

# Jones, Peterrek eye title defense

## Hurdler, vaulter defending champs in conference meet

By TED BORISKIE  
Assistant Sports Editor

Scottie Jones and David Peterrek have two things in common. First, they are both defending champions for the Southwest Conference Track and Field Meet to be held at the Rice track Saturday. Second, they are both the wrong size for their events.

Jones, tipping the scales at 5-9 and 163 pounds, won the 120-yard high hurdles in 13.5 last year, two-tenths of a second faster than the conference record. The time didn't go into the books as a record as the wind was blowing at 6.3 mph, two miles over the limit.

Jones, supposedly too small to get over the hurdles easily, compensates whatever time he loses straining to get over the barriers with a blazing fast start and finish.

"I'm usually the first one out of the blocks," said Jones, "and I know that if I'm even with someone over the last hurdle, I can outrun him or outstretch him at the finish."

A high school all-America at Houston Elmore High, Jones was not widely recruited even though he re-

corded a 13.5 in the highs and a 37.4 in the 330-yard intermediate hurdles. Obviously many colleges didn't believe he could adapt to the three-inch taller college hurdles because of his lack of physical stature.



David Peterrek

"I had a little trouble this year," said Jones. "I sort of fell into a slump where nothing was working right. I got so discouraged I almost wanted to quit. I don't think I ran very well at the big three (Texas, Kansas, Drake Relays)."

Few people could fault Jones' performances, however, as he finished fourth at all three meets, twice recording a 13.6 clocking. He was the highest SWC finisher in all three.

Earlier this year, Jones set a goal of 13.4 for his time this season but now he thinks he can go even faster.

"I feel like I can run a 13.2 this year," said Jones, "but not on the Rice track. It's a slow track and I've never run very fast there."

Jones also expressed an interest in trying the 440-yard intermediate hurdles next year.

"I ran a 37.4330 in high school so I

think I can get off a good time," he said, "but I've never had a chance to find out. I think running the longer race will be good training for the highs, anyway."

Peterrek has got much the same problem as Jones; only in reverse. He's too big to be a pole vaulter.

Peterrek is quick to point out that, at 6-3 and 185 pounds, he is relatively the same size as pro pole vaulter Steve Smith, who has few peers of any size in the event.

Hailing from Gonzales, where he won regionals with a 14-6 vault, Peterrek was a walk-on as a freshman in 1972.

In his rookie year, he cleared 15-0 and finished fifth in the SWC meet, earning him his first track letter.

Last year, he was the surprise of the SWC meet in Austin, clearing 16-0 to take the championship away from

defending titlist Bill Smalley of Texas on fewer misses. He also defeated two-time NCAA champ Dave Roberts of Rice as Roberts passed to 16-0 and then failed to clear on any of his three attempts. However it read, it still meant bringing home the pole vault title to College Station.

For a while this year, it appeared that Peterrek's success may have all been a fluke as he was unable to clear anything over 15-0 through the first three months of the season. On May 2 in a quadrangular meet in Austin, Peterrek began showing signs of the old form as he won his first meet of the year, vaulting 15-6 and handing Texas' David Shepherd his first defeat by a SWC vaulter. The following weekend at Baylor, he qualified for the NCAA meet by clearing 16-3, just three inches short of the A&M record.

"I was never discouraged this year when I wasn't vaulting well," said Peterrek. "I knew I was doing some things wrong but I saw that I was doing enough other things right that if I kept working at it, sooner or later I could put it all together. That's what I'm doing now."

Suddenly, Peterrek is a vaulter to be reckoned with, capable of defeating anybody in the conference. If he wins again this year, one thing is for certain. It won't be a surprise.

"I think I can clear 17-0 this year," said Peterrek, "but I might have to get a bigger pole. However, I'm prepared to go 16-6 on the one I've got because that's what I think it'll take for conference."

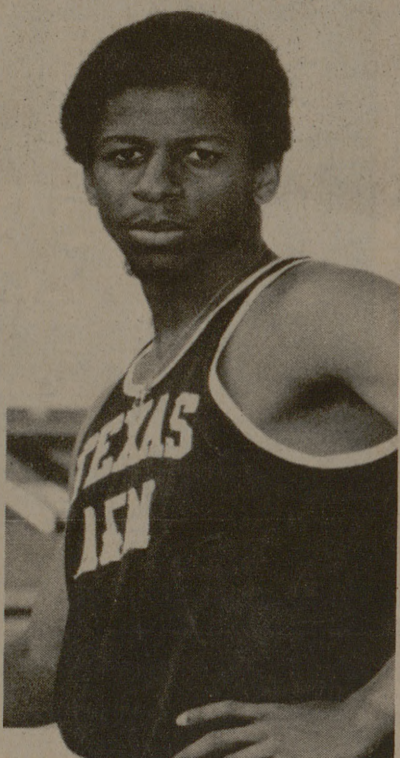
Jones may be too small to be hurdler and Peterrek may be too big to be a vaulter; but try explaining that to their opponents.



