

Aggie tracksters earn upset victory

By BILL HENRY
Assistant Sports Editor

A&M pulled a surprising upset over Rice and LSU in a triangular track meet held in Houston Saturday.

The Aggies took blue ribbons in nine of the 16 events for 67½ points, Rice had 61 and LSU topped 41½.

LSU was thought to be the favorite in pre-meet discussion, and Rice had defeated the locals in two previous meets but A&M got strong individual efforts in the running events to win the team trophy.

"We ran much better than we have any time this season," coach Charley Thomas said. "I was really pleased the way the team performed."

A&M, a heavy favorite in the running events, got much needed

help from LSU in the field events where Rice is strongest and A&M weakest.

A&M's first place finishes came in the 440-yard relay; Scotty Jones in the 120-yard high hurdles; Doug Brodhead in the 440-yard dash; Billy Porter in the 100-yard dash; Willie Blackmon in the 880-yard run; Marvin Mills in the 220-yard dash; the mile relay; Harold McMahan in the pole vault; and Phil McGuire in the high jump.

The 440-yard relay team of Porter, Brodhead, Steve Barre and Donny Rogers have gone through the season thus far undefeated.

It seems there is now hope for A&M to cop the Southwest Conference title in May after the showing Saturday in Houston, but Thomas still looks on the

feat pessimistically.

"I still think Texas and Rice are favorites, but we've got a little better chance," he said, "if our kids stay healthy."

Dave Roberts, Rice's NCAA pole vault champion, was not competing in the meet but performing at the NCAA indoor meet in Detroit, and his presence may have made a difference but not in the team standings as assistant coach Ted Nelson relates.

"If Roberts would have won the pole vault and if Johnny Mayo (A&M high jumper) had been well and at the meet, we would have still won the meet by one point."

There were but two double winners in the meet. John Stewart, LSU, took the one and three mile events while Ken Stadel,

Rice, took the shot put and discus.

"We are real proud of Porter, Brodhead, Blackmon, Jones, McMahan, McGuire, and Peterick," Thomas said. "Some of them ran the best they've ever run and really put out effort."

This Saturday A&M will compete in the Arlington Relays against UTA, TCU, SMU, Oklahoma State, West Texas and Texas Tech.

"Oklahoma State is real tough and I expect they'll be the favorites," Thomas said.

A&M finishers:

440-yd relay—1) Porter, Brodhead, Barre, Rogers, 41.3.

One mile—4) Frank Ybarbo, 4:15.0.

120-yd high hurdles—1) Scotty Jones, 14.5; 2) Edgar Harvey, 14.6.

440-yd dash—1) Doug Brodhead, 48.4; 4) Robert Brew, 49.4.

100-yd dash—1) Billy Porter, 9.4; 3) Steve Barre, 9.4; 4) Donny Rogers, 9.7.

880-yd run—1) Willie Blackmon, 1:52.9; 2) Horace Grant, 1:53.7.

220-yd dash—1) Marvin Mills, 21.3; 3) Porter, 21.5.

3-mile run—3) Frank Ybarbo, 14:37.2.

One mile relay—1) Grant, Brew, Blackmon, Brodhead: 3:14.

Pole vault—1) Harold McMahan, 16-0; 2) David Peterick, 15-0.

Long Jump—4) James Johnson, 22-2.

High jump—1) Phil McGuire, 6-9; 3) Marvin Taylor, 6-7.

Discus—3) Tim Brown, 155-11½.

Japanese baseball improved, officials say

TOKYO (AP)—Top officials of Japan's professional baseball organizations say this country no longer is a "resort for aged U.S. players to earn money."

With the 1972 season opening April 8, the presidents of Japan's two major leagues said things have changed as the quality of Japanese baseball has increased.

"Too often in the past," said Liji Suzuki, Central League president, "former U.S. major league players brought by scouts to Japan did little to improve Japanese baseball and to entertain the avid Japanese fans."

