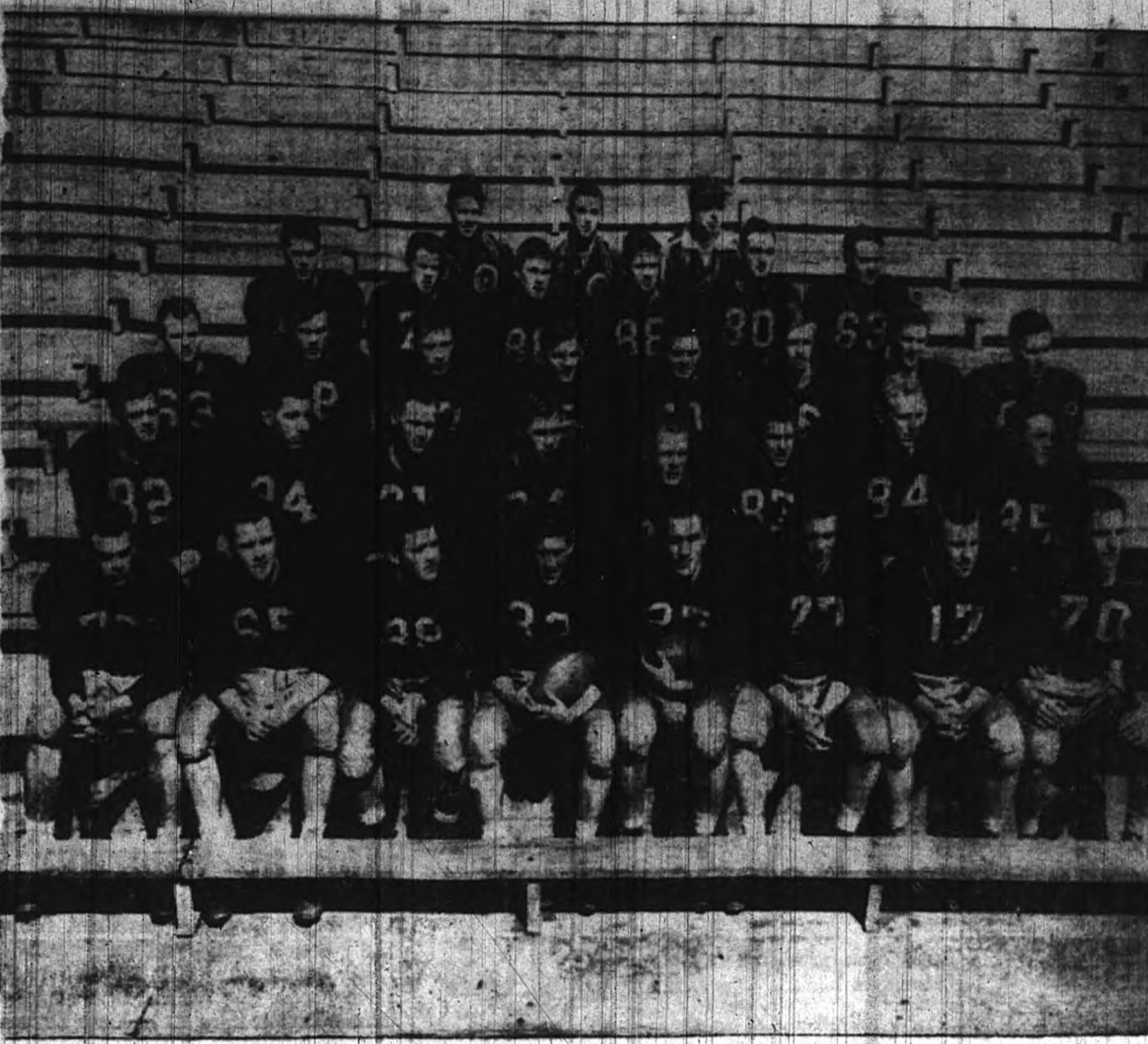
Entries in the university and college divisions to date are: Arkansas, Bradley of Illinois, Drake,



ALBERT RICKS has consistently gained points for the Aggie track team in the meets this year. He placed in the high jump and the pole vault at the Corpus Christi triangular meet Saturday night.

Kansas, Kansas State, Loyola of Chicago, Minnesota, Oklahoma, Oklahoma A&M, Tulane, Abilene Christian College, East Texas State, Howard Payne, University of Houston, Lackland Air Base (San Antonio), North Texas State, Rice, Sam Houston State, Southern Methodist, Trinity, Texas A&I, Texas A&M, Texas Tech and Texas.

The \$2.50 payoff on Calumet's Citation in the Everglades Handicap at Hialeah this year was the lowest straight mutuel return in the track's history.



Pictured above are members of the A&M football team. This group represents one of the best crops of Freshman football prospects seen at Aggieland in several seasons. They are:
FIRST ROW: Bob Miller, Don Lambert, Campbell "Tennessee" Hardin, Doyle Moore, Bob Bates, D. J. Barton, Billy McPherson, and Roy Reed.
SECOND ROW: Donnie Slaughter, Gene Salmon, Bill Manning, Tuck Chapin, Jack Carlton, Cope Copeland, Blanton "Nose" Taylor, and Carl Molberg.
THIRD ROW: Billy Frazelle, Mickey Spencer, Wendell Swan, Kenzy Hallmark, Billy Walker, Ernest "Mumbles" Baumgart, Hollis Baker and John Billings.
FOURTH ROW: Hugo Meyers, Charles Royalty, Harland Collins, George Robertis, David Britt and Frank Parchman.
TOP ROW: Coach Charlie DeWare, Manager John Mayfield, Assistant Coach Wayne Cure.

Pirate Pennant Outlook Improving

By BOB MYERS

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—(AP)—Optimism runs high in the Pittsburgh baseball camp as Manager Billy Meyer herds the Buccos through training chores. This is Meyer's debut as a major league manager but if he has any

THUMBNAIL PREVIEW PITTSBURGH PIRATES
Pitching—Seasoned.
Catching—Improved.
Infield—Questionable.
Outfield—Fine.
Hitting—Exceptional.
Finish—5 or 6.

so-called minor league complex, it doesn't show. Asked about it, in fact, Meyer scratched his grey hairs, and said: "No, I guess they play ball up there just about the same as we did in the minors." The pleasant skipper has spent 39 years in the game, including five years as a major league catcher, and is noted as a skilled tactician, a real student of baseball. The night his appointment was announced, Pittsburgh Baseball Writer Chill Doyle quoted Joe McCarthy as telling him: "You now have the best manager in the game."

That's high praise, but most sincere, from Marsh Joe, and as the pilot of the Yankees in their greater years he had much contact with Meyer, who was the ace of the Yankee farm system, managing, among others, Newark and Kansas City to pennants. Pittsburgh, or rather some of its players, got out of hand last year and the final day showed



Manager Bill Meyer of the Pittsburgh Pirates chats with his top player, home run king Ralph Kiner.

them cuddling in a tight embrace with the Phillies in the cellar. So anything Meyers does this year can't help but be silk and velvet.

The Pirates aren't merely aiming at getting out of the cellar, however. They've set their eyes on the first division, and many folks think they'll make it.

The club has hitting, fielding and the possibility of pitching. Veteran pitchers include Tiny Bonham, Ray Ostermueller, Nick Strincevich, Elmer Riddle and a coterie of ex-Brooklyns, Vic Lombardi, Kirby Higbe and Skeets Gregg.

The outstanding rookie is Bob Chesnes, a \$100,000 purchase off his 22-8 season with Lefty O'Doul's San Francisco club last year. Chesnes had a few chips removed from his elbow during the winter but appears to be all right now.

Pride of the Smoky City, of course, is the outfield, with Ralph (51 homers) Kiner, Dixie Walker, Johnny Hopp, Wally Westlake, Max West and Joe Grace. Grace came from Washington and West is back in the big time after swatting 43 homers for San Diego in the Coast League.

The infield is new in a sense, but Meyer seems unworried about it. Eddie Stevens, a slugging rookie, replaces Hank Greenberg at first, a keystone combination of Romanus Basgall from Fort Worth and Stan Rook, from Brooklyn, while Frankie Gustine will be back at third. Gustine hit 297 last year, and with Catcher Clyde Klutz, 302 figures materially in the attack.

One of the most talked about rookies is Catcher Eddie Fitz Gerald, who hit .363 with the Coast League's Sacramento Senators last year. Meyer has great faith in young Stevens, up from Montreal, but the veteran West, or Hopp, can handle the bag if needed.

Some are some of the players who contributed to low morale on the 1947 team, and Meyer is admittedly pleased with the new spirit. He can be a strict disciplinarian but his friends say he has unquestioned ability in handling players, particularly youngsters. Things are looking up for Pittsburgh.

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Southwest Conference Baseball Pennant Race Starts This Week

Mural Boxing Starts April 5 With 32 Bouts

Zero hour for intramural boxing is just around the corner according to an announcement by Barney Welch, Assistant Director of Intramurals.

A 32-bout card on Monday, April 5, will open hostilities. All fights will take place in DeWare Fieldhouse with the first set of bouts to begin at 4 o'clock.

Semi-final bouts in the tourney will take place on April 19 with the title fights to be reeled off on April 21.

There are 160 Aggies slated to scrape in the seven weight divisions. The 119 to 128 pound bracket is the lightest class. All classes are separated into ten-pound divisions. Boxers weighing 179 pounds and over are in the heavyweight class.

Two of last year's title winners are back to defend their crowns. John Webb of "G" Infantry is defending champ in the 119-pound division. In the 129-pound class, Ray Golden of "A" Infantry is back to protect his title.

Several of the 1947 runner-ups have also weighed in for this year's tourney. Harold Zeitman went to the finals in the 169-pound division last year. Varley Young wound up in the second spot in the 149-pound class, and Ralph Pastorek was the runner-up in the 129-pound bracket.

The single elimination system will be used in the event. A bout will go a maximum of three one-minute rounds with a one minute rest period between rounds. The referee may stop a fight whenever he sees fit.

Referees for the fights will be Cliff Ackerman, Les Palmer, Spike White and Barney Welch. The time keeper will be Buddy Denton.

Judge Freed Him

CHICAGO.—(AP)—Ed Tibosta, a pitcher who will bid for a Chicago White Sox job this season after winning 11 for Hollywood of the Pacific Coast League last campaign is one of the 90-odd Detroiters granted free agency in 1940 by the late Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

Eddie Sawyer of the Toronto Maple Leafs of the International League, is the only new manager in the AAA baseball circuit.

Six of the nine varsity members of Michigan State College's varsity fencing team are married men.

Baylor Rice Meet in Opener; Aggies and Steers Play Friday

Southwest Conference baseball teams start playing for keeps this week with five league games on the docket Friday and Saturday.

Rice and Baylor square off in the season's first conference tilt Thursday in Waco. The two clubs follow up Thursday's game with a contest Friday to end the two-game series.

Golf Team to Open Season This Week Against Mustangs

The Aggie Golf team will open the season here Thursday against Southern Methodist University with the brightest prospects in several years.

Several high school stars have joined the Farmer squad since last year. Travis Bryan Jr. and Bart Halton of Bryan and Jimmie John Henry of Corsicana all have been breaking par lately.

This year the Conference Championship will be decided by a round robin, and the conference meet will decide only the individual champions rather than the team winner as in recent years.

The Aggies will have the advantage of playing all but two of their matches on their local course.

All entries for intramural open golf are due at the Intramural Office by 2 o'clock tomorrow. Qualifying scores must be presented at the same time.

Just One More Run

PHILADELPHIA.—(AP)—The Philadelphia Athletics flirted with a first place berth all last season and wound up fifth after their most successful campaign in years, but the A's might have finished even higher if they had been able to produce just one run occasionally. The Mackmen lost 29 games by a single run last season. They won 77 by that slim margin.

The Texas Aggies have proven the hardest team to score against. Cadet moundmen have permitted 32 tallies for an average of 1.5 runs per tilt.

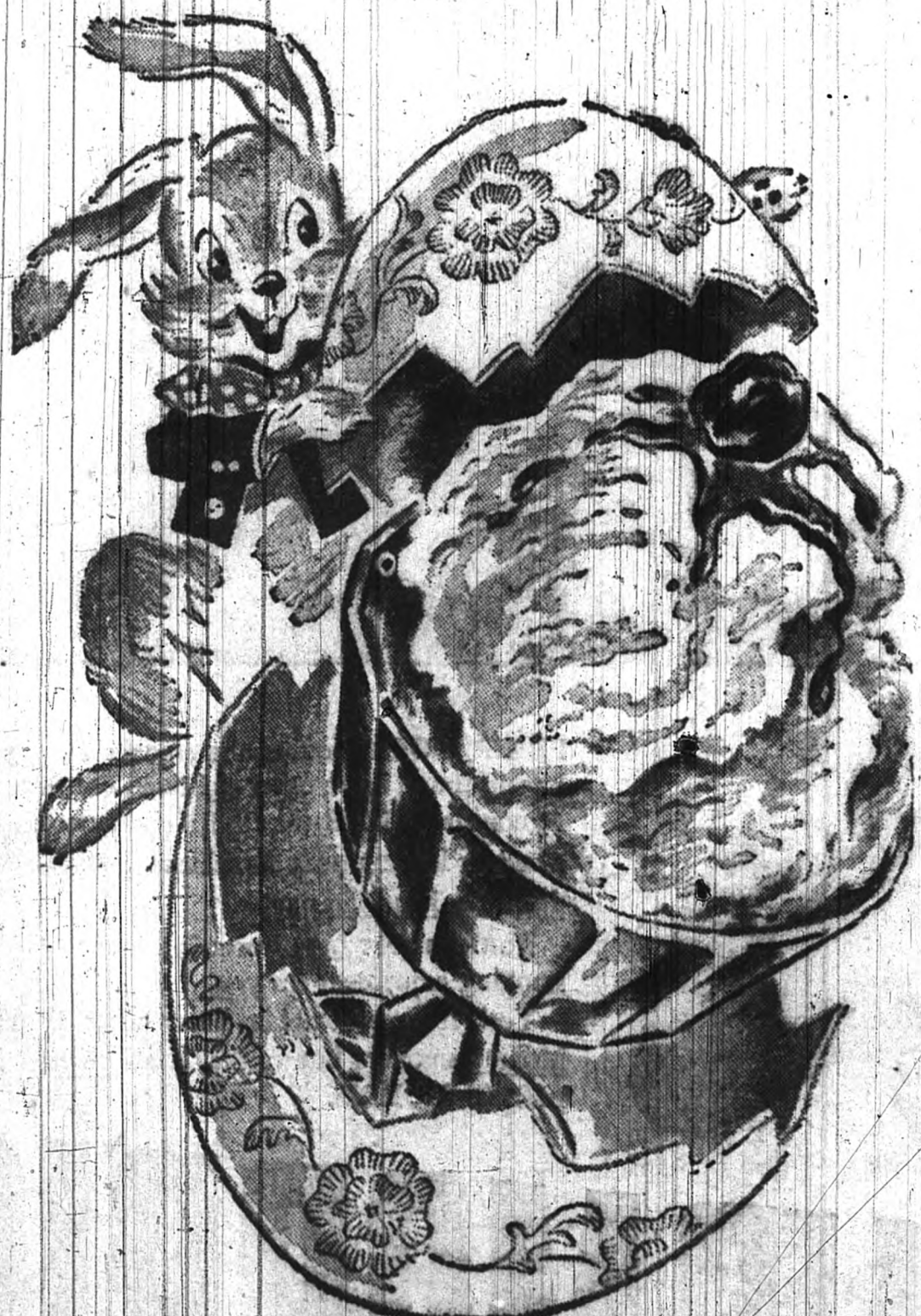
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A message to you from the Chief of Staff



"April 6 is Army Day. It is a day which will have a special meaning for college men. More than half of you are veterans of the last war. Many of you are members of the Organized Reserve. Many others belong to the R.O.T.C. or National Guard.

"All of you are making a vital contribution toward World Peace and the security of this nation.

"The U. S. Army is the finest army in the world and the only one of its kind among the major powers. It is 100% volunteer. It is composed entirely of civilian soldiers . . . men like yourselves who realize that a strong America is a peaceful America, and that the responsibility of making America strong rests in the hands of every American citizen.

"The U. S. Army is not a large army, as armies go. It is shouldering tasks far greater than any other army of like size has ever attempted.

Our occupation force in Japan is the smallest per capita of any modern occupation army. Our force in Europe is the smallest of the three major powers.

"But behind this Army stand you men of the Organized Reserve and the R.O.T.C. I have known many of you personally. I have been with many of you in action. I know the fine type of men you are and the realism that leads you to equip yourselves with military training.

"Further, I know the valuable service you can render the nation in time of emergency. A great success of fast mobilization and the ending of the war was due to the 106,000 trained Reserve Officers and the top-notch National Guard units which were available for quick action.

"To you, on Army Day, I believe I speak for millions of Americans in offering commendation for the fine job you are doing."

Omar N. Bradley
CHIEF OF STAFF, U. S. ARMY

You can get full details about the opportunities open to you in the Army's complete military training program at any U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force Recruiting Station.