

Aggie Tracksters Prepare For Texas Relays

Texas A&M's Curtis Mills must be convinced that those footrace defeats he suffered last summer were no flukes.

Mills had just returned home to Lukfin after setting a world record of 44.7 seconds in the 440-yard dash at the NCAA meet. His younger brother Marvin challenged the new champ to a race down the street.

They paced off roughly 150 yards and, with half the neighborhood looking on, Marvin beat Curtis two out of three at that distance.

Last Saturday Marvin, who followed big brother's footsteps to A&M if not in the 150-yard

dash, ran the first 220 of his career in Corpus Christi.

He blazed to a 21.2 clocking, the best in the Southwest Conference for 1970. And, reports coach Charlie Thomas, it was the first competitive 220 of Marvin's life.

With that strong showing by the younger Mills, the Aggies are definite threats in the 880-yard relay this weekend at the 43rd annual Texas Relays.

"That might be our best race," Thomas conceded. "I'd hate to say what we can run, but we might get down around 1:22."

Thomas plans to lead off with freshman Donnie Rogers, followed by SWC 100-yard dash champ

Rockie Woods, Marvin and Curtis Mills.

The Aggies will also present record threats in the 440 and mile relays—with a 40.1 clocking in the former against a 40.2 university division record, and a 3:12.1 in the former against a 3:07.0 record. The Aggies' mile relay hopes, however, hinge on Willie Blackmon's sore leg. He sat out the Corpus Christi meet and A&M ran third behind Rice's 3:11.2 and Texas' 3:11.9, the top two outdoor SWC times of the season.

The Corpus Christi meet produced some excellent times as all races finished into a brisk wind. Marvin ran the third competitive

100-yard dash of his track career and shaded Woods as both clocked 9.6. Although he's a newcomer to the sprints, young Mills hasn't surprised Thomas with his times.

"He ran the intermediate hurdles in high school (at Lufkin Dunbar), but his form wasn't very good—he was getting good times on his speed," Thomas explained. The Corpus Christi meet also produced seasonal bests in the 880, the 440 and the 440 hurdles in addition to the 220 by Marvin and the mile relay times by Rice and Texas.

David Morton, the junior quartermiler from Texas who has doubled at the 880 the last two weeks, became the first SWC runner to dip under 1:50 this season with a 1:49.4 half. He knocked 2.2 seconds off his previous best of a week earlier in besting Rice's Steve Straub (1:50.5). That one race produced four of the SWC's six best times as David Caffey of Texas ran a 1:52.8 and teammate Steve Minnis a 1:52.9.

And Aggies Curtis Mills and Don Kellar turned in outstanding times in their specialties. Mills, hampered by an ankle injury in past weeks, had a 46.1 open quarter to tie the best time set by Morton a month ago. Kellar fashioned a 51.2 intermediate hurdles, third best in the nation this year.

The Aggies really experienced only one major disappointment at Corpus Christi—and it was tempered. Marvin Taylor, the SWC's top high jumper, failed to clear the qualifying height, but teammate Ben Greathouse won at 6-7, equalling his best jump of the year.



SPEED TO BURN—Marvin Mills, shown here winning the 100-yard dash, will be one of the top point producers in the Texas Relays Friday and Saturday in Austin. (Photo by Mike Wright)

36
24
36

HOW IT FIGURES:

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Aggies' Best Outdoor Marks For 1970 Track Season

(Through CC Invitational of March 28. Next meet, Texas Relays, April 3-4.)

440 Relay: 40.1 (Scotty Hendricks, Curtis Mills, Marvin Mills, Rockie Woods) (3-14, College Station)

Mile Run: 4:13.7 Sammy Skinner, (3-28, Corpus Christi)

120 Hurdles: 14.5 n, Donny Rogers (2-28, Fort Worth); 14.6 n, Rockie Woods (3-28, Corpus Christi); 14.7, David Prince (3-14, College Station)

440 Dash: 46.4, Curtis Mills (3-28, Corpus Christi)

100 Dash: 9.6, Marvin Mills (3-28, Corpus Christi)

9.6 n, Rockie Woods (3-28, Corpus Christi)

880 Run: 1:54.1 n, Willie Blackmon (3-14, College Station)

440 Hurdles: 51.2, Don Kellar (3-28, Corpus Christi)

220 Dash: 21.2, Marvin Mills (3-28, Corpus Christi); 21.6 n, Donnie Rogers (3-14, College Station)

3-Mile Run: 15:08.0 n, Bill Johnson (2-28, Fort Worth)

Mile Relay: 3:12.0 n, (David Morris, Harold McMahan, Don Kellar, Curtis Mills) (3-28, Corpus Christi)

Shot Put: 57'5", Ronnie Lightfoot (3-7, Laredo)

Discus: 168'2 1/2", Ronnie Lightfoot (2-28, Fort Worth)

Javelin: 211'5 1/2", Marc Black (3-14, College Station)

High Jump: 6-9, Marvin Taylor (3-14, College Station); 6-7, Ben Greathouse (3-28, Corpus Christi); 3-14, College Station;

6-4 n, Kim Sutton (3-7, Laredo); 6-4 n, John Taylor (3-14, College Station)

Pole Vault: 15-0 n, Larry McIntyre (3-14, C.S.); 3-28, Corpus Christi); 15-0 n, Harold McMahan (3-14, College Station)

Long Jump: No places.

n—non-winning.)

