

# Aggie relays go west minus Woods

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By CLIFFORD BROYLES  
Battalion Sports Editor

It has been billed as the fastest gun in the west, UCLA, versus the fastest in the Southwest, Texas A&M, but the dual between the sprint kings of both schools has been dimmed as both teams will be minus one of their aces in the California Relays at Modesto Saturday.

The Aggies lost 9.3 sprinter Rockie Woods who anchored the 440 relay team to 39.6 Saturday while the Bruins were also hurt when Steve Gibson who runs the century in 9.5 pulled a hamstring as he handed off to anchor man Wayne Collett in the Pacific 8 Conference finals. Despite that the Bruins ran a 39.9 to finish second to the University of California which ran a 39.8. Woods pulled a hamstring while running in the 100 meters.

The Bruins fastest time is 39.6 and along with the Aggies they have the fastest time in the world this year.

These two aren't the only good teams as the Pacific 8 also lays claim to 3 other teams that can run with the best. USC has been clocked in 39.8 although they ran only a 40.4 in the conference meet for fourth place and remember that Texas was second to the Aggies in the SWC meet and they ran a 41.0.

Oregon State has run a 40.1. The Bruins sprinters haven't run the 880 relay which the Aggies have run at two meets, tying the world record at one and breaking the world mark at the other. But put their best together and subtract a second for the running starts and they are capable of running a 1:21.4 while the Aggies

world record time is 1:21.7.

Coach Jim Bush of the UCLA, however, has decided to scratch his team from the 880 relay because of the injury to Gibson but the Aggies must still face another California power that hopes to claim supremacy.

California running the same foursome that ran a 39.8 sprint relay, (Don Couser, Isaac Curtis, Dave Masters and Ed Hart), can field a team that has no one slower than 21.1 in the open 220 a time that can press the Aggies.

The mile relay could turn out to be the biggest race of the day with both teams at full strength and the Bruins fresh from winning the Pacific 8 mile relay in 3:07.1 should rate along with Rice's 3:06.6 as the favorites. The Aggies beat Villanova in 3:08.3 last week will try to improve their best outdoor time of the year. They ran a 3:05.7 world indoor mile relay last winter with the same quartet that will put on the track shoes Saturday.

Willie Blackmon who ran a leg on that world record team has been out with an injury much the time since then but returned to run last week and could be the potion the Aggies need to get their time back down with the world beaters.

The UCLA mile relay team is composed of anchor man Wayne Collett, who also anchors the 440 and 880 relay teams; John Smith, who won the open quarter in the Pacific 8 meet Saturday; Brad Lyman and Reggie Echols, a sophomore who has been hurt but who his coach says is capable of running a sub 46 quarter.

Collett, has run a 45.8, Smith a 45.9, Lyman 46.7 and Echols a 47.4 this year.

The Bruins sprint relay team may not be hurting too badly as Johnny Johnson will step in for Gibson who will be out for the remainder of the season.

Johnson who has ran a 9.5 and was a member of the sprint relay team last year will join Ronnie Welch 9.4, Reggie Robinson 9.3 and Collett 9.4 in the relay.

Johnson, has broad jumped 26 foot this year and Coach Bush said he took him off the relay because it hurt his jumping but now that he is needed he will go back on the relay.

Bush said Johnson is one of the best runners he has ever seen running the curves on the relay so the Bruins can't be hurting too much.

Coach Charlie Thomas will counter with Donny Rogers a 9.6 sprinter in the 440 yard relay to replace Woods. Rogers will join Scotty Hendricks 9.6, Curtis Mills 9.5 and Marvin Mills 9.4 in the relay.

In the 880 yard relay the Aggies will have either Hendricks or Blackmon running for Woods. Hendricks has ran a 21.3 and Blackmon a 21.2.

Eight top notch sprint relay

teams will be in the meet with four Pacific Conference powers, A&M and Indiana who the Aggies outran at Drake in both the sprint and 880 relay highlighting the entries.

As to whether the Aggies will be able to win without Woods, Assistant Coach Ted Nelson said, "I don't see how you can say you're going to beat people when you lose a 9.3 sprinter," but he added that he felt the Aggies did have a chance although they would be losing about four tenths of second of time and that's an awful lot of time in relay with the best.

Bush said, "We have the upmost respect for A&M and we are honored to get a chance to run

against them because they are the best."

While the three relay teams are sprinting out West the Aggies will have several entries in the Gulf Federation AAU Meet at Houston's Butler stadium Saturday.

Ronnie Lightfoot will throw the shot and discuss, David Morris will run the 440 hurdles, Ben Greathouse and Marvin Taylor will high jump and Larry McIntyre will pole vault.

The California Relays will be ran Saturday night and will be telecast Sunday afternoon on the weekly AAU Track and Field Meet series beginning at 2 p.m. College Station time on Channel 11 KHOU in Houston.

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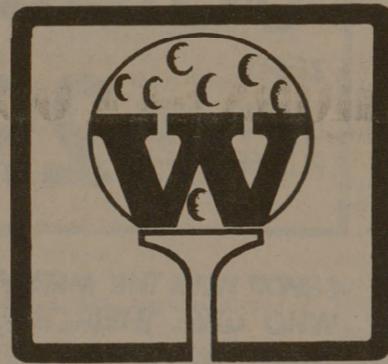
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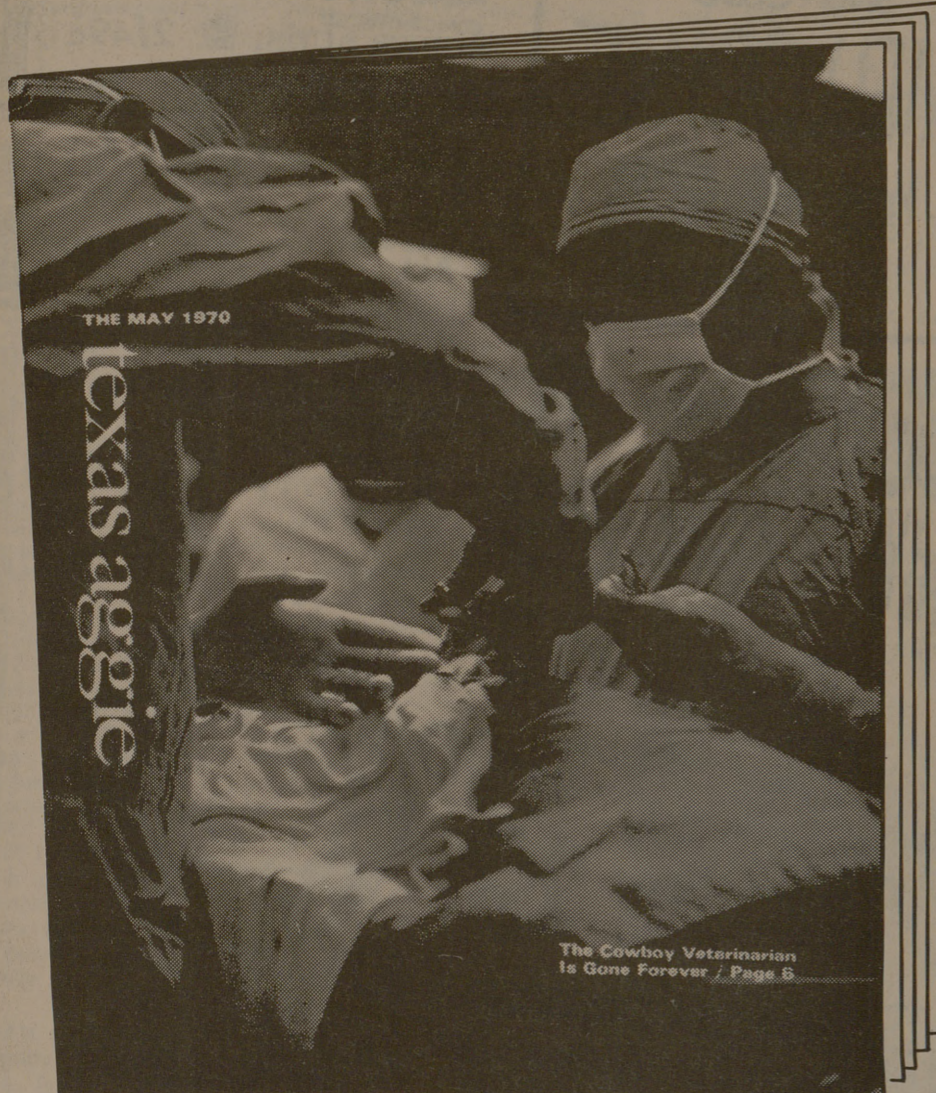
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