

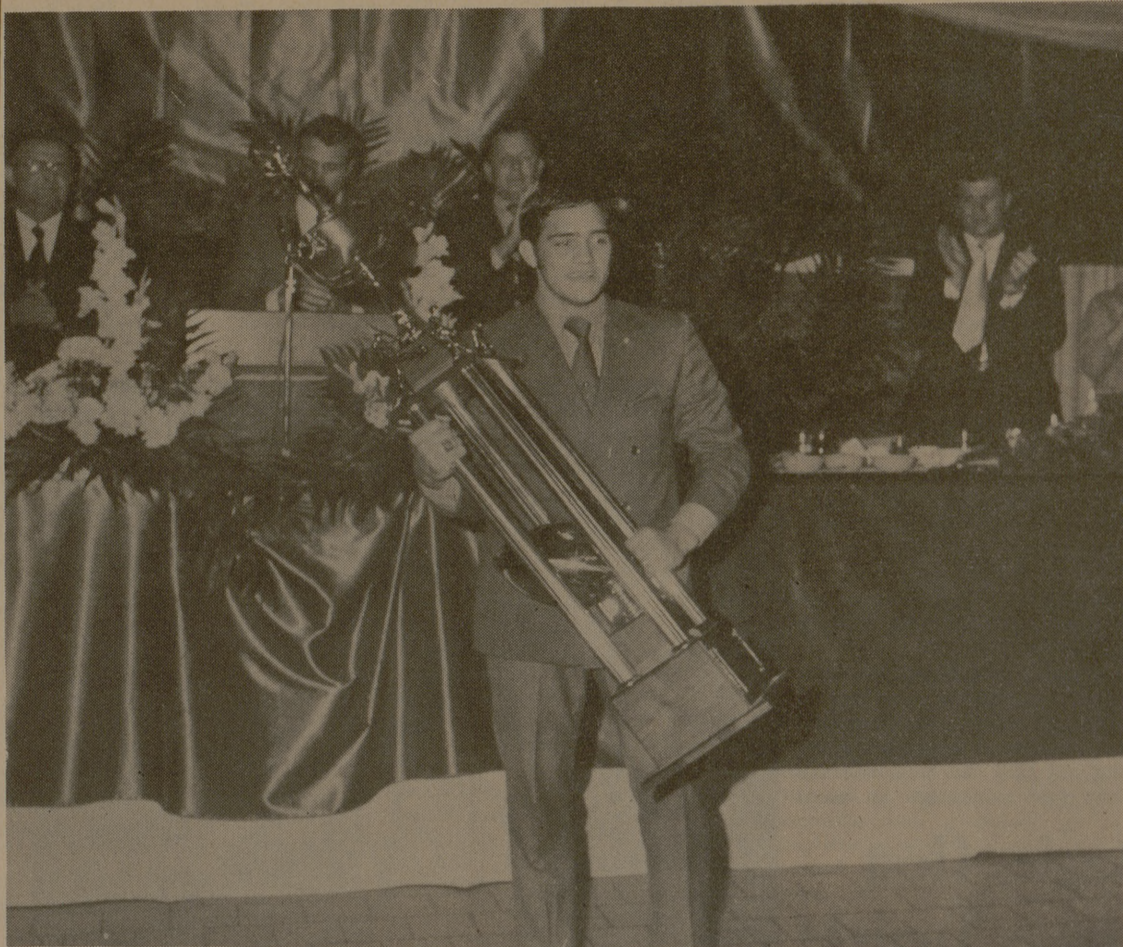
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AGGIE HEART WINNER—Jack Kovar, a three-year starter for the Texas Aggies at center, was the recipient Saturday night of the coveted Aggie Heart Award at the Aggie Football Banquet in Duncan Dining Hall. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Jack Kovar Chosen Aggie Heart Winner

Jack Kovar, who came to Texas A&M without a scholarship and stayed around to start at center for three varsity seasons, Saturday night was the recipient of the fifth annual Aggie Heart Award at A&M's football banquet.

The selection was made earlier by a vote of the varsity football squad but the winner was not announced until Coach Gene Stallings called Kovar forth to receive the five-foot high trophy.

The award is based on effort, desire and determination and the winner is one who gave his utmost, both in practice and in games.

Past winners were Joe Wellborn, linebacker from Tomball in 1965; Dan Westerfield, defensive back from Crawford in 1966; Grady Allen, defensive end from Nacogdoches in 1967 and Tom Buckman, tight end from Fort Worth in 1968.

Kovar, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward W. Kovar of Houston, was an all-city and all-zone guard while playing for Houston Jones High. He came to A&M on his own and won a scholarship in the spring of his freshman year.

He was A&M's starting center for three seasons, despite being relative small (6-1 and from 185 to 200) and never missed a down because of injury.

"He's a youngster who gave everything he had," Stallings said.

The award goes to a senior by squad vote but Stallings broke precedent Saturday night when he announced that he had ordered a duplicate trophy this year to be presented posthumously to Mike DeNiro, the great junior defensive end who died in an auto mishap Jan. 23 near New Orleans.

DeNiro's trophy will be presented later to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl DeNiro of Youngstown, Ohio.

The banquet was sponsored by the Aggie Club and was held in the west wing of Duncan Hall at the A&M campus. John Hopkins, Executive Vice-president of the Aggie Club, was the master of ceremonies. There was no principal speaker.

Mile Relay Team Wins at Ft. Worth

By Clifford Broyles
 Battalion Sports Writer

The Texas A&M mile relay team won its specialty Friday night at the Tenth Annual Fort Worth Coaches Indoor Games at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

In fact there was very little doubt that the Aggies would not win after Marvin Mills, younger brother of the Aggies' world champion quartermiler Curtis Mills, ran a sizzling 48.1 opening leg and finished more than 20 yards ahead of his four pursuers.

Harold McMahon and Willie Blackmon then followed with blistering times of 48.3 and 48.5 respectively to put the cindermen well in front of the pack. Curtis Mills ran the anchor leg in 47.8.

The result was at least a seventy-yard lead for the Aggies over runnerup Texas, and a new state record for a 10-lap indoor track.

The Aggies ran a 3:13.5 with the Longhorns out-distancing Texas Christian and Texas Tech with a 3:20.8 for second place.

The mile relayers weren't the only Aggies to make their presence felt to the 7,414 fans that were on hand for the meet.

High jumper Marvin Taylor took second place with a leap of 6'8", losing only to Joe Davis of Dallas Baptist College on fewer misses after both cleared that height.

Blackmon was nudged at the tape by Roger Colgazier of Abilene Christian College in the 600 yard dash.

The freshman from Houston Wheatley High School, however, tied the old state record of 1:11.1. Colgazier's record time was 1:10.9.

Don Kellar, a junior college transfer in his first year with the Aggies, placed fourth in that event with 1:12.6.

Former Aggie Randy Matsa did as everyone expected by walking away with the honors in the shot put with a toss of 65'7".

The Aggie cindermen will be in action this weekend at Houston in the National Federation Meet in the Astrodome.



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