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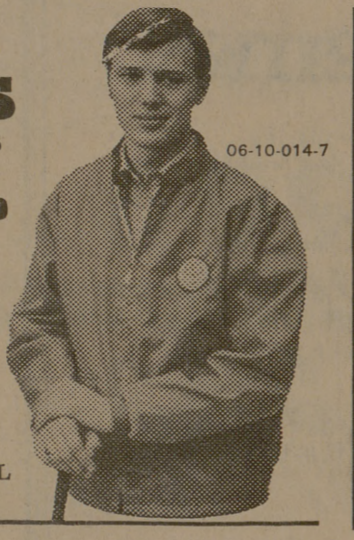


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A prize recruit on the first try

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sport Editor

Spec Gammon usually just takes care of the public relations work around the A&M Athletic Department, but since the football season ended he has taken it upon himself to help the Aggie football fortunes. His efforts paid off Tuesday morning when Gary Vaughan, a 6-8 255 pound tackle, signed a letter of intent to play football for the Aggies.

It's a long story and it actually started two years ago. Gammon, who quarterbacked his 1939 high school team at Coalgate, Oklahoma, to the first undefeated season in the school's history, was invited back to speak at his high school's football banquet. There he met a sophomore tackle who at that time stood 6-6 and weighed in at 225.

He remembered him and waited for two years. Then, after Vaughan finished his senior football season, Gammon spent a weekend in Coalgate and put his impression on the boy.

"I enjoyed talking with Gary. When you're trying to put something over, you can do it if you believe in it and I was trying to sell Texas A&M."

Gary has a brother, Mike who's a junior in high school and a little smaller. He only stands 6-7 but he weighs 260.

A good year for Gary could mean another bonus prize for next year.

Gary was from a small school and despite his team's 2-8 record, was chosen as an alternate to the All-State team in Oklahoma.

Several schools, aside from the Aggies, were interested in Vaughan. Oklahoma and Oklahoma State were there, as they are for all the top schoolboys in their state. The University of Arkansas also put in a strong bid.

Two weekends ago, Vaughan visited the A&M campus with his family and Gammon said he was really impressed.

"The first thing that he was really impressed by was the spirit of the student body at the Tech game and also the A&M weight room," Gammon said.

"He wanted to work on the weight program and I even had Randy Matson ready to call him if we needed it and tell him how good Coach Emil Mamaliga (A&M weight training coach) was."

Vaughan—despite his size—has never worked on weights, so his mother transferred him to nearby Ada High School, where he can put the shot his last semester and also work on Ada's weight program. Ada won the state football championship last fall.

Also, Coalgate doesn't have a track program and Vaughan wants to put the shot. While on campus visiting, he talked to the Aggie track coaches and picked up some information on how Randy Matson used to train.

But it wasn't a sure thing, the signing of Vaughan. He was visiting Oklahoma State last weekend and Gammon wanted to make sure he hadn't been persuaded otherwise.

Gammon spent Friday and Saturday in Fort Worth with the track team and then drove to Coalgate Sunday.

When signing day came Vaughan told Gammon, "I don't want to sign. I'm not going to sign with Oklahoma State, but I'm just going to wait a while before I do."

He had gotten a letter from a place called Notre Dame and they wanted him to fill out a questionnaire and look at some of his films.

And you know Notre Dame, with its illustrious history, can hold a spell over an athlete, even if he just gets an offer.

But Spec put the word right to him and told him that if he waited, A&M might run out of the 50 allotted scholarships and Oklahoma State could too, and then where would he be if Notre Dame looked at the films and decided they didn't want him.

So he decided to put his name on the dotted line and is now committed to the Aggies.

"Recruiting is a real tough job. It makes me really appreciate and respect the job the coaches do. I can understand how it is tough to work an area," Gammon said of his first shot at recruiting college athletes.

Asked if he was going to do any more recruiting, Gammon said he would if he was needed.

But for now the first recruiting try for the sports information director of Texas A&M was a success and maybe a double victory if they can land brother Mike next year.



Marvin Tate II signs a pre-enrollment football application with Texas A&M while Aggie head coach Gene Sings, left and assistant coach Barney Welch look on. Tate, 6-2, 185, played tight end and defensive halfback for Stephen F. Austin High in Bryan. His father, Marvin Tate, played guard for three years at Texas A&M and now is associate athletic director.

Ags set to defend mile relay title

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sports Editor

The last time the Texas Aggies were there, they set a world record in the mile relay as they burned the Astrodome Tartan track to the tune of 3:05.7 for the five-lap indoor track in the Astrodome Federation Track and Field meet.

Saturday night, in the meet's final event, the Aggies will run at the top spot with only half of the foursome running.

Curtis and Marvin Mills will take half of the race and Skelly Strong and Don Kellar or David Morris will run the other legs.

William Blackmon, who ran a leg on the record-breaking team, will save himself for an 880 leg in the spring medley relay. Harold McMahan, who ran the first leg on that team, is working solely in the pole vault pit this year.

"We're going to really go after the relays," head track coach Charlie Thomas said. Thomas said Marvin and Curtis would run in the mile relay only.

The meet starts Friday morning with preliminary running events in the high school, junior college, college and university divisions.

Finals in only one university division event are scheduled for Friday. The high jump is slated to go Friday and the Aggie duo of Ben Greathouse and Marvin Taylor, who both cleared 6-8 last week, will be entered, along with 15 other jumpers who have cleared 6-10, including Ron Jourdan who has cleared 7-2 and Pat Matzdorf who has cleared 7-1.

McMahan and Larry McIntyre will compete in the pole vault, which has finals set for Saturday with Friday morning prelims.

Rockie Woods, who did not run in the Fort Worth meet last week because of a slightly pulled hamstring, is scheduled to see his first action of the season in the 120-yard high hurdles, along with Donny Rogers.

Pat Bradley will run the mile for the Aggies and Robert Brew and Gary West will run in the 440.

Steve Barre and Allen Swagerty are slated to run in the 100-yard dash and Barre will run a 220 leg on the Aggies' sprint medley relay.

Rogers will run the 220, Morris will run the 440 and Matzdorf will run the 880.

Here is the university division schedule:

Preliminaries: 9 a.m. Friday
100-yard dash; 120-yard dash; hurdles; one-mile run; 880-yard run; 440-yard dash; sprint medley relay; mile relay; shot put; pole vault; high jump; triple jump.

Finals: 8:15 p.m. Friday
Long jump; 8:40, two-mile run; 9:15, 120-yard high hurdles; high jump; 9:50, distance medley relay.

7 p.m. Saturday—Pole vault; 7:10, two-mile relay; 7:45, 100-yard dash; 8, shot put; 8:40, 100-yard dash; 8:45, triple jump; 9:15, one-mile run; 10:15, mile relay.

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