

SWC holds debut indoor track meet in Fort Worth

The Southwest Conference will crown its first indoor track and field champions here Friday and the feeling is that Texas' distance-deep Longhorns will take home the family jewels.

The initial SWC Indoor Championship will get underway with preliminaries at 2:30 p.m. in the Tarrant County Convention Center. The first final event will be the distance medley relay at 3:35 p.m. with finals in the other running events scheduled to start at 7 p.m.

The new SWC championship will be run in conjunction with the 14th annual Fort Worth Coaches Indoor Games and the co-sponsoring Fort Worth Coaches Association will also conduct a meet for area high schools in conjunction with the SWC competition.

Texas will rank as favorite among the nine SWC entries with Rice, A&M, Houston and Baylor among the top contenders for team honors in the 15-event meet. Arkansas brings a strong distance field into the meet, while SMU, TCU and Texas Tech are expected to show well in shorter races.

One of the meet's top features is expected to be the mile relay, scheduled as the night's final event at 10 p.m. A&M, Texas, Rice and TCU all return strong teams from last year's outdoor season. Among outstanding quarter-milers expected to duel it out on the final lap are Texas' Don Sturgal, Rice's Lin Bingham, A&M's Horace Grant, Baylor's Tim Son and either Bill Collins or Gary Peacock of TCU.

In addition to such outstanding men as SWC mile champion Paul Craig and runner-up Reed Fischer and SWC 880 champion Rudolph Griffith, Texas entrants include two 60-foot shot putters, outstanding hurdlers in Randy Lightfoot and Nate Robinson and strong relay teams.

The 60-yard dash field is headed by Rice's Zoe Simpson, who won the open division of the Fort Worth meet last year in 6.1 seconds by defeating Olympic sprinter Robert Taylor of Texas Southern. But the Rice sprinter isn't a clear favorite because the field also includes SWC 100 champ

Wayne Johnson of Houston, two-time SWC 100 champ Gene Pouncy of SMU and TCU's Bill Collins.

Strong competition is also lined up in the mile run where Arkansas' Randy Melancon ran a 4:08.3 on the boards last weekend at Missouri to offer a challenge to Fischer, Houston's Ronald Newcomb and a field of experienced outdoor milers.

The two-mile field includes SWC three-mile runner-up Steve Houk of Arkansas, third-place finisher Jeff Wells of Rice and Tim Patton of Texas. Houk ran a 9:04.1 at Missouri and teammate Ron Hendee has been credited with a 9:09.

Among the other outstanding individual performers entered are Rice weightman Ken Stadel, who has been over 60 feet along with Texas' Bishop Dolegiewicz and Dana LeDuc; A&M hurdler Scottie Jones, winner of the SWC 120 high hurdles last spring; A&M's Sammy Dierschke, the schoolboy sensation of 1972 who will run in the mile relay; high jumpers Gary Kafer of Baylor, Wyatt Tompkins and Silverio Bosch of Texas and Glenn Ray of Rice; 25-plus long jumper Ricky Thompson of Baylor; and Baylor freshman Alyc Jackson in the high hurdles.

2:30 p.m.—440 dash and high jump preliminaries.

2:45 p.m.—660 dash preliminaries.

3 p.m.—880 dash preliminaries.

3:15 p.m.—1000 run preliminaries.

3:25 p.m.—distance medley relay finals.

4 p.m.—60 high hurdles preliminaries.

4:10 p.m.—60-yard dash preliminaries.

6:30 p.m.—pole vault finals.

7 p.m.—60-yard high hurdles finals.

7:15 p.m.—60-yard dash finals.

7:40 p.m.—1000-yard run finals.

8 p.m.—mile run finals.

8:25 p.m.—440-yard dash finals.

8:35 p.m.—600-yard dash finals and high jump finals.

9:10 p.m.—two-mile relay finals.

9:45 p.m.—two-mile run finals.

10 p.m.—mile relay finals.

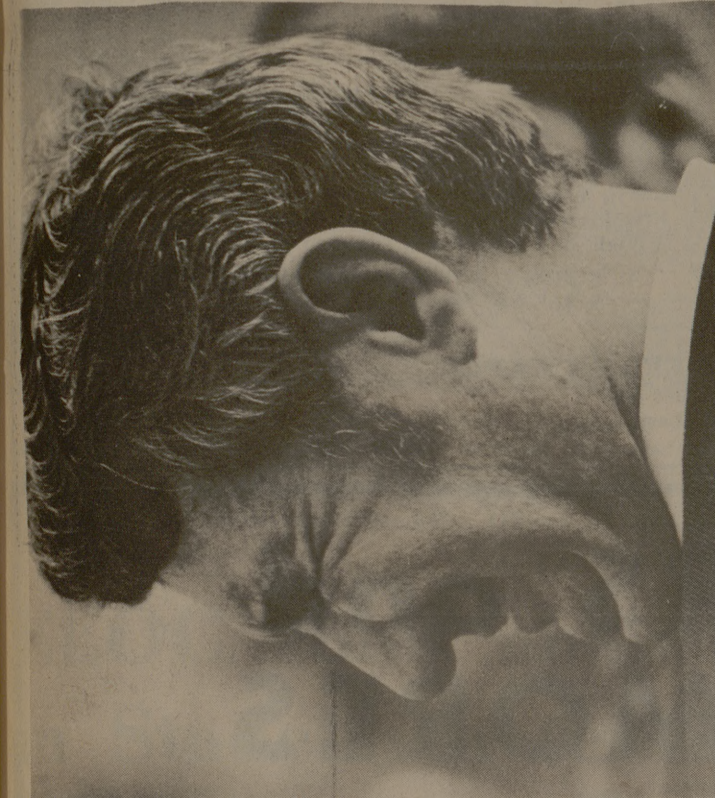
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... going...



... gone

AGGIE COACH Shelby Metcalf's calm dissolves during the Rice-A&M basketball game Saturday. Metcalf will have even more to worry about as the Aggies have dropped to a 2-3 conference. (Photos by Gary Baldasari)

Roaches opts to run track

Carl Roaches, A&M's premier wide receiver and kick returner during the football season has announced he plans to run track before and after spring training this year.

He won the state 4A 100-yard dash title in 1972 while competing as a sprinter at Houston Smiley.

"Anyway, I hope to be back after spring football," he said, "if I'm not too beat up."

Handball visits UT tournament

TAMU's Handball Club team is traveling to Austin this weekend to participate in the United States Handball Association Regional Intercollegiate Tournament. The tourney takes place in Gregory Gymnasium on the University of Texas campus Feb. 1 and 2. Finals will be at 4 p. m. Saturday.

All Aggie contestants are entered in Class B singles. Students representing A&M are Jeff Carter, Robert Almon, Charles Bockelman, Louie Zingery, John Whiting, Klay Hughes and Jack Greset.

Wrestlers set Saturday meet

The TAMU wrestling team began its '74 season on the right foot by defeating Richland Junior College. The Ags showed well in matches at the Richland Open Invitational.

The Ags are starting their fifth season in the 12-team league with their strongest team ever.

A&M's masters of the mat will host Texas University and Stephen F. Austin at 2:00 p. m. Sat. in DeWare Field House. Admission is free.

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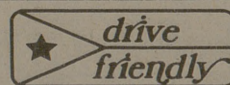
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