

Ags Sign Two Top Tracksters

The Texas Aggies upgraded their track hopes for the future last week with the announced signing of two of the top school-boy tracksters in the state.

Donny Rogers, a Bay City track

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star, and Sammy Skinner, an outstanding miler from Deer Park were announced by Coach Charley Thomas as having signed letters of intent.

"Donny is, in our opinion, the top hurdler in the state," Thomas said. "We feel he has a great career ahead of him at A&M."

Rogers, coached by his father, set seven individual school records in a four-year career at Bay City. He had offers from 44 colleges including Texas, Tennessee, UCLA, and Rice.

Skinner, a star miler with clockings consistently under 4:20, is also a cross-country runner and could be the best distance man that A&M has ever had.

Others who have joined the

Aggie fold include:

Dennis O'Brien of Houston Memorial who has a 1:53.5 in the half-mile and a 48.0 in the mile relay.

Harold McMahan of El Paso, a 15-foot pole vaulter, a 22-foot broad jumper and a relay man who has run a 46.7 in the mile relay.

Skelly Strong of Blinn JC who has a 47.5 in the quarter and who runs on 440 and 880 relay teams.

David Morris of Victoria High, a 9.8 sprinter, a 23-5 broad jumper, a 48.5 in the mile relay and who tied the state record of 37.6 in the 330-yard hurdles.

Mike Morrison of Fort Worth Haltom, a broad jumper who has leaped 23-7.



SAMMY SKINNER

Longhorns Gain Playoffs But Have To Share Laurels

As champion Texas prepares for its 17th participation in the National Collegiate baseball playoff over a 23-season span, it has to share pride with the rivals it dominated during the 1969 Southwest Conference campaign.

Texas' conquest was the most decisive the league has experienced since TCU won by a like margin (4 1/2 games) in 1956 and its record (14-2) the best since the (14-1) national championship season of 1950. Not all of the spoils went to the victor, however.

Runner-up TCU led the league in batting, and its even-.300 per-

centage has been bettered only seven times in the modern era. Texas Tech, the most improved team in the league that finished a half-game back of the Horned Frogs, can claim to be the best fielding team over that same span. The Red Raiders' 18 errors constitutes a record low for the SWC since 1946, and its fielding average (.969) ties the 1966 TCU team for a like honor.

Tech also produced the individual batting champion in Second Baseman Jerry Haggard at .400. It was a second straight good season for the Red Raider star who ranked tenth in 1968 SWC

batting (.333) when he was named to the all-Conference team. Runner-up to Haggard was Roger Williams of TCU at .396.

Most of the ten leading hitters of 1969 might well have been motivated by the belief that if at first you do not succeed, try again. Williams batted only .125 the previous season, while Teammates Dick Gage and Wayne Morrison achieved similar about-faces. A&M's Bob Long, Rice's Dick Fuqua and Gene Salmon made strong advances, but Haggard was the only one of six returnees from last year's Top Ten to make the flight again.

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