

Aggies face track season minus two top guns

By CLIFFORD BYLES

Last May when the Rice Owls edged the Texas Aggies for the Southwest Conference track championship, Curtis Mills and Reckie Woods concluded their eligibility, and with it the end of two eras.

Curtis, the world record holder in the 440-yard dash until a few weeks ago and Reckie, who dominated the hurdles and sprints, were the key cogs in the rise to A&M's first SWC title since 1954 two years ago and put the Aggies on the map with outstanding performances in the sprint and mile relays as well as individual events.

Now it's over and the Aggies must pick up the pieces Coach Charlie Thomas and assistant Ted Nelson know the task ahead will be a tough one.

High jumper Marvin Taylor, on

the threshold of clearing the 7-9 mark, is back and Harold McMahon will be out to conquer the world after clearing 16-6 in the pole vault. The only thing in his way is Rice's Dave Roberts, who's thinking about clearing 18 feet someday soon.

880 man Willie Blackmon decided to keep running after the conference meet and blossomed while running against some of the top half milers in the country at the AAU meet.

He even went to the NCAA meet and clocked a career best of 1:49.1 after running a 1:51.0 at the conference meet. It was in his sophomore year late that Curtis Mills really began to blossom and maybe Blackmon's going to do the same. If so good things are ahead for the Aggies and

Blackmon.

Also returning are pole vaulters Billy and Robert Hoffman; discus men Tim Brown and Bubba Vincent; distance runners Frank Ybarbo, Pat Bradley, Dennis O'Brien, and Sammy Skinner; hurdlers David Morris, David Prince, Gary West and Edgar Harvey; sprinters Steve Barro, Donny Rogers and Allen Swagerty. Steve Thompson is expected to help in the 440 and mile relay.

Robert Porter, a 9.4 sprinter from Odessa Junior College who was ineligible last year after failing to transfer the required number of hours, will be eligible this year and will be valuable in the dashes and sprint relay.

The verdict is still out on two Aggie letterman. Marvin Mills top Aggie sprinter and brother of

Curtis—an Southwest Conference high jump champion for the past two years Ben Greathouse, are both scholastically ineligible for next season and must pass a required amount of hours this fall to become eligible.

Their availability will be essential next season for Aggie title hopes.

A third Mills has also entered the Aggie picture as Wayne Mills, younger brother of Marvin and Curtis, will run the 440. Wayne, who attended Blinn Junior College, will run the 440 and mile relay. He has run a 47.5 quarter.

The Aggies picked up three all-state track selections in their recruiting, including Scottie Jones, Houston Elmore hurdler who equaled the national hurdle mark which Lightfoot broke. Jones has

a 37.4 time in the intermediate hurdles and could be used also in the dashes and relays.

Horace Grant may be the biggest prize. The Houston Jones half-miler has times of 1:51.2 in the 880 and 47.2 in the quarter-mile and will run the 880 and mile relay for the Aggies.

Sprinter Dennis Rowland of Del Rio has a 9.4 100 and another Aggie recruit, Doug Brodhead of Lafayette, La., has a 9.5 100 and 21.5 220 and is the Louisiana large school sprint champ.

Other Aggie recruits are high jumpers Phil McGuire, Charlottesville, Va. 6-9 and Mark Smith, Sweeny 6-6; shot putter Tom Palmer of Dallas 58-0; miler David McLeod from Arlington and sprinter Mike Dambrosio, of Alexander, Va., 9.8.



Willie Blackmon



Harold McMahon

Aggies sign 46 Fish recruits

The Texas Aggies have announced the signing of 46 prospective Freshman football recruits for the 1971 season.

