

Mills, Woods Hold Key To Success At SWC Meet

By RICHARD CAMPBELL
A couple of sophomores will hold a lot of the point potential

for Texas A&M when they invade Waco Friday and Saturday for the Southwest Conference

Track Meet and Coach Charlie Thomas hopes that they can perform as expected.

(9.4), and Dale Bernauer of Rice (9.5).

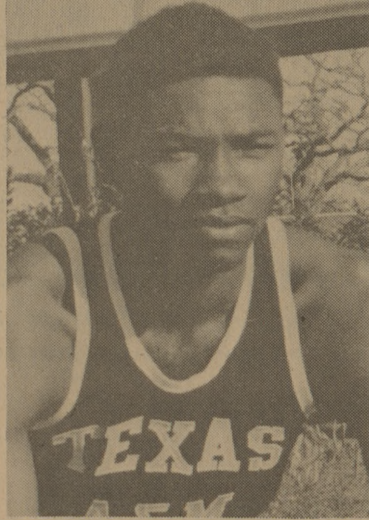
In the 220, Woods is third with a time of 21.1 behind Mills' 21.0 and Allen's 20.8. He could nose out Allen for first and it is hoped that Mills will finish either second or third.

Woods will also anchor the A&M mile relay unit which has posted a 3:10.0 this year. Others on the foursome are Steve Bancroft, Scott Hendricks (who is also a possible point-getter in the 100), and Mike Boyd.

The key to the Aggies' success seems to hinge on the performance of the 440 relay unit. They have had the lead in other races but at a crucial time either dropped the baton or had a bad exchange. Thomas and Mills both feel that if A&M runs their regular race and has a flawless exchange, then they could take the event even though they have only the third best time (40.7) this year. Both Rice, with a 40.3 and Baylor, with a 40.4, have logged faster times and will be the favorites.



ROCKIE WOODS



CURTIS MILLS

"If Curtis Mills and Rockie Woods perform like we want them to and have the endurance to run their events," Thomas said, "Then we have a real strong chance to bid for the title."

MILLS, a 6-3, 170-pound speedster from Lufkin Dunbar, will compete in the 440-yard relay, the 440-yard dash, the 220-yard dash, and the mile relay. Woods, a 6-2, 180-pounder from San Angelo Lake View, will be entered in the 100-yard dash, the 120-yard high hurdles, the 220-yard dash, and the 440 relay.

"We know that Rockie can run in all of the events because he has already done it once this season," Thomas continued. "I just hope that Curtis has the endurance to hold up in his four races. We are forced to run both boys in this many races because we want to get some extra points."

Thomas was optimistic when asked who had the best chance to take the 1969 title.

"I believe that we (A&M) have a good chance if we can run our best relay races," Thomas said. "But I'd have to say that Rice would have to be the first choice because of their depth."

Texas, the defending champions, are also strong in certain events and Baylor, inspired by a home crowd, could seriously challenge for the crown.

Mills has the fastest 440 dash time of the year in the SWC, a 46.2. Last year in the SWC Meet, he ran second to Dave Morton of Texas but was clocked in 46.1.

"If I had to pick my chief competitor in the 440 dash," Mills said, "It would probably be Bill Askey of Rice. The thing about a meet like this is that some of the points that we picked up in some of the triangular meets will be taken away now by one of the other teams in the field."

"I would say that probably 58 points would win the meet (Coach Thomas felt that 60 would win it)," Mills said.

WOODS, a top notch performer all year, will be a strong contender in both of the dashes. He has run a 9.4 100-yard dash several times this season and will challenge Ronnie Allen (9.3 with the wind), Merlin Eck of SMU

OTHER EVENTS in which the Aggies figure to pick up some points are the shot put and the discus where weightman Ronnie Lightfoot looms as the favorite in both. He was unseated last week as the top shot putter in the SWC when freshman Sammy Walker tossed the ball 50-0 to move ahead of Lightfoot's previous best of 58-5 1/2. Bubba Vincent, a freshman from Bryan, will also compete with Lightfoot in the dis-

cus. Lightfoot has the best throw in the SWC this season, a 171-5, while Vincent is sixth with a 158-10.

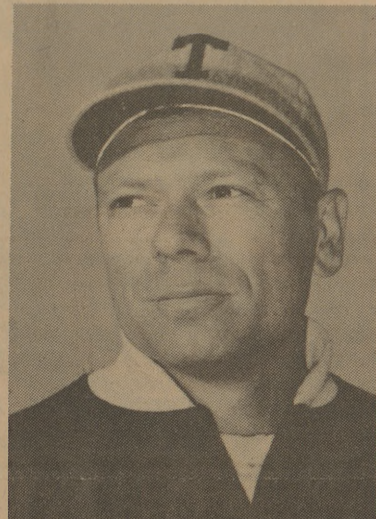
Marc Black is also counted on to provide points in the javelin throw. He is fourth in the SWC this year with a toss of 206-7. The Aggies could also accumulate some points in the high jump

The hurdles remain a question mark depending upon the performances of several key men. Jack Abbott, a senior with a 14.2, Deward Strong with a 14.2 and Woods with 14.1 will push SWC leader Greg Gilliland of Rice who also had a 14.1. Strong and Richard Ball could also be breakthroughs for the Aggies in the 440 hurdles.

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Knight Arrives For Preakness

BALTIMORE (AP)—Top Knight, who finished fifth in the Kentucky Derby but was second choice in the wagering, will arrive at Pimlico Friday to prepare for the \$150,000-added Preakness May 17.

Raymond Metcalf, who trains Top Knight, advised Pimlico officials by telephone Wednesday from Garden State that he expects his 3-year-old to run a much better race in the Preakness than he did in the Derby.

Top Knight, last year's 2-year-old champion, is to be given a serious workout at Pimlico Sunday. The mile and three-sixteenths Preakness is the middle leg of racing's Derby-Preakness-Belmont Triple Crown.

Pimlico officials are expecting a starting field of at least 10 for the 94th running of the race.

Majestic Prince and Arts and Letters, winner and runner-up in the Derby, already are at Pimlico. Dike, the Derby No. 3 horse, also was brought here but was scratched for the Preakness and taken on to New York.

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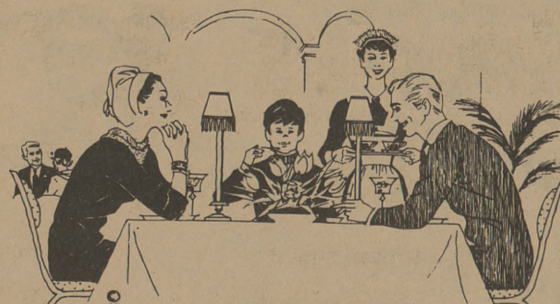


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