

# Ag Tracksters Stride For Border Victory

By LARRY UPSHAW  
With visions of conquest dancing in their heads, the 25-man Texas A&M track aggregation strides southward Friday for the Border Olympics in Laredo.

After the Aggies' upset conquest of Rice and Texas in triangular action at College Station last Saturday, prospects for point-producing efforts down south seem bright.

"We were real tickled to win last week," commented Coach Charlie Thomas. "But in this one (Border Olympics) it's even harder to get in the finals — there are so many outstanding boys."

The meet is divided into four divisions — high school, junior college — freshmen, college and university. Two hundred and fifty hustlers from all of the Southwest Conference schools plus the University of Houston and Abilene Christian College make up the senior division.

"ACC should be favored in the team standings," said Thomas. "They are real well balanced."

But Aggie talent runs thick and fast in early season action. High jumper Mike Schrider, last year's conference champion, is A&M's best bet for a first place medal. Schrider leaped 6-4 last week for the season's best jump among Border Olympic competitors.

And sprint specialist Gil Smith, who rocketed to a 9.4 in the 100-yard dash and 21.6 in the 220, looks good enough for a first and a second, respectively. That 9.4 tops all foes and his 220 mark is the second only to SMU's Chuck Evans, with a 21.4.

Surveying the meet's star-studded 880 field, Thomas noted, "That will be the roughest event. It's full of good performers."

Charles Christmas of ACC, NCAA half-mile semi finalist last year, would dominate that event in almost every instance. But John Moss of Rice, '65 SWC champ, Roger Hunt of TCU and Preston Davis of Texas, star miler who will test the shorter distance, are primed to nix an ACC runaway. Even with such stars afield, Aggie soph Willie Rodriguez could steal the winner's circle. Rodriguez slaughtered Moss by five or six yards last week in a wind-swept victory.

The Aggie effort will be deprived of a sure 10 points again this week, for the lack of Randy Matson, who won't see meet action until the Rice-LSU-A&M triangular in Houston March 19. "But (George) Resley could get second in the shot," added Thomas. "He's bound to get some points somewhere (in the shot or discus)."

Toby Belt of Texas nipped Resley in College Station, and basked in the glory of a Matson-less meet.



AGGIE POLE VAULTERS PRACTICE . . . before departing for Border Olympics in Laredo this weekend.

## Bible Association To Honor Ag Athletes With Banquet

The Aggie Bible Association, in conjunction with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, will host the Texas Aggie athletes, coaches and staff at the Sports Banquet at 7:30 p.m. tonight at the Ramada Inn.

Approximately 230 Aggie athletes will be honored, said Arthur M. Smith, executive director of the Aggie Bible Association, Inc. Featured speaker for the event will be Bill Wade, Chicago Bears quarterback.

Wade was Nashville, Tenn., Interscholastic League Most Valuable Player in Football in 1946, Most Valuable Player in the Southeast Conference in 1951 when he played for Vanderbilt, co-captain of the Senior Bowl game in 1952 and played for the College all-stars in the annual pro-college game in Chicago in 1952.

He was drafted by the Los Angeles Rams of the National Foot-

ball League in 1952 and in 1959 he broke the all-time Ram passing mark of 58.4 per cent completion with a 58.6 per cent record.

Wade, who is referred to as the "Dandy from Vandy" by sports writers and broadcasters, was named the Optimist Club "Man of the Year" in 1959 and was awarded the "Young Man of the Year" award by the Nashville Junior Chamber of Commerce.

He was traded to the Bears in 1961 and was named as the all-pro quarterback by Sports Magazine in 1963.

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