

Expects 9.1 time

Sprinter Dawson hopeful

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sportswriter

He crouches in the blocks waiting for the gun shot. Leg muscles tighten against the metal, he concentrates with a steady gaze upon the track where his fingertips turn white from the pressure exerted on them. The report is sounded and he is off. Nine seconds later he will be over.

Such is the life of the 100-yard sprinter. They obtain success and temporary glory from an event that lasts less than one-sixth of a minute. The 100-yard dash is one of the most "glamorous" events in a track and field season because it has received the honor of determining the world's fastest human. Bob Hayes won the Olympic 100-yard dash because he was the first man to run it in 9.1 seconds. Ivory Crockett won the 100-yard dash headlines for his 9.0 dash.

And then there's Charles Dawson of Texas A&M. Although not receiving the publicity of Hayes or Crockett, he is perhaps the man to beat in the Southwest Conference. The national 100-yard dash he is also entered in the 100-yard dash and runs the third leg of the 400-yard dash.

ten 110 yard dashes. "I really want to get too sluggish," says Dawson, which is how distance running affects him.

Once he did get "too sluggish" though. During last year's Southwest Conference meet, Dawson was disqualified in both the 100 and 220. The first call was protested hotly because a Texas runner had apparently moved before the gun and Dawson, seeing the movement, sprang from the blocks. Dawson blamed the Rice starter saying, "He just didn't dig me." Rice was one of the schools seeking to obtain Dawson. "I was really up for that meet and it really hurt. It messed me up mentally." Dawson then stopped running for about three weeks and because of the layoff was unable to qualify for the National Collegiate Athletic Association finals.

The Aggie sprinter has been victimized several times by close calls with him on the short end. "I have never in my life won a close race. I never win a decision race," said Dawson. He says his reputation earned in high school may be the reason. "Officials will be more favorable to the man with the lesser reputation if he stays close to me," says Dawson. Twice this year he has tabbed second in photo finishes, one costing him a shot at the finals in the SWC Indoor meet.

"There is no sprinter that has never been beaten. No one is going to feel the same everytime. Nobody wins every race," says Dawson who never lost a race his junior and senior years in high school. "If you lose a race you have to overlook it and look forward to next week." He explained that sprinters must learn from their losses and correct mistakes that cause them not "to run their kind of race."

"One thing I have to correct is my leaning forward about three inches too far at the tape," Dawson said. "You know, the 100 is a funny race. Your body has got to be totally together. You've got to make your whole body into a ball of energy and spit it out for nine seconds."

"My primary interest is to keep healthy this year. I feel even stronger than last year and there's no doubt in my mind I can run 9.1 or better. I don't want to get in shape too early." He feels that if he is running around 9.3 or 9.4 at the beginning of March he can get his time down to 9.1 at the month's end.

"The mental part of track or any other sport is as important as the physical part. All I think about is getting a good start. I concentrated on the gun because the next sound after 'get set' means you gotta go,"

said the Aggie junior. He rarely feels any pre-race jitters. He concentrates on the ground ("because it ain't gonna move") to rid himself of butterflies.

After the gun, "My mind's blank until I hit the string. I'm looking for the string from start to finish," Dawson said. He agrees with Crockett's theory that a sprinter could do better if he ran blind, as long as he was able to stay in his lane or not hit anyone. He explained Crockett's hypothesis by saying if a sprinter knew he had a lead on a man the sprinter would just run to keep the lead. If a sprinter did not know where the man was, he would have to run all-out the whole distance. Plus, being "blind" would aid concentration by eliminating background distractions.

Dawson says he is looking for "the magic start." The one sprinters call the "one start in a lifetime." He said, "I'd like to get mine so I can get to my highest achievement in track." The secret to any good race, he says, is the start and how well it is executed. The slowest part of the 100 is right at the first so Dawson hopes he can jump out and get up to four steps ahead at the beginning.

