

Texas A&M track squad travels to nationals

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

Texas A&M track coach Charles Thomas will take a seven man squad to Philadelphia, Pa. this weekend as teams from across the country participate in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Track and Field meet.

The meet closes out the season for the Aggies who finished third behind Texas and Baylor in the Southwest Conference meet. Although the Aggies will have little hope for the team title, they are almost certain to exceed the two points they scored in last year's nationals meet by Doug

Brodhead's fifth place finish in the 220-yard dash.

Hurdler Shifton Baker, a junior from Elgin, will compete in both the 120-yard highs and the 440-yard intermediates. Baker has a best in the highs of 13.8 this year, good for fourth in the SWC and fourth in the United States Track and Field Federation meet held last weekend in Wichita, Kan. He was also fourth in the intermediates behind world record holder Jim Bolding and Olympic hopeful Nolan Cromwell of Kansas. Baker has a best of 50.88 in the intermediates, winning him second in the conference.

Tyler sophomore Ray Brooks is

also slated for dual competition in the 100-yard dash and the 220. Brooks, who was second in the SWC in the 220, has a best of 9.4 in the century and 20.83 in the furlong. Teammate Chuck Butler from Pittsburgh, Pa. will be revisiting home ground as he will join Brooks in the 220 competition after qualifying with a 21.0.

Freshman Tony Wheeler from South Africa, winner of the SWC 880-yard run, will compete in that event after posting the conference's best time in the half of 1:48.7. Wheeler has been hampered by an injured achilles tendon and his status

for the meet is unknown.

In the field events, Brad Blair qualified for the pole vault with a 16-6 foot effort. Blair, third in the SWC this year, vaulted that same height for sixth in the USTFF meet. Finishing first in the event was Earl Bell of Arkansas State, setting a world record with a vault of 18-7 1/2 feet.

Senior Bill Newton, A&M's other winner at the SWC meet, will throw the javelin for the last time as a collegian. He has a best this year of 249-10 feet. Steve Stewart will toss the discus after placing third in the conference. Stewart, who relies on

speed rather than strength, has a best throw of 186-3 feet.

Texas A&M also qualified their sprint relay team which had a best time of 40.3.

The University of Texas at El Paso is the defending NCAA champion in the outdoor meet and the Miners have already copped the cross country and indoor titles this year. UTEP should be hard-pressed by talent laden Kansas and Tennessee while the UCLA Bruins cannot be counted out. The UCLAns were runners-up last year.

The SWC should be well represented with the strength of Texas

in the field events and Baylor, TCU and Rice on the track. Longhorn weightmen Dana LeDuc and Jim McGoldrick figure highly in the shot and discus and pole vaulter David Shepherd is among the nation's best.

Baylor, with their stellar quarter milers Mark Collins and Tin Son, have a good shot at the mile relay crown. The Bears set a SWC record at the conference meet with a 3:05.4 clocking. Hurdler Davy Duncan of Baylor also should do well, owning a best time in the highs of 13.6. TCU's spring relay quartet has one of the year's best times of 39.8 and has several quality sprinters entered in the

three-day meet. Rice's Jeff fourth in the NCAA three-year, will be closing out an excellent career at the meet.

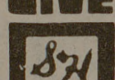
Preliminaries competition begin tomorrow with the final semifinals scheduled for Friday, Saturday.

Battalion Classified 845-28

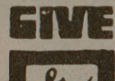
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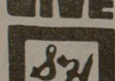
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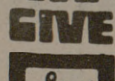
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