By CLIFFORD BROYLES



THE TOP two runners on the Aggies' cross country am are Frank Ybarbo, left, and Ruben Moncivaiz. Both are junior college transfers and will be leading contenders or the number one spot in the SWC cross country meet in Sayetteville Monday. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

J. C. (Jim) Harris



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**Battalion Sports Editor** It was the weekend of last spring's Southwest Conference track meet that Frank Ybarbo last year's finishers. and Ruben Moncivaiz met for the first time.

Three weeks later they met again at another track meet. This time, however, it was a different

Ybarbo and Moncivaiz placed second and fifth, respectively, in the National Junior College track meet mile run while running for Blinn Junior College and Glendale, Ariz., JC.

That first meeting saw the two visiting A&M as the track recruiting season was starting to get hot.

When the second meeting came, both knew where they would complete their college eligibility: Texas A&M.

Ybarbo and Moncivaiz will lead the Texas Aggie cross country track team Monday in the 51st Annual SWC Cross Country Meet at the Fayetteville Country Club in Fayetteville, Ark.

The Aggies were fifth last year, but should be destined to a higher finish.

Defending champion Southern Methodist, which wasn't declared champion until May of last year, returns the top three runners of

Ybarbo, Moncivaiz lead A

Texas won the meet last November, but when the conference had its annual meeting in Houston in May SMU was awarded the championship when a Baylor runner was disqualified for not crossing the finish line.

SMU was awarded a one-point

The Longhorns also return a crew of top runners, but like SMU they have the strength that a good cross country team needs, balance. The winner will be decided on who has the best five finishers, not who has the best individual runner.

That has been shown in meets involving the Aggies this year. They've yet to beat Texas in any of four meets this year but Ybar-

bo has won every one. Joining Ybarbo and Moncivaiz for the three-mile race will be Sammy Skinner, Pat Bradley, Dennis O'Brien, Jim Haynie and

Skinner's best time over the three miles this season is 15:58;

Bradley, 16:21; O'Brien, 16:17; Haynie, 16:16 and Waltz, 16:37. Both Ybarbo and Moncivaiz had rather meager starts into the

Ybarbo, who is from Nixon in south Texas, never ran anything longer than the mile in high

track world.

"We didn't have a track, so when we worked out it was just by running around the football field," he said.

Nixon is a Class A school and when Ybarbo started his track work it wasn't as a distance man because in junior high school they didn't have distance running.

"I was too slow to make the track team. I did a little hurdling, but I didn't make the team until they started running the 660,"

In Texas high school track the two-mile is not used, so Ybarbo's only experience until he reached Blinn was in the mile. He did a pretty good job in that as he won the Class A mile in 1968 with a time of 4:25.4.

"It seems like everything I did was a first when I got to college," he continued

"They didn't have the two-mile in high school, so I ran it for the first time at Blinn. When I got here this year it was the first is slanted more to distance runtime I had run cross country. At ning than in Texas, and it in-Blinn we ran some for practice, but not in a meet. When we ran country is a growing sport. the six miles down at Houston (NCAA regional qualifying) it was the first time I had run the six mile in a competitive

to come to A&M, but for Moncivaiz it is a different story.

Originally from Phoenix, he hadn't heard much about A&M until one of the coaches at Phoenix Union high school, who is an Aggie, told him about his alma mater and asked Moncivaiz if he might be interested.

Moncivaiz, who has some problems with the wind when he runs because a strong burst might blow him away (he weighs only 120 pounds), started his running career in a P.E. class when he was a freshman in high school.

"I ran a couple of races in P.E. class and won, and the coach asked me to come out—that's how it started. There were two meets

since he earned a starting job

The defensive line will have

and Bruce and Boice Best at the

Odom, who opened the season in

the defensive line, will line up along with Dennis Carruth at the

linebacking posts due to injuries

David Hoot and Dave Elmen-

dorf, the most prolific pass-steal-

ing duo in the SWC with 10 be-

tween them, will line up at the

safeties and Ed Ebrom and Rob-

ert Murski will be at the corner-

A&M Rugby club

The A&M Rugby club's match

with the Dallas Rugby club origi-

nally scheduled for Sunday will

be played Saturday at 4 p.m. on

the main drill field in front of

the Memorial Student Center, a

spokesman for the team has an-

plays two games

The A&M soccer team has two

games slated for this weekend,

with the first nonconference en-

counter with a North Texas State

rently won eight games in a row.

