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Aggies travel to SWC indoors

Coaches Charles Thomas and Ted Nelson will take a 24-man Texas A&M track squad into Fort Worth Thursday afternoon for the SWC Indoors Championships scheduled for Friday afternoon and Friday night at the Tarrant County Convention Center.

A sparkling field loaded with defending champions is lined up for the third Southwest Conference indoor track and field championships Friday night.

No less than nine of the dozen 1975 individual titlists return to the Convention Center arena for a show that could once again provide a duel between Baylor and Texas for team honors.

Coach Cleburne Price's Longhorns captured the two previous championships here but he con-

tended recently that Baylor's Bears loom as the team to beat.

Texas outscored the Bruins by two points last year with a six-point disqualification of Tim Son of Baylor in the 60—costing the bears the championship.

Price, who talked with several SWC coaches last week at Oklahoma City, said, "They all told me the same thing: Baylor is in super shape for the indoor meet."

Price added, "I haven't seen Baylor. And I'm not trying to sandbag them. They really are ready."

Another Baylor believer is Texas A&M track coach Charlie Thomas, who says of the Bears: "They may just run away with it. Maybe that is too strong... run away with it. But I don't think Texas will beat them this time."

Among the 1975 winners back are John Craig of Texas, who won the 1,000-yard run and also anchored the Longhorns to a photo-finish decision over Baylor in the two-mile relay.

Houston's Floyd Cavitt, a surprise winner in the 60-yard high hurdles, faces a strong challenge from Baylor football ace Aley Jackson and Texas A&M's Shifton Baker.

Lionel Adams of Arkansas, the 600-yard winner, finished second to Son a year ago but was given first place when the Bear runner was disqualified on a controversial foul call.

Son, the SWC outdoor 440 kingpin, faces serious challenges from Herb Kinney of Rice, Larry Gnatzig of Houston and Adolph Tingan of Texas A&M.

Reed Fischer of Texas, who won the indoor mile in record time last year, is back, as is Niall O'Shaughnessy of Arkansas, a record breaker in the 880.

Texas Christian's Sam McKinney is not around to defend his 440 title and the favorite is Baylor's sophomore sensation, Mark Collins, the runnerup last year.

Brad Blair, who has gone 16-0 this year, of A&M returns after a record 15-6 in the pole vault, and Randy Melancon of Arkansas is back to battle Jeff Wells of Rice again in the two-mile run.

Ricky Thompson of Baylor and Dana LeDuc of Texas are favored to repeat in the long jump and shot put respectively. LeDuc is bidding for his third indoor crown.

FINALS
3:35 p.m.—Distance Medley Relay (Joel Vogt, 880, Craig McPhail, 440, Walter Jachimowicz, 1320, Tommy Glas, mile)
6:30—Pole Vault—Brad Blair.

7:25—High Jump—Don Riggs, 6ft 10
8:00—Long Jump—Tom Owen
8:30—Shot Put—Frank West, 42ft 10
8:55—Two-Mile Relay—Adolph Tingan, Walter Jachimowicz, Jim Brannen
9:45—Two-Mile Run—Charles Collins
10:15—Mile Relay—Curtis Collier, Gregory Clark, Terry Novak

PRELIMS
2 p.m.—One-mile run—Murdell K...
2:30—440-Yard dash—(qualify 8:30)
Terry Novak
2:45—600-Yard Dash—(qualify 8:30)
Curtis Collier
3:00—880-Yard Run—(qualify 8:30)
Brannen
3:15—1,000-Yard Run—(qualify 8:30)
4:00—60-Yard Hurdles—(qualify 8:30)
Harold Baker
4:10—60-Yard Dash—(qualify 8:30)

Bench signs Reds' contract for \$200,000

CINCINNATI—All-Star catcher Johnny Bench, rejecting the chance of playing out his option, has signed a contract which could make him the Cincinnati Reds' first \$200,000-a-year player and only the third in major league baseball history.

Bench, still recovering from shoulder surgery, said the contract was not a multiyear pact as speculated. He and Reds President Bob Howsam declined to reveal the terms, though Bench admitted it was in the \$200,000 range.

He said he signed for one year "after some soul searching over whether or not to play out my option. Baseball is at a crossroads and I think it's up to the players to decide whether to keep it going. I don't want it said that I ruined the game for others," he said in a telephone interview from Springfield, Ohio.

Bench was reportedly the highest paid Cincinnati player a year ago with a \$190,000 contract.

The 28-year-old eight-time All-Star becomes the first Reds' regular to sign. Second baseman Joe Morgan, the league MVP in 1975, and World Series hero Pete Rose are also reportedly seeking the \$200,000-a-year contracts.

The superstar trio helped the Reds capture their first World Series championship in 35 years. All three have won the league's Most Valuable

Player award at least once. Bench did it twice, in 1970 and 1972.

