

Aggies Scorch Memorial Stadium Tartan Track

By Mike Wright
Assistant Sports Editor

Coach Charlie Thomas and his track giants descended on Austin and the Texas Relays the past weekend and set three A&M school records, equalled a world record and lowered two Texas Relay marks in winning everything but a dinner date with Playboy's Miss April, Barbara Hillary, a spectator at the University of Texas at Austin Round-Up festivities.

In addition to the first places, the Aggies were voted the outstanding Relays team by a vote of 21-1 by the news media personnel. The stray vote went to the corral of distance runners belonging to the University of Texas at El Paso. The West Texas Sips upset a favored University of Minnesota four-mile relay team with a clocking of 16:39.2.

Also brothers Marvin and Curtis Mills battled each other for the individual outstanding Relays University performer. Curtis edged his brother for a 12-10 edge in the voting to take the honor.

The 880-yard relay unit of Donny Rogers, Rockie Woods, and the Mills' tied the world mark of 1:22.1 in the Friday night finals. The time had been set by San Jose State in 1967. The other two school records came in the 440-yard hurdles where Don Keller raced to a 50.6 in placing second to NCCA champion Ralph Mann of Brigham Young who clipped the tape in 50-flat. Also, the Aggie mile relay team composed of Keller, Harold McMahan, and the "Mills Guys" ran a 3:08.4.

The huge meet started Friday afternoon with the qualifying of individual runners and relay teams. In wiping out the existing Relays record in the 880-yard relay in qualifying, the Ags brought the partisan Texas University crowd to their feet with a 1:22.5. Later in the evening the Ags burned up the new tartan track with their record-tying runs. The qualifying time replaced a record set by Abilene Christian College in 1:22.6 for about five hours.

According to Thomas, the try to set the world record in the evening event was jinxed from the start. "We were disappointed with the lane draw," said Thomas. "We hoped to get lane seven or eight. Running in lane two cost us perhaps an eighth of a second or maybe a full second difference."

It's simple for the Aggie foursome wanting the outside lanes. With an outside lane there is only a few yards of carry until they come off the turn and start down the straightway. It is hard for a tall person to run a tight curve with Woods, Rogers, Marvin standing 6-3 and Curtis at 6-4.

In qualifying for the 440-yard dash, the Aggies wiped out the oldest division relays record in the books with a swift 40.1. Short Scotty Hendricks joined Woods and the Mills Boys again to erase another ACC record of 40.2. Not to be outdone by the 880-yard relay feat, the Aggie quartet broke their own record with a swifter 39.7. Without a doubt the 880-yard quartet had record breaking on their mind; however, "All we wanted to do was run under 40-flat in the 440," said Mills (Curtis).

The Aggies came in second in time on the qualifying for the mile relay with a 3:11.2 clocking. In the finals, Thomas substituted Keller and McMahan with the Mills Boys to streak to 3:08.4. They failed to break the Relays record of 3:07 flat set by Texas in 1967.

Keller and McMahan took over for David Morris and Willie Blackmon who had run in the qualifying race.

Aggie high jumper Marvin Taylor finished sixth at 6-8 in a star-studded field which was won by Brigham Young's Ken Lundmark at 7-1. Lundmark was awarded victory over Kansas State's Ray McGill on fewer misses.

The Aggies this week travel to Houston where they'll engage in a triangular meet with Rice and Texas Saturday at Rice University's track.

Next week the Aggies will be at home, hosting Rice, Arkansas and TCU in a quadrangular meet at Kyle Field. Then they travel to Des Moines, Iowa, for the Drake Relays on April 24-25.

The Southwest Conference meet is on tap Friday and Saturday, May 1-2, at Rice University's track.

The Aggies are hopeful that a number of injured performers will be back in shape for the SWC meet. Willie Blackmon is hampered by a hamstring muscle that kept him off the mile relay team last week. He also runs the 880. Hurdler Glen Blahuta, quartermiler David Dolton, quartermiler Tony Munson and quartermiler Skelly Strong are others who have been hampered by injuries.



WINNER TO THE FRONT—Marvin's brother Curtis wasted no time in lengthening A&M's lead to 15 full yards and a 3:08.4 clocking for a new A&M school record. Curtis sped the final 440 yards in 45.7. (Photo by Mike Wright)



LITTLE DOES HE KNOW—Abilene Christian's Mark Fry held a short lead over A&M's Marvin Mills on the third lap of the mile relay but when the 440-yard race-within-the-race was over, Mills had given the Aggies a five-yard advantage over ACC. (Photo by Mike Wright)



POINT GETTERS—Rockie Woods (top) breaks the tape in the 440-yard relay in 39.7 to break the Relays record. Marvin Taylor clears 6-8 to place sixth in the high jump competition. (Photos by Mike Wright)



POPULAR FELLA—Curtis Mills makes an Austin youngster's evening complete by autographing the youth's program. The 880-yard relay team was swarmed by well-wishers after their world record tying race. (Photo by Mike Wright)



TIME TO THINK—Marvin Mills and Rockie Woods take advantage of pre-race time to prepare themselves mentally. Mill's thought nearly backfired as a bad case of stomach cramps nearly caused the wonder freshman to scratch the 880-yard relay. (Photos by Mike Wright)

Heitmann Awarded \$1000 For Postgraduate Work

Mike Heitmann, who closed out his varsity basketball career as the fifth-highest scorer in Texas A&M history, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship for postgraduate study by the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee.

playing for the New Orleans Saints while Matson is a stockbroker in Houston.

Heitmann is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George A. Heitmann, 11411 Glasner, Houston.

The Houston Sam Houston product is one of five seniors in the nation in the NCAA University Division honored for accomplishment on the playing court and in the classroom. Heitmann has maintained a 3.57 grade point ratio (out of a possible 4.0) in very demanding veterinary medicine.

Heitmann was captain of the 1969-70 Aggie cage team which finished second in the Southwest Conference. He was the team's leading scorer with a 19.8 average and was a unanimous choice for All-SWC honors.

In his varsity career, Heitmann scored 1,089 points, only the sixth A&M player ever to surpass the 1,000 point mark. Another highlight of his cage career was an undefeated record against the University of Texas. A&M won six straight from the Longhorns during Heitmann's three seasons.

Heitmann is the third A&M athlete to be awarded the NCAA grant in the last four years. Randy Matson, who still holds the world record in the shot put, won a similar grant in 1967, and Edd Hargett, who broke many Southwest Conference passing records, won it in 1968. Hargett is now



SCHOLARSHIP WINNER—Mike Heitmann, the 1969-70 Texas A&M basketball captain, is shown with Aggie coach Shelby Metcalf and a \$1000 scholarship he received for postgraduate study from the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship Committee. (Photo by Mike Wright)



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