



Sports Aplenty

An Editorial

By GARY SHERER

Just nine years ago, Texas was not represented in any of the major team sports.

Then, in 1960, the lack of real professional sports in Texas ended. With the formation of the American Football League plus the National Football League expansion of that year, three professional football teams were based in Texas.

In 1962, professional baseball made its debut in Texas by adding a team to the National League baseball expansion. In 1965, the game of baseball was revolutionized, by moving indoors. Where? In Texas.

Recently, professional basketball, hockey and soccer have come along to join baseball and football in the Lone Star State.

So, recognizing these sports activities plus the effort that it took to get them here, one can conclude there is a true professional sport attitude in Texas.

These thoughts are brought to our mind after receiving a letter from the Austin-based Texas Racing Association. In that letter, the TRA points out that while there is a professional sports atmosphere in Texas, Texans still don't have the largest spectator sport of them all—horse racing.

We don't mean quarter-horse racing but the real thing, professional PARI-MUTUEL horse racing.

Yes, friends and neighbors that horrible thing called 'horse betting' is back before the people of Texas. On May 4, the voters will go to the polls and tell the Texas legislators what they think of pari-mutuel betting.

Its not hard to see what the pari-mutuel opponents think about this item. From sidewalk campaigns to jingles on the radio, the people of Texas are being told to vote against pari-mutuel betting.

We agree with the TRA when they say Texas is growing fast. We also echo their sentiments when they say its about time that Texas also grows up. Even Governor John Connally says the TRA, might go along with this idea. TRA quotes him in the Jan. 17, 1964, issue of TIME when he said, "Texas is really still in the throes of joining up with the rest of the mid-20th America."

They cite some very strong reasons why Texas should adopt pari-mutuel betting. First, pari-mutuel horse racing had the largest attendance figures in a 1966 census. The (See Sports Aplenty, Page 9)



CHARLES THOMAS



OMAR SMITH



HENRY RANSOM

# Matson Set For Busy June

By JOHN PLATZER

Randy Matson, winner of the 1967 Sullivan Award as "amateur athlete of the year," reasserted his dominance over the world's shot putters Saturday by decisively beating two of his three top challengers.

Matson won the event at the Mount San Antonio Relays in Walnut, California, with a throw of 69-10 1/4. The throw was the longest in track and field history outside the state of Texas.

Neil Steinhauer, who had beaten Matson in California in the performers' first meet of the season, was unable to compete in Walnut due to an injury.

With the Oregon star on the sidelines, second place went to Dave Maggard of Oregon State with a toss of 65-10.

Former Southern Illinois star George Woods was third with a top put of 66-9.

Matson had thought before the meet that a top effort could be in the offing but was pleased with the distance.

"I had hoped to throw that far but I didn't really know for sure what I could do," the Aggies' 6-6, 260-pound marketing major said of his distance.

An all-around schoolboy star at Pampa, Matson set the world mark of 71-5 1/4 in Kyle Field on "Randy Matson Day" April 22, 1967.

Probably the greatest double in track and field history had been recorded by Matson in College Station two weeks before. He set a collegiate record in the discus with a toss of 213-9 1/4, only two inches off the world mark, and hit past the 70 line in the shot three times.

He originally set the world mark at 70-7 1/4 in the Southwest Conference Meet of 1965 in Kyle Field.

The 1960 Olympic Silver Medal winner has all but given up the

discus to concentrate on his specialty.

"I am really not sure what I am going to do about the discus," Matson said. "I haven't been working on it and I don't plan to any time soon."

"When I work on both the shot and the discus, both events suffer. Another bad thing is that the preliminaries in the discus in this year's Olympics is on Saturday morning with the shot scheduled for Saturday afternoon."

With his track eligibility at A&M gone, Matson is currently competing as a member of the Houston Striders, an amateur Athletic Union team.

Matson explained that the Striders provide an opportunity for boys who have used up their eligibility to compete for a team.

"There is really not that much advantage to belonging to the Striders for me because I have my program set up," Matson said.

"I go with the team and represent them at the different meets and the team will go to the AAU Championships."

The main value of the Houston amateur team is in what they are attempting to build up, according to Matson.

"The Striders are trying to get a permanent program started where more Texas boys, those not competing in college for some reason, can work against top competition in the various AAU and other meets."

Next competition for Matson will be at an AU meet in Houston May 11. The meet, which will probably be held in Jeppensen Stadium, will pit the Striders against several top track clubs from California as well as a few strong Armed Forces teams.

The top opponent for Matson in the meet will be Woods who has said that Steinhauer, Maggard and himself will fight for the two remaining shot put posi-

tions on the United States team in the Mexico City games behind Matson.

Matson isn't sure whether or not he will face Steinhauer again before the Olympic trials on June 28-29.

A confrontation does seem likely, however, since Matson has meets scheduled for four straight

weekends in June in California, the state in which Steinhauer competes the most.

The top two meets for Matson, besides the Olympics, are back-to-back on the last two weekends in June. The AAU Championships will be run off June 21-22, one week ahead of the Olympic Trials.

# Aggies Host Rice In Home Finale

By GARY SHERER

The Texas Aggie baseball team, its back against the wall, winds up its home season with Rice Friday and Saturday, looking for two must wins to stay alive in the Southwest Conference race.

Coach Tom Chandler's nine is 8-5 in SWC and a split of the Rice series would just about ruin any chances at the crown. The Aggies are presently in third place, behind Texas Christian at 10-5 and Texas at 12-4.

THE OWLS, coached by Doug Osborn, topped the Aggies earlier this season 10-3 at Houston.

Rice started off well in the conference scramble and was in first place for awhile. However, they dropped two doubleheaders in a row, and have been off-and-on since.

Record notwithstanding, the Owls have some good hitting and fairly solid pitching. The pitching for Rice has been a real surprise this year. Last season, the Owls had probably the best pitching staff in the SWC. The top three of Mickey Holder, Bill Palmer and Ray Hooten graduated, however, and left Osborn without seasoned pitchers.

A SOPHOMORE and freshman have picked up most of the load for the Owls and have labored well. First-year man Tommy Speck stymied the Aggies in the

two teams' first meeting this season. Sophomore David Ownby has also been responsible for some of the Owls' six conference victories.

The Owl nine's hitting attack has been led mainly by their 3-4-5 hitters in the lineup, Hugo Hollas, Billy Costa and Dick Fuqua.

Hollas, a footballer too, is the Owls' regular leftfielder who as a senior two-letterman has picked up the role of team leader. Costa, a junior shortstop, is the clean-up hitter. His 5-8 stature belies his strength with the bat however, as the Houston product has hit the long ball this season. Fuqua, a sophomore first-baseman, has performed well in his first year of varsity ball.

THE AGGIES are, as mentioned, in a shaky situation. They cannot afford a loss. Chandler will start Rick Schwartz on Friday and Doug Rau, Saturday. Schwartz was the losing pitcher in the earlier Rice-Aggie game, so the Brownsville righthander will be looking for some measure of revenge.

Chandler is counting on his team to continue their good hitting. The Maroon and White lead the SWC in that statistic, but Chandler would like to see them lead in the category that counts the most, runs scored.

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