Dick Allen and Henry Aaron were the first players to reach the \$200,000-a-year plateau.

Bench hit his highest average in five years last season, despite a nagging shoulder injury resulting from a collision April 22 with San Francisco's Garry Matthews.

Howsam said the club had another operation to remove two cartilage and a small bone in the hand.

He had a .283 batting average in home runs, and 110 runs. He has averaged 106 RBIs in the past eight seasons and ranks fifth in the Reds' all-time home run list at 240.

Club sports

By DANA McNABB
Tomorrow at Prairie View A&M, the weightlifting championship of Texas will be decided. The Aggie weightlifters will aim for an unprecedented third state championship in a row.

The A&M team feels that their big competition will come from UT and NTSU (last year rated number 3).

Individual A&M weightlifters out to break current state records include Bruce Campbell, Stan Peters, and Doug Wood.

Campbell is presently the state champion weightlifter at 114 lbs.

RIFLERY

The Texas A&M Rifle Team scored a 187-point victory over UT in a rifle match in Austin last Saturday.

The Aggie victory was spearheaded by Jeff Potter with a score of 532. With the defeat of UT, the Aggies are assured of the first place spot in the Southwest Rifle Association. The other firers in last weekend's match and their scores were as follows: James Beal (528), Robert Stone (520), Robert Lunsford (519), Elizabeth Nealin (512), and David Weldon (503).

RACKETBALL

The A&M Racketball Team will sponsor a tournament starting at 5 p.m. in the DeWare Field House.

Students and faculty of A&M will be competing in five divisions: men's open, men's B, men's C (novice), women's open and women's novice. Two A&M students placed in the finals of the International Racketball Association Pro-Am Tournament in San Antonio last weekend.

Neysa Buckley won the first place trophy in the women's novice division, while Connie Karcher took fourth in the same division. Rod Woodard, also from A&M, made it to the quarter-finals of the tournament.

RUGBY

The rugby team will journey to San Antonio tomorrow for a game against the Corpus Christi Navy

team starting at 2 p.m. The improved Navy team will be A&M's first defeat after being beaten by A&M. The next A&M home game is Feb. 28, against San Antonio. The Aggies, which beat the Huns 16-10 last weekend, are a 3-0 record.

The second team also home a victory Saturday by the Huns 16-7. This was the first win of the season.

WOMEN'S RUGBY

The Texas A&M Women's Team played its first game of the day, beating a spirited men's Rugby Team, 30-14. The women dominated every game and made seven conversions worth a total of 42 points. Scorers for A&M include Speidel, Kathi Flowers, Hardwick, Kathi Chappell, Petty, and Holly Barbee.

LACROSSE

A home lacrosse game between A&M and UT will be played at 2 p.m. on the DeWare Field.

A&M is now 1-1 for the season. The lacrosse team lost to Texas also has 1-1 for the season. The lacrosse team lost to Houston last weekend, but the same conference as A&M.

SCUBA

The Texas A&M Scuba Club is making plans for a club day at the Station Shirt Shoppe Saturday. They are also planning a cave dive at the end of the spring semester.

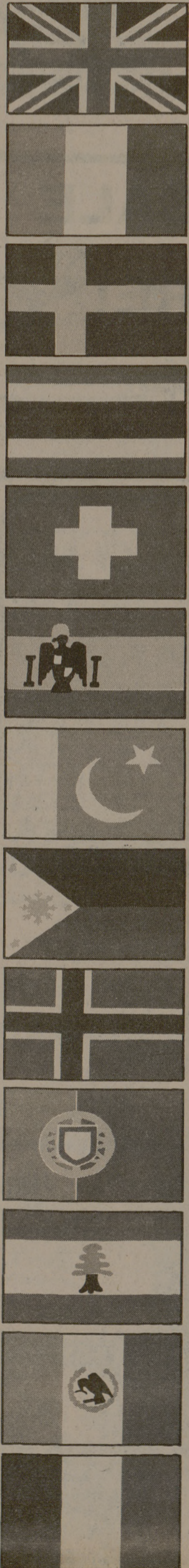
Michael Reynolds, member of the Scuba club, will be in classes in cardio pulmonary starting March 2. The class will be offered at night, Cross sponsored, and will be 137 MSC. An advanced class will also be offered after the club.

The club meets every Monday night, with the next meeting on Feb. 23 at 9 p.m. in the Rollie White Coliseum.

SOFTBALL

Larry Lawrence, a Texas graduate who plays for the Station Shirt Shoppe Softball team, has been invited to compete in the annual Home Run Derby at Corpus Christi on Feb. 28. The elite field comprises the top sluggers.

Representatives from several teams will be competing in the year's winning shot was 375 feet.



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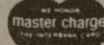
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