Suzuki and Tasaku Okano, Pacific League president, said in interviews that Japanese teams are "paid a costly tuition" to learn that players in their 20s from America's Triple-A or Double-A minor leagues can do better here than major leaguers who are too aged to play hard anymore.

Suzuki said they learned their lesson because they are no longer awed by the sound of "U.S. major league" and now check thoroughly on American players before hiring them.

Okano said younger players from U.S. minor league clubs could do better than older major leaguers because the young men can start their careers in Japan.

Some Americans who have come to Japan, he said, "have worked basically to improve the Japanese sense of baseball." But generally, he said, it has been a case of "just a small number of very good players against too many failures."

Neither Okano nor Suzuki would name any American players they would put in the failure category.

Since 1967, Japanese teams have imported about 45 Americans, mostly former major leaguers. Only five of those here

now have satisfied both the Japanese teams and fans, officials said. They are three players and two coaches.

George Altman, former Chicago Cub, plays with the Lotte Orions of the Pacific League. Dave Roberts, formerly of the Baltimore Orioles, is with the Yakult Atoms and Willie Kirkland who used to be with the San Francisco Giants, is with the Hanshin Tigers, both Central League teams.

Former Washington Senators player Don Blasingame is chief coach of the Nankai Hawks of the Pacific League and Daryl Spencer, formerly with the Giants and Cincinnati Reds, coaches fielding and base running for the Hankyu Braves, the 1971 Pacific League champions.

Besides these five established Americans, seven others joined Japanese teams this year, bringing to 16 the number of American and other foreign players

and coaches. Four of the American newcomers are in their 20s.

Spencer said Japanese managers are less patient than Americans.

"The Japanese managers put you off easily without knowing that the players also easily lose confidence," said Spencer. "On top of that, the Americans are responsible for teaching the Japanese the American-style percentage baseball and so should work much harder than back in America."

Japan's No. 1 slugger, Shigeo Nagashima of the Yomiuri Giants, said Japanese players have everything "equal to the Americans except physical strength."

"We have skills and technique equal in quality to the Americans."

Altman said American players should "completely forget about

America in Japan. The Japanese are different. They are less frank than we Americans."

No matter how the Americans do in Japan, the test for Japan's baseball still comes when Japanese teams take on American major league squads in exhibition games.

The Baltimore Orioles came to Japan last fall and won 12 games, lost two and tied four against top Japanese teams. Since the Orioles narrowly lost the World Series before coming to Japan, the exhibitions did not turn out to be the "real World Series" between the U.S. and Japanese champions that Japanese fans had hoped to see.

When it was over, Oriole Manager Earl Weaver said the Japanese players are excellent and "have mastered the basic techniques of baseball."

Tennis team wins matches over Lamar, LSU, Indiana

A&M's tennis team swept three dual tennis meets in four days this weekend by defeating Lamar University, Louisiana State and Indiana, thus bringing its season's mark to 9-5.

In the three meets, A&M allowed only four matches to be lost in beating Lamar, 7-2; LSU, 8-1 and Indiana, 8-1.

Coach Omar Smith revamped his lineup by placing freshman Bill Wright in the number one position, Dickie Fikes dropped to second, Billy Hoover took over third, Dan Courson, fourth, Tommy Connell, fifth and Mike Mills, sixth.

Fikes, who has spent the entire season in the top spot, fell to number two for only the Lamar match as he returned to his top spot against LSU and Indiana.

In the LSU meet, all nine of the matches, six singles and three doubles, were split sets.

Against Lamar Tech on Friday, Bill Wright of A&M lost to Luis Baridai, 6-4, 6-1; Dick Fikes of A&M defeated Gary Gomez, 5-7, 6-4, 6-2; Billy Hoover of A&M defeated Ron Hernandez, 6-1, 6-2; Dan Courson of A&M defeated Gary Jenkins, 6-2, 6-1; Tommy Connell of A&M defeated John Jordan, 6-2, 6-0; and Mike Mills of A&M defeated Gary Kloesel, 6-1, 6-0.

In the doubles competition; Wright and Hoover lost to Baridai and Gomez, 7-6, 6-7, 6-4; Fikes and Connell defeated Jenkins and Jordan, 6-1, 7-5; and Mills and Courson defeated Hernandez and Kloesel, 6-7, 6-4, 7-6.

Results of the tight LSU match were Dickie Fikes over Jimmy Ducrest, 6-1, 1-6, 6-4; Bill Wright over Bobby Hagerman, 2-6, 6-2, 7-5; Billy Hoover defeated Mark Tinkle, 6-2, 6-4; Dan Courson defeated Randy Lavercombe, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1; Tommy Connell defeat-

ed Johnny Foster, 6-3, 3-6, 6-4; and Kermit Smith lost to Max Beque, 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

In doubles action Fikes and Courson defeated Ducrest and Tindle, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2; Hoover and Wright defeated Hagerman and Lavercombe, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3; and Connell and Smith defeated Foster and Beque, 6-4, 6-7, 6-4.

Against Indiana in the singles competition; Dick Fikes defeated Mark Bishop, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4; Bill Wright lost to Doug Sullivan, 6-1, 6-2; Billy Hoover defeated Joe Kendall, 7-5, 6-1; Dan Courson defeated Tom Dunker, 7-5, 6-0; Tommy Connell defeated Walt Heirick, 6-2, 6-2; and Mike Mills defeated Dan Richards, 7-6, 6-1.

In doubles Fikes and Courson defeated Bishop and Heirick, 7-6, 2-6, 6-2; Wright and Hoover defeated Kendall and Dunker, 7-6, 4-6, 7-6; and Connell and Mills defeated Sullivan and Richards, 6-3, 6-4.

Thursday the Aggies take on Texas Wesleyan here on Varsity Courts starting at 1:30.

Rice hires former pro McLemore as football and basketball assistant

HOUSTON (AP)—Rice Athletic Director Red Bale announced Monday that veteran NBA player McCoy McLemore had been hired as an assistant football and basketball coach.

McLemore, released Jan. 31 by the Houston Rockets, will assist head basketball coach Don Knodel and head football coach Al Conover.

McLemore, who signed with the Rockets as a free agent after he was released by Milwaukee at the start of the season, will also help with recruiting in both sports.

Sports schedule

Thursday
Tennis: Texas Wesleyan, here, 1:30

Friday
Baseball: TCU, here, doubleheader, 1:00

Saturday
Baseball: TCU, here, 2:00
Track: Arlington Relays
Tennis: Oklahoma, dual meet, there

Monday
Baseball: Minnesota, here, doubleheader, 1:00
Football: Spring practice begins

The 6-foot-7-inch McLemore played high school basketball at Houston Yates and attended Drake University. He was drafted by San Francisco in the NBA in 1964.

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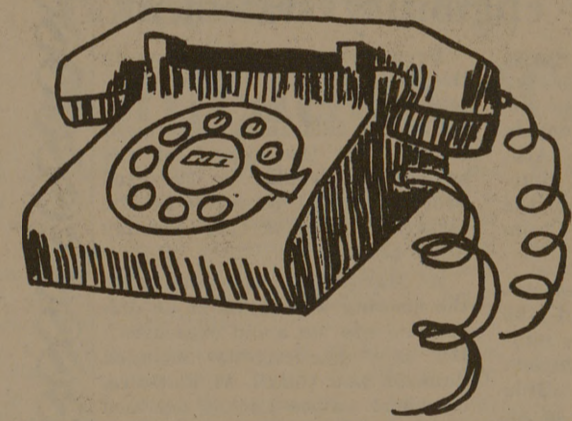
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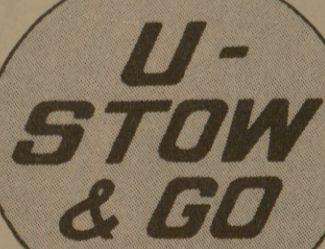
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