They are: Allen Anderson, back, Eulias; Mike Bertrotti, tackle, San Antonio Roosevelt; Monty Bies, end, Hobbs, N.M.; John Betanda, linebacker, Kermit; Mark Broadus, linebacker, Brazoswood; Eric Cain, end, Houston Bellaire; Steve Canter, quarterback, Magnolia, Ark.; Bill Cazales, linebacker, Corpus Christi Ray; Francis Cook, end, Houston St. Thomas; Rusty Cook, tackle, Gregory-Portland; Logan Cox, fullback, Monahans; Dennis Cunningham, end, Amarillo Palo Duro; Don Deats, quarterback, Little Cypress; Euger Deets, linebacker, Kirbyville; Russell Dick, tackle, LaMarque; Dwayne Fielder, back, Ennis; Dwayne Fontaine, end, Dallas Kimball; Ricky Ford, quarterback, Fort Worth Southwest; Daniel Fortenberry, tackle, West Columbia; Randy

Haddox, tackle, Chesterton, Ind.; Dennis Henderson, tackle, Mansfield; Jim Herndon, linebacker, Dallas Kimball; Roger Holland, back, Houston Spring Woods; Jerry Honore, back, Lake Charles, La.; D. J. Hubbert, tackle, San Antonio Central Catholic; Paul Hulin, end, Hobbs, N.M.; John Humphrey, tackle, Fort Worth Arlington Heights; Erwin Johnson, guard, Hobbs, N.M.; Doug Jordan, back, Nacogdoches; Ted Lamp, end, Bellville; Jackie Landess, back, Dallas Kimball; Donald Long, tackle, Yoakum; Roger Mathe-son, quarterback, Magnolia; Mike Newton, quarterback, Knox City; Steve Perry, tackle, Arlington; Gary Pless, tackle, Sealy; Randy Reynolds, linebacker, Eulias; John Schluens, back, Texas City; Joe Scott, back, Seagoville; Ricky Seeker, center, Bay City; Ken-ny Stratton, linebacker, Houston Spring Branch; John Streckfus, tackle, Brookshire-Royal; Marvin Tate, defensive back, Bryan Stephen F. Austin; Al Thurmond, back, Houston Spring Branch; Warren Trahan, end, Lafayette, La.; Woody Whatley, end, Laurel, Miss.

FOR BEST RESULTS TRY BATTALION CLASSIFIED

Aggie netters seek first team tennis championship

The Rice Owls lost All-Americans Zan Gurry and Mike Estep to graduation and with them possibly went the Owls' complete domination of the Southwest Conference tennis race for the past four seasons.

It will at least bring the Owls down to earth and Aggie tennis coach Omar Smith feels that it will be at least a four-team scramble for the crown next year with runnerup Southern Methodist, the University of Texas at Austin and the Aggies vying for the crown with the Owls.

Rice does return All-American freshman Harold Solomon for his sophomore season. Solomon also has Jorge Bermon, Emilio Montano and Gus Pellizi.

Smith points out that SMU returns its top player Jon Gardner among three of its top four from last year's squad and the Longhorns have everybody back including number one player Avery Rush.

Smith feels his own club will be strengthened with the competition and some outstanding newcomers.

Heading the newcomers are A&M Consolidated state doubles champions, Billy Hoover and Jere Mills. Hoover recently placed third in the Texas Junior Davis Cup tournament.

Smith has added Billy Wright from Ecuador, who has outstanding potential and Bobby Coch from Brazil. Although from Brazil, Coch is an American and his brother, Bill, played for Coach Smith and the Aggies in the early 1960's.

The Aggies will be minus two of their top six players from last year, Jon Ragland and Mike Hickey, who have completed their eligibility.

But coach Smith feels the newcomers plus the competition by a tough group of returnees will make the team stronger next season.

Leading the returnees is the

number one player Dickie Fikes, who teamed with Ragland for second place in the Southwest Conference doubles last year. Smith foresees a tight battle for the number one spot with Fikes.

Senior Tommy Connell, junior Lawton Park and sophomore Dan Courson will lead that fight although several other players are expected to be in the battle for the top six spots on the team.

Among the leading players back from last year are Carl Jaedick, Mike Mills, Jeff Carter, Mitch Barker, Bill Pecor, Mitch Barker, Kermit Smith, Dennis Hirschfield, Don Smith, Bob Barnard and Doug Laukhuf.

Former Aggie netter Richard Barker has returned to help Smith as an assistant coach this season. Barker is a former SWC doubles champion.

The Aggies have never won a team championship and Coach Omar Smith would like nothing better than for this to be the time.

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