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Scottie Jones

## Five top athletes sign with A&M

Five athletes signed with A&M over the past week and basketball mentor Shelby Metcalf led the spree with two prospects.

Metcalf started off with 6-10 John Blackwell of Navarro Junior College. Blackwell is a good jumper with plenty of speed. He runs a 9.8 century.

Also signing was 6-6 JuCo All-America Sonny Parker. Parker is from Mineral Area JC in Flat River, Mo. Parker had a season high of 38 as a sophomore and was held below double figures only once.

He has been listed as one of the top thirty prospects in the nation by a professional scouting service.

Parker is Metcalf's third signee of a total allotment of six. The first was Hill County JC star Barry Davis.

Emory Bellard signed his 28th football recruit in 6-1, 235-pound tackle, George Gaines. Gaines, from

Aldine Carver High, was named to two schoolboy All-America squads and has been selected to play in this year's coaches All-Star game at the Astrodome.

Baseball coach Tom Chandler connected with a top pro prospect, Robert Bonner of Corpus Christi King.

Bonner batted .525 this season and is very strong at shortstop. Chandler is hoping to move Bonner to third base to take over for departing Aggie star Jim Hacker.

Bonner also has a 0.00 ERA in 27 innings of mound duty.

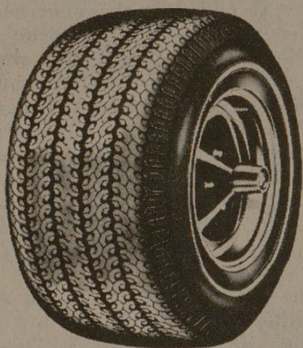
Track coach Charlie Thomas also landed a highly sought-after recruit, Mike Williams of Pasadena Rayburn. Williams, a hurdler, finished second in the 120-yard high hurdles in the state 4A track meet behind U.S. record holder Bill Blessing. Both times were listed as 13.8 in the very tight race.

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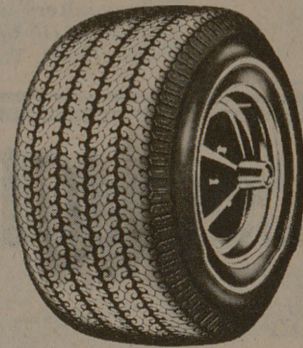
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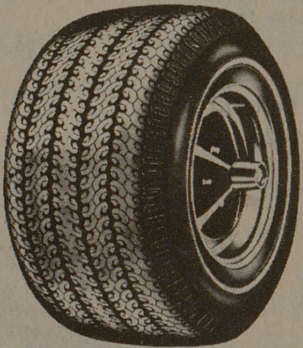
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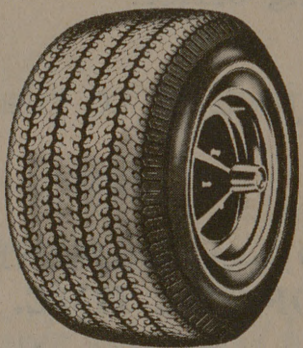
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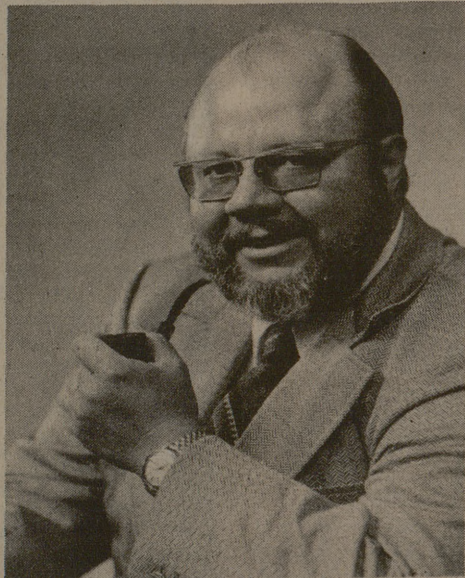
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