

### Hopes high for next year

# Frustration again hits Aggie tracksters

**BILL HENRY**  
Coach Charley Thomas and his Aggie tracksters had another disappointing weekend of action in El Paso when they were soundly defeated by both Texas and Texas-El Paso in a triangular meet.

UTEP, as expected, carried off the team honors with 85½ points followed closely behind by Texas with 71½. The Aggies were far behind.

The Aggies get ready now for a quadrangular meet to be held at Kyle Field this Saturday between SMU, TCU, and Baylor. This weekend's meet is the final warm-up for the schools before the Southwest Conference meet to be held in Fayetteville May 22-23.

"I was very pleased with Willie Blackmon and Horace Grant in the 880-yard run," said coach Ted

Nelson who accompanied the team to El Paso while head coach Charley Thomas visited the State Track Meet in Austin to watch recruits.

The biggest problem arising was Billy Porter's aggravation of his old leg injury that will probably keep the Odessa College transfer out of the conference meet and all national competition.

"It looks very slim at this time that Porter will run again this year," Nelson stated. "He has only two weeks to recover and that is an almost impossible length of time to get an injury of his nature healed."

Porter re-pulled a hamstring muscle in his left leg.

Doug Brodhead, injured since the College Station Relays, re-injured his foot in Saturday's meet which will force him out of this week's action, also.

"I don't think it will hamper him in the SWC meet," Nelson said. "He needs to let it heal. He will probably not run Saturday for general precautions. We will desperately need him when we go into conference action in Fayetteville."

No Aggie performer or relay team won a first place in El Paso and only one second was copped. The 440-yard relay team of Gerald D'Ambrosio, Billy Porter, Alan Swagerty and Donny Rogers took second in 41.7 was far out in the lead before Porter pulled up lame and coasted in to make the exchange.

"Porter was running away from Texas like they were tied to a post," Nelson said. "He was really running fine until that leg gave out. I really can't understand the injury because he was running fine in practice last week and

said he felt great before the race. That's something that you never can tell about."

Blackmon took third in the 880-yard run in a time of 1:50.1 while Grant took fourth in 1:50.7.

Doug Brodhead was nipped at the wire for second place by the SWC's top time-holder, Texas' Ed Wright, in the 440-yard dash. Both finished with an identical 47.0. UTEP's Steve Williams won the event in a time of 46.0.

Marvin Taylor took third in the high jump with a poor leap of 6-6. Taylor has jumped 6-10 this year and Texas' Wyatt Tompkins won the event in 6-10½. William Oates, UTEP, took second with a jump of 6-8.

In the pole vault, Harold McMahan took third with a jump of 15-6. Bill Curnow won the event for UTEP with a jump of 16-6.

A&M's mile relay team, in a time of 3:09.6, taking third place. This is where Brodhead re-injured his foot.

"The team ran very well in this race," Nelson said. "I think Brodhead's injury hurt us some."

Donnie Rogers took fourth in the 100-yard dash in 9.7. The event was won by the NCAA champion, Harrington Johnson of UTEP, in a time of 9.5.

"I feel Porter could have placed in both the 100 and 220-yard dashes if he hadn't been injured," Nelson added.

Porter has run a 9.4 this season in the 100.

Marvin Mills did not compete due to an injury but is slated to run in this week's warm-up meet and barring an injury there, should be ready for the conference meet.

"The reason we are doing so badly this season is that we have had key people hurt and the enthusiasm of the team is at a low point," Thomas said. "It is a lot easier to run when you know you have a chance to win the meet. The team is psyched in a way. They feel they can't run and consequently, they don't."

Scotty Jones, who has been injured for the past few weeks, is scheduled to run in this week's meet.

With the conference meet close at hand, Thomas is quite pessimistic about the outcome.

"You can't be too optimistic after the season we've had," he said. "I am hoping for a second or third place SWC finish but I

am hoping even more that we don't finish in the cellar. I am worried about how we compete in that meet; it could be very embarrassing if we don't perform up to our capabilities like we have all this season.

With the recruiting done by both coach Thomas and coach Nelson, a banner year can be expected in 1973. A&M will boast some of the best high school track stars in the nation. With some help from seasoned regulars to be back next year, a bright future is in store.

As Baylor's track coach, Clyde Hart, said, "You'll be a good coach again next year, Charley."

## Hitting slump drops Englert to fifth in SWC batting race

**DALLAS**—Five teams boasted 400 hitters in the final Southwest Conference baseball statistics in 1971, making the tight race for the batting championship an echo of the pennant race.

Texas and TCU shared the latter with 12-6 records—lowest victory percentage since four teams tied for the title in 1966—but Texas Tech's slugging first baseman Doug Ault had the former to himself.

Ault went 4-for-9 in his windup series against Rice to claim the batting title with a .464 mark as regulars posted averages of .300 or better for the second straight year. Texas' David Chalk was the runner-up at .435, his second straight year over .400 in SWC play, while SMU's Jon Astor finished third at .424. Don Bodenhamer was fourth at .406. The batting leader for most of the season, R. J. Englert of A&M went one-for-12 against Texas to finish at .400. Englert's career in the Big Spring belter wind up second, fifth and fifth in conference batting the last three years.

The co-champions pretty well eliminated individual categories. Texas had four batters among the top 10 and had a team average of .281, while TCU pitchers ranked high.

TCU's Frank Johnstone claimed the most victories with a 6-1 record. Ironically, his only loss came last Monday when SMU pushed across three runs in the bottom of the ninth for a 4-3 victory that denied the Frogs the outright

championship. Tom Ladasau fashioned a 2-0 mark and Jess Cole a 4-1 as the Frog starters ranked at the head of the conference.

**SWC marks to be beaten**

**DALLAS** — A calm day and a fast track appear to be the only unsettled ingredients as Southwest Conference track and field teams go after a passel of records two weeks hence in Fayetteville.

To date, five existing SWC marks have been bettered, one other has been tied, four are in striking distance—and that leaves only six relatively safe in the showdown May 22-23.

Latest addition to the list of potential record setters is Texas freshman Robert Trimeaux, who got his first taste of 440-yard intermediate hurdles competition last Saturday at El Paso. The Mobile, Ala., native won with a school record of 51.5 seconds, which ranks just behind defending champ Mike Cronholm's season best of 51.0, and continued his personal record of starting with a bang.

Primeaux's first 440-yard dash in college competition came last Feb. 19 and it resulted in a victory in 48.6 seconds. He switched to the 880 a week later at the Border Olympics and again came in first, this time with a 1:52.5 clocking against a strong field including A&M's Willie Blackmon and Horace Grant, TCU's David Hardin and Texas' Mike Tibbetts.

While Primeaux was trying the

Rice sophomore Mike Pettit topped the SWC with a 0.51 earned-run average while compiling a 5-2 record. His six complete games led all pitchers.

440 hurdles in a triangular meet at El Paso, the Aggies' 880 duet was improving the conference season standard in the same meet. Blackmon raced to a 1:50.1, while Grant had a 1:50.7.

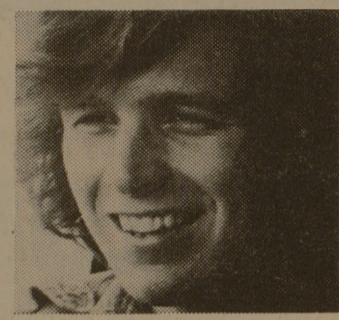
The 440 dash at El Paso saw SWC performers run the three best clockings of the season. Texas' Ed Wright shaded A&M's Doug Brodhead as each was clocked in 47.0, and Texas' Mike Leifeste was third in 47.7. Leifeste's clocking marked the first time the junior from Brady has been under 49.1 seconds in the quarter.

Records that have already been bettered this year are the three-mile, where freshman Paul Geis of Rice (13:34.5) leads a field of five who have bettered the existing mark of 14:08.5; the 120-yard high hurdles, where Texas' Randy Lightfoot and Gordon Hodges have eclipsed the 13.7 mark; the high jump standard of 6-11¼, topped by 7-foot leapers Gary Kafer of Baylor and Wyatt Tompkins of Texas; the 16-8 pole vault record, which Rice's Dave Roberts has surpassed four times with a best of 17-5; and the 25-1 long jump, improved by Rice freshman Darryl Hughes (25-7½) and Baylor junior Danny Brabham (25-7).

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**McLean Survives Two Obstacles**

Singer Surmounts Irritated Crowd and a Bomb Scare  
By DON HECKMAN  
New York Times

A performer who can survive a bomb scare and an antagonistic audience must be something special. Singer-songwriter Don McLean came on stage at Columbia University's

Wollman Auditorium Friday night and was greeted by listeners who were justifiably angry about the garish, bright spotlights beaming down on them. "Some friends" were filming Mr. McLean, and their need for appropriate lighting apparently took precedence over the audience's comfort. Associated with a performer whose psychic antennas are usually highly sensitive to rudeness, it was a peculiarly thoughtless action.

As if that wasn't enough, half-way through the program Mr. McLean was interrupted by a man who unceremoniously asked everyone to look under their chairs for "strange or unusual looking packages." Wow. Only a truly magical performer could have kept me—and doubtless many others in the audience—in the hall after so many hassles. But Mr. McLean

is magical. He sang his current hit, "American Pie," of course, but he also sang two particularly impressive older tunes, "Three Flights Up" and "Circus Song." He led his listeners through an enthusiastic interpretation of the old folk round "Babylon," he played super guitar and banjo and he sang beautifully. His songs—almost all of which are written with the pen of a poet and the voice of a minstrel—are the centerpiece of his art, and they have as direct and pertinent a message for right-here-today young people as those of any contemporary songwriter I can think of.

The bomb scare and the distracting film lights faded quickly from my mind at the end of the program. But Don McLean's music hasn't; I expect to be hearing it for a long, long time.

**Don McLean in Concert**

Letter to the Editor  
Buffalo Evening News

"... I am not a fan of Don McLean, or wasn't before Sunday. I liked "American Pie," but knew little of McLean or his work before then.

I sat in the balcony, quite physically alienated from the lone man on stage, with no particular expectations but curiosity,

until step by step his words, melodious voice, his attitude, sensitivity, candor, and sincerity brought my weary mind to a warm reception of McLean's works. Just as we discovered and respected the music of Bob Dylan, Simon and Garfunkel, Gordon Lightfoot, or Carole King, so has everything I saw of Don McLean seeped into and warmed my musical sense."

WENDY PATERSON,  
Kenmore, N. Y.

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