Next Meets:

Fri.-Sat.—April 3-4: Texas Relays at Austin.

Sat., April 11: A&M-Texas-Rice at Houston.

Sat., April 18: Rice-Ark-TCU-A&M at College Station.

Fri.-Sat., April 24-25: Drake Relays at Des Moines, Iowa.

Fri.-Sat., May 1-2: Southwest Conference Meet at Rice, Houston.

Booters Travel To Austin; To Battle League-Leaders

As the season slowly closes, the Texas Aggie Rugby team finds itself in position to make a run for the title.

The Aggies were preseason picks to finish a step out of the cellar.

The Aggies have made believers out of skeptics while forging a 7-3-1 overall mark and despite being the smallest team in the conference, they are known for

their aggressive style of play.

This Saturday the team travels to Austin to play the conference leaders Texas with match time set for 3 p.m. at Zilcher Park.

Thus far in the season, the Aggies have outscored their opponents 136 to 51 and they have crossed their opponents goal line 32 times while holding the opposition to only 5 sorties.

The penalty kick has hurt the

Aggies because 36 of the points scored against them have come from penalty kicks. The team has shut out the opponents three times this season.

The leading scorer is Andy Scott with 31 points but Jon Farmer and Butch Preston are close behind with 29 and 26 points respectively.

Other members who have entered the scoring column are: Mark Fischer, 18; John Rayton, 11; Dave Lee, 6; Steve Johnson, 6; Greg Schwei, 3; John Winters, 3; and Steve Fincher, 3. Other members are: John Hines, hooker; Ron Cole, prop; Harry Finley, prop; Ron Nizer, prop; Bill Scherle, lock; Steve Sturman, lock; Phil Tybor, lock; Harry Herman, lock; Mic Newman, break; Jim Robertson, break; Mike Jaynes, 8th-man; Mike Brants, 8th-man; Ron Neblett, outside center; Bob Shain, outside center; Leo Tomic, outside center; Gary Holsworth, outside center; and Gary Junot, fullback. The next home match for the Aggies will be on April 25, against Texas on the Parade Grounds at 3 p.m.

Bullets Try To Take Over Lead

The Baltimore Bullets, higher than a stack of pro centers, will try to take the lead from the reeling Knicks Thursday night at New York in their best-of-7 Eastern Division playoff series in the National Basketball Association.

In another tie-breaking game Thursday, the Los Angeles Lakers will play the Suns at Phoenix in the third of a Western Division series that is tied 1-1.

The Milwaukee Bucks sought to build a 3-1 lead over the Philadelphia 76ers in the other East series Wednesday night in Philadelphia.

Levias Did Need Some Eye Surgery

By Denne H. Freeman Associated Press Sports Writer

Those flashing lights got to be rather bothersome to Jerry Levias.

He would be home in bed and see them, sweeping across his eyes like an automobile's headlights on high beam.

Levias, the slippery split end for the Houston Oilers and an All-American at Southern Methodist, would be out on a pass pattern. Here would come the ball . . . and the flashing lights.

"It's hard enough to catch a football under normal circumstances, but with your vision messed up, it's a little tough," said Levias. "I decided something had to be done."

The doctors told him he had a detached retina in the right eye. It was a souvenir from a San Diego linebacker on Thanksgiving Day.

"The linebacker stuck his hand out and happened to catch me right in the eye," Levias said. "I played two more games with it. The flashes kept coming. They didn't have any set pattern, but they got more frequent."

Levias underwent surgery early this year.

"Progress is being made," said

Levias. "Everything seems to be correcting itself."

Levias said, "Dr. Charles Russ did one helluva job. He told me he knew what he was doing . . . that he wasn't no rookie."

"I was afraid of the operation. They used a laser and you could feel it. I wasn't all the way under because with this type of operation you have to move your eye some. I must say there was some pain."

It's the second time Levias has had an eye operation.

"I had an operation in college to correct double vision," Levias said.

Now, he's back out catching the football again.

"The doctor said I mustn't get bumped before the healing process is over," Levias said.

"I will have to have checkups at various intervals. I go back for my last one just before camp."

Levias, who lives in Houston in the off-season and has started a weekend sports program on KHOU-TV, said, "I've got a theory about trying to protect myself from now on."

What's that?

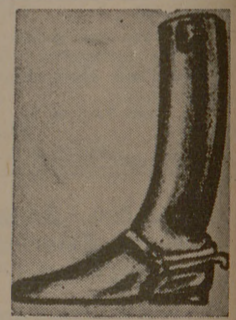
"Speed, man, speed," said Levias. "Those linebackers can't poke what they can't catch."

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