

Sports

Ags hopeful at indoor championships

By PAUL MCGRATH
The finals of the Southwest Conference indoor track championships are only a few hours away with a short-handed Texas A&M squad hoping to improve its sixth place finish of last year.

This is the fourth annual get-together of the SWC in the confines of the Tarrant County Convention Center. After successive wins by

Texas the first two years, Baylor won the indoor title narrowly over the Longhorns in the 1976 meet.

The Convention Center's wooden track is 160 yards in circumference, thus calling for 11-lap miles. The preliminaries got underway at 2 this afternoon and the finals are scheduled to begin at 7:30 tonight.

The Aggies will be without their top quarter miler, Gregory "Greyhound" Clark, and might also be without shot putter Frank West

and long jumper-sprinter Reggie Jameson, as the injury bug has begun biting early this season. Sprinters Chuck Butler and freshman Kent Figgs will compete despite recovering recently from illness and a leg strain respectively.

Texas A&M Coach Charles Thomas and his assistant Ted Nelson readily admit that their squad has a chance to win the title, but their tone of voice hints that it is a slim one.

The strengths of the Aggies, in such events as the discus and intermediate hurdles, are stripped away in indoor competition—primarily because those events aren't held indoors.

The weaknesses of the Aggies are glaring, like Broadway's neon lights. Texas A&M has no speed merchant to compete in the 60-yard dash and no healthy quarter milers to compete in the 440-yard dash. The absence of quality sprinters, uncