

Increased Strength In Hurdles, Distances And Jumps Predicted For Aggie Track Squad In '50

"Next year, Old Army" has long been the traditional cry of the Aggie in relation to sports events. This has been especially true in the last ten years. Sometime it turns out that "next year" is worse than its predecessor. In the case of track, however, it has been the boys from Austin and Houston who have usurped this traditional call of the Maroon and White. But they do have something to back it up, and the going will be rougher than it has been in the last five years.

Coach Frank Anderson has not yet declared that he is completely out of the race. For his squad should be stronger in every event over 440 yards. The most likely weak spots in the squad will turn up in the sprints and the 440. A competent man in the javelin is also needed for what might be the only weak spot in the field events.

Sprints Pose Problem
Let's start with the sprints and work up. Here the Farmers lose their two top men of the past season, Bill Napier and Warren Wilson. Coming up from the freshman team are Buddy Shaffer and Gary Anderson. If either of these two

fine performers hit their high school stride they could well take up the slack in the short distance races. Two members of the varsity will be returning in the dashes, Jack Bond and W. D. Richardson. Bond was rapidly improving at the close of the last season and was one of the main reasons for the triumph of the sprint relay team at the conference meet. Another possibility is Bob Hall, the outstanding low hurdler. There has been talk around the track that Hall might give the sprints a try with the increased hurdle strength coming up from the Fish squad.

In the quarter mile the Aggies may not be as weak as generally predicted. It is true that we do lose three of the top four 440 men, but if the pros are kind James Baker of this year's Fish squad could go a long way to fill the gap left by Ray Holbrook, Connie Ludwick, and Ervin Bildeback. Don Mitchell, the former state champ from Deer Park, will return for two more years and could take the event if he improves

as expected. Bernard Place, former sprinter at Navarro Junior College of Corsicana, has been shifted to the quarter and has turned in a time of 49.9, although he is virtually inexperienced at this distance. Benton Terry has been a member of the mile relay team at various meets during the past season. Another candidate for the mile relay team will be Don Cardon, a member of the team in 1948. Cardon will probably concentrate on the 440 in 1950, although he is a top hand at the low hurdles when he is in shape.

Half Mile Improved
Bob Atkins heads the list of 880 men returning to the A&M squad. Webster Stone, out due to illness, the past season, would really cause an improvement in the half if he could get in shape for the coming season. Atkins and Stone are proven hands at this race.

As far as the freshmen team is concerned, there are plenty of prospects but no cinch points at this distance. James Terry, Jodie Zeri, Marcial Sorrel, and John Garmenty are among the top prospects on the Fish squad to develop into real point earners at this distance. None of these boys are red hot,

but neither was Julian Herring of the varsity a year ago. Herring is a good man to start with in the mile and the two mile races.

J. D. Hampton and Herring will both return for another year of competition. That should be sufficient to take care of the two distance events, but in addition the team will have Jerry Bonnen returning for his last year, together with some possible reinforcements from the ineligible squad.

Duel In Hurdles
With Aggie Erfurth of Rice and Jim Rowland of SMU finishing their collegiate eligibility, the high hurdles are likely to become a duel between Bill Howton of Rice and Paul Leming of A&M. This event, where the Farmers didn't make a point in the conference meet in Arkansas, might be their strongest event in years to come. Leming will have to hold off the very fast Howton, who has the psychological advantage of being the underdog.

Howton will also have the coaching of Freddy Wolcott, the greatest hurdler in the history of the Southwest Conference. So it looks like a tight duel between Leming and Howton, with the possibility of Cleburne Price of SMU pushing the other two out next year.

Hall and Leming should team with Billy Bless to give the Aggies at least three place in the 220 yard low hurdles. Bless is the national record holder in the 200 yard lows. George Kadera will return to give the Aggies a base to build their weight strength on in 1950. George is almost a cinch to take first in the discus and shot unless he has another off day as he did at the conference meet this year. Ed Hooker is another discus man of promise.

Bob Smith, of the Aggie football squad, is a candidate for points in the shot and also the javelin. Smith might be the sought after javelin man. He has little experience at this event, but his early throws are very promising.

Two fellows named Henry will form the core of the Aggie broad jump strength next year. Bill and John Henry are not likely to improve enough to overtake Price of A&M, but one is almost certain to place in every meet next year. Bill so far has made the best leap.

Don Graves and Buddy Davis will be the two leading Aggies in the high jump. Both are sophomores and might reach eight eight during the next season.

Jack Simpson, Johnny Davis, and Graves will be the top Aggie entrants in the pole vault. Some observers are predicting that Simpson will clear 14 feet before he finishes his last two years of college competition. Graves is fairly



Distance runner J. D. HAMPTON of the Aggies accepts a trophy from conference secretary James Stewart for copping high point honors in the 1949 Southwest Conference track meet. Looking on approvingly are track coach Frank Anderson and assistant coach Ray Putnam.

Battalion SPORTS

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1949 Page 3



BILL NAPIER is shown above leading the runners at the finish of the 440-yard relay in conference track meet held at the University of Arkansas. Finishing behind Napier are Parker of Texas, Cotton of Baylor, and Brown of Rice.



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Hamilton Tops SWC Hitters; Fretz and Lindloff Lead Ags

The 1949 Southwest Conference baseball season came to a close last week and Tom Hamilton, first sacker for the Texas Longhorns, emerged as the top hitter in conference play with a .474 average. Hamilton proved to be an all-around performer as he was tops in hits with 28, runs with 22, and home runs with seven. The Steer first sacker also played flawless ball at first.

Leading the Aggie hitters was Cotton Lindloff with a .340 average. Close behind the Aggie second sacker was shortstop Guy Wallace with .339. Wallace also led the conference in stolen bases with 11.

Texas had the best freshman squad in the conference this year, but A&M's freshman strength fills in the holes that were weak on the varsity this past year. So if the Aggies don't win their fourth straight crown, they should at least be close.

Shortstop Alvin Dark of the Boston Braves started out with a bang this spring. In his first seven games he made 16 hits.

The only other Cadet player who ranked among the individual leaders was Wally Morn who topped the league in two base hits with seven.

Pitcher and outfielder Bob Fretz of the Aggies compiled one of the best pitching records that the conference has seen in recent years. Fretz, playing his last year for the Farmers, won five games and lost none. In winning five straight the Cadet hurler defeated each team in the conference except Baylor.

Close behind Fretz was Murray Wall of the Longhorns with a 8-1 record.

Individual Leaders
Runs—Hamilton, Texas, 22.
RBI—Kneuper, Texas, 27.
Hits—Hamilton, Texas, 28.
2B Hits—Moon, A&M, 7.
3B Hits—No Leader.
Home Runs—Hamilton, Texas, 7.
Total Bases—Hamilton, Texas, 57.
Stolen Bases—Wallace, A&M, 11.
Walks—Devereaux, Baylor, 17.

Name	W	L	Pct.
Fretz, A&M	5	0	1,000
Robinson, Bay	1	0	1,000
Wall, Texas	8	1	.888
Morrisse, A&M	3	1	.750
Blair, Bay	2	1	.667
Webster, SMU	5	3	.625
Hubert, A&M	3	2	.600
Choate, TCU	1	1	.500
Burk, Baylor	1	1	.500
Ehier, Texas	1	1	.500

Name	AB	H	Pct.
Hamilton, Tex.	59	28	.474
Kneuper, Texas	58	22	.379
Willett, SMU	35	13	.371
Brook, Texas	46	17	.369
Schroeder, Bay	49	18	.367
Szekely, Bay	58	20	.344
Lindloff, A&M	44	15	.340
Wallace, A&M	56	19	.339
Redd, SMU	62	21	.338

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Star Of The Week

Bob Fretz Picked Last Star of Week

(Editor's Note: This is the last selection of the Batt Sports Staff for this semester.)

This week the Batt Sports Staff has chosen Bob Fretz as Star of the Week. The Aggie hurler and right fielder, who hails from Houston, was picked for the brilliant mound duty against Texas when the Farmers turned back the Longhorn nine 5-1.

Fretz allowed the Steers only one run and five scattered hits in notching his fifth straight conference victory. In addition to his fine mound duty, he aided his own cause by driving in three runs in the seventh inning with a homer over the left field fence.

In his next to last contest the Aggie hurler kept the Longhorn's top hitter Tom Hamilton hitless. The Steer's first sacker collected only one hit in the two game series between the two teams.

Fretz finished his baseball career at A&M Tuesday as he hurled the Aggies to a 2-1 win over the Rice Owls for his sixth conference win against no losses. The Cadet mound star allowed the Owls only five hits and collected two of the Aggies' six hits.

The Houston star, who has the best pitching record in the Southwest Conference this season, is a likely choice for all-conference honors this year.

Perfect Game Puts Milner in Playoffs

Semi-finals in both Corps and Vut Softball were played Monday afternoon.

A Composite shutout C Air Force by a 7-0 score. On Wednesday afternoon, they will take on D Field for Corps championship.

Milner defeated Dorm 14 by an 8-0 score and did so with excellent playing. Dave Martin pitched perfect ball for the winning team. He allowed no hits and gave up no bases on balls. His teammates backed him up with errorless playing.

College championship will be decided Wednesday. Milner by virtue of their win over Dorm 14, will tangle with the Trailer Camp-Vet Village crew for the crown.

Only one horseshoe game was played Monday. Cavalry took a 2-1 match from B Field.

Thursday evening the Intramural Appreciation banquet will be held. All Intramural managers and organization athletic officers will be present. The banquet will be held on the slab at 7 p. m.

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