While running the 220, Dawson's ability to get around the curve enables him to break away and makes him a real asset to the 440 relay team. The Houston Post has called him the "best curve runner in the nation." His teammates call him the bread and butter man of the relay team. As for running curves, "I try to stay as close to the white line as possible, that saves about two yards. Then I try to lean into the curve and dig as hard as I can."

Dawson will face some heavy competition in the SWC again this year. TCU's Bill Collins is a premiere sprinter although Dawson defeated him three times last year. Zoe Simpson of Rice defeated Dawson earlier this year in one of the decision races he always seems to lose.

His rivalry with Gene Pouncey, last year's SMU great has been cut short due to Pouncey's graduation. Pouncey beat Dawson in high school when Dawson was a sophomore. They never met again until last year's heat in the Border Olympics where Dawson gained revenge. "The Houston papers played Pouncey

AGGIE CINEMA presents



BETTE DAVIS
brings a woman's heart and soul to
"THE STAR"

STERLING HAYDEN
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26
RUDDER THEATER
ADMISSION 50c

The story of every woman who ever climbed the stairway to the stars...and found herself at the bottom looking up! Played, as it could only be, by the two-time winner of the Academy Award!

Your savings account won't earn more interest than BB&L pays . . .

(But it might earn less somewhere else.)

BB&L pays the maximum interest permitted by law. Your savings won't earn more at any financial institution anywhere. In addition to maximum return on your savings, BB&L pays interest from the day of deposit (even on deposits made after the 10th of the month), offers you the convenience of branch offices and Savemobile service and \$40,000 insurance on accounts by an agency of the government.

Look at the rates listed below. If your savings account isn't earning this much, you need to consider joining the thousands of Brazos Valley families who trust BB&L with their savings.

For more than 50 years, BB&L has been the place to save for the future.

Type of Account	Minimum Balance	Rate	Effective annual yield (compounded continuously)
Passbook Savings	-	5 1/4%	5.39%
90-day Passbook	-	5 3/4%	5.92%
90-day Certificate	\$1,000.	5 3/4%	5.92%
1-year Certificate	1,000.	6 1/2%	6.72%
2 1/2-year Certificate	1,000.	6 3/4%	6.98%
4-year Certificate	1,000.	7 1/2%	7.79%
6-year Certificate	1,000.	7 3/4%	8.06%

(All rates are governed by minimum balance and maturity dates established by federal regulation. A substantial interest penalty is required for early withdrawal.)

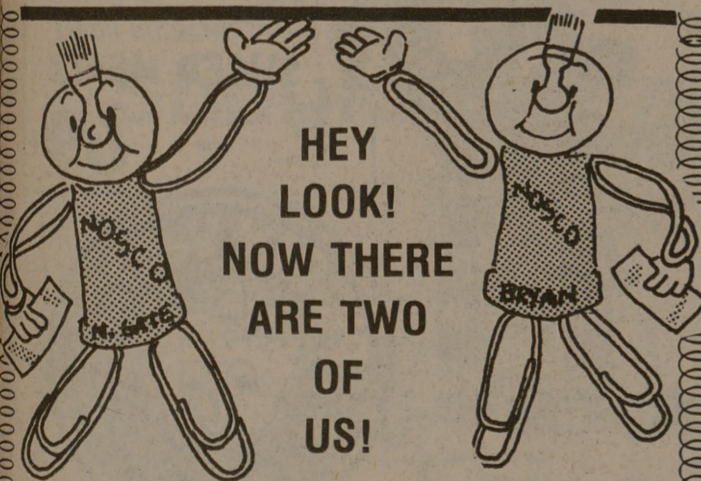


BB&L A Savings Institution
Main Office: 2800 Texas Avenue, Bryan, Tx. 77801/713-823-7541
Branch Office: 114 S. Bryan, Bryan, Tx. 77801/713-823-7541



CHARLES DAWSON

(Photo by Chris Svatek)



HEY LOOK!
NOW THERE ARE TWO OF US!

You don't have to go to Bryan for your school & office needs. Stop by the Northgate location & get acquainted. Ask about our 1/2 price table!

News Office Supply Co.

108 College Main — Northgate