

# Vaulters not weak of heart concerning fiberglass poles

By BILL HENRY  
Battalion Sports Editor

"What kind of fool am I?" This lyric of a popular song must be the theme of pole vaulters around the world.

Who would be foolish enough to run down a 24-foot asphalt strip, stick a 16-foot fiberglass pole into a slanted box and fling himself over a bar between 14 and 17-feet off the ground? Not many people in their right minds, right?

To make matters worse, after the ascent, the vaulter must land on a 15-foot square foam rubber or sawdust pit.

"Pole vaulting is the most dangerous and expensive event in track," A&M track coach Charley Thomas said. "But, to have a good program you must have

competent individuals in every event."

The possibility of injury is always present, especially with the fiberglass pole.

"The worst mishaps occur when the pole shatters," Thomas added. "It is possible to have the pole break in the middle of your jump and have part of it go through you."

Not many such injuries have occurred but many others have.

"The most common problem is missing the pit after clearing the bar. If you don't come down perfectly, you may miss the pit and suffer anything from a sprained ankle to a broken back.

"Another common problem is having either your pole or the bar fall on you in the pit after the jump. I've known many

vaulters to have their noses broken this way."

Why would an athlete participate in such an event knowing what can happen to him?

"I enjoy it because it gives me a feeling of freedom up in the air like that," top A&M pole vaulter Harold McMahan said.

"It also gives me a feeling of confidence when I can fling myself over the bar. It's like flying without wings or any other mechanical device. I also like it because it is just me, a total individual effort."

Poles cost from \$60 to \$120 each and the four A&M vaulters have 11 poles among them. The money has been put to good use this season as all four have garnered points in various meets around the nation.

# Isaac takes pole position for Winston stock car race

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Bobby Isaac, no stranger to breath-taking speed, blitzed the Alabama Motor Speedway at 192.428 miles per hour Wednesday to win the pole position for the Winston 500 stock car race.

Isaac, 37, needed only 49.764 seconds to negotiate his way around the 2.66 mile tri-oval, his red Dodge hitting a speed trap at the end of the long back

straightaway at better than 215 m.p.h.

Later, to show his top lap was no fluke, the 1970 Grand National champion recorded a lap at 191.443 m.p.h.

His best lap was almost two miles an hour faster than that of David Pearson, who won the other front row berth by driving a Mercury at 190.699 m.p.h.

The second row spots for Sun-

day's 50-car lineup went to Richard Petty, who abandoned his familiar Plymouth to drive a Dodge for this race and clocked 188.567 m.p.h., and Bobby Allison, who streaked around at 188.388 m.p.h. in a Chevrolet owned by the legendary Junior Johnson.

The third row will be made up of Buddy Baker, who drove 186.376 m.p.h. in a Dodge; and Donny Allison, Bobby's younger brother who recorded 182.807 m.p.h. in a Chevrolet. Red Barber, the three-time national sportsman champion, got his Ford in the field at 178.131 m.p.h.

Other qualifiers—only the first 10 positions were at stake in the initial trials — included Frank Warren, in eighth place at 178.048 in a Dodge; Country and Western singer Marty Robbins, 174.789 in a Dodge; and 1971 rookie of the year Walter Ballard 172.867 in a Mercury.

The next 15 positions in the lineup will be at stake in second day qualifying Thursday.

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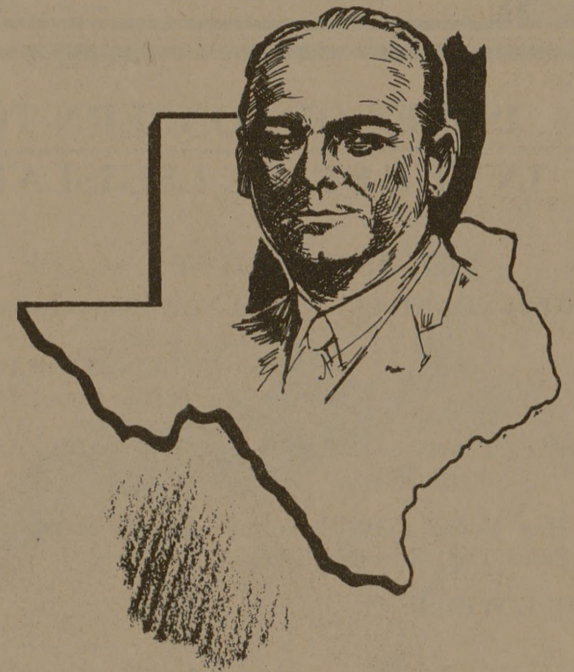
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(Political Adv.—Paid for by Byron Tunnell Campaign Committee.)

# THE DEMOCRATIC WAY: KNOW YOUR CANDIDATES—VOTE THE BEST QUALIFIED MAN.

In the public interest and motivated by the desire for an accurate statement of the two candidates for the office of County Attorney, the following information is published for the benefit of the voting citizens.

### Roland Searcy

### Doug Howell

Education:	Texas A&M University, 1961 Baylor Law School, 1964	United States Military Academy Baylor Law School, 1969
Number of Criminal Cases Contested:	20 to 30	0
Uncontested:	100 to 200	Not more than 3
Years in Practice:	8	2½
Teaching:	4½ years, Allen Military Academy 2 years, Texas A&M University	0
Knowledge and Ability to Work with Law Enforcement:	Roland Searcy knows almost all members of local law enforcement agencies on a first name basis. He has had many dealings with them.	Doug Howell is virtually unknown among law enforcement officials in the County.
Base of Support for County Attorney Election:	Broad base, running from minority groups to business - professional man. Broad support from all income groups, students, and members of the academic community.	Unknown
Offices Held in Brazos County Bar Association:	Secretary-Treasurer; 2 terms as Vice-President; President.	None
Judicial Experience	Served as Corporation Court Judge, City of Bryan.	None

Paid For by Brazos County Committee for Good Government, Betty Marek, Chairman.