6:30 tonight on the Astro Turf of

the practice field south of Kyle

Field, with no charge for admit-

tance. Fans coming to the game

should enter gate 5 of Kyle Field.

10:30 a.m. Saturday with Rice

University, providing the opposi-

tion in a Texas Collegiate Soccer

League battle. That game will be

on the main drill field in front

The second game is set for

That match is scheduled for

plays Saturday

to Aggie linebackers.

Todd Christopher and Van

left in cross country season and then we started track," he said. The track program in Arizona

cludes the two-mile and cross That gave Moncivaiz an ad-

vantage over Ybarbo, as he had a taste of longer distance running and cross country track in high school and junior college.

Ybarbo said he always wanted He stayed at home and went to Glendale JC, where he paced his team to second place in the cross country national meet.

Monday at 1:30 p.m. the Aggies will bid for one of their best efforts ever in cross country track with Ybarbo and Moncivaiz leading the way.



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## Punchless Owls.

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It's not very likely, since they don't come along very often. In fact, the last time Rice played a scoreless tie was in 1942 when they and the Aggies failed to score. A&M tied SMU with zeroes in 1960 and Texas Tech in 1946.

But the condition of the offenses for Saturday's 1:30 p.m. kickoff on Kyle Field could produce something similar to the 1942 Owl-Aggie battle.

Speaking from a statistical point, both teams are about as even as can be. The Aggies are sixth in total

offense and the Owls seventh, while Rice is fifth in total defense and A&M seventh. The Aggies have not been able

to run at all since fashioning a

State. They are last in rushing offense and also in defense against the run. A&M averages only 91.6 yards a game rushing; take away the opener and that falls to 62.8 yards a contest.

Rushing has been the offensive strength of the Owls and yet they still rank fifth, averaging 155 yards a game. They, too, have not stopped the rush as they are one notch above the Aggies in rushing defense.

The Aggies rate second to Arkansas in pass offense and they'll be facing the best defense against the pass, which has allowed only 100 yards a game passing.

A&M is fourth in pass defense and faces the seventh-ranked passing offense. Only Texas has averaged less yards passing per

Aggies game and they've thrown the catches, most of which have come football fewer times than the Owls in the same number of

Injuries to the offense could play a big role in Saturday's encounter as the Aggies' two quarterbacks. Lex James and Joe Mac King, both are suffering from tackles. elbow injuries and the Owls' top rusher( Stahle Vincent, missed most of the Arkansas game and tight end Mike Phillips was injured in the game and is doubt-

James has not practiced all week, but Coach Gene Stallings said Thursday they'll keep watching him to see if it improves. King's injury has improved and he has been working out.

Kyle Gary and Brad Dusek have been working at quarterback this week in case neither James nor King is able to play. Vincent, the 10th leading rush-

er in the conference with 349 yards, is expected to play after missing most of the Arkansas game after being shaken up. Mike Spruill, who has gained 317 yards, will back him up.

Phillips is the Owls' second leading receiver with eight catches, and if he can't go, sophomore Gary Butler, who has caught only one pass this season, A&M soccer team will replace him.

Joey Herr, who has really arrived the last few weeks, will be at split for the Aggies. Herr has caught 16 passes and ranks behind tight end Homer May who has caught 25 passes, good for University squad that has curfifth in the conference, and his backup man, Hugh McElroy, who

has nabbed 20 receptions. Benny DeWitt and Ralph Sacra will start at the tackles and Leonard Forey and Jim Parker at the

guards. Steve Burks, the Aggies' second leading rusher with 387 yards, will start at tailback and either Doug Neill, who has gained 389 yards, or Marc Black will line up

Johnny Gardner, who has 11 of the Memorial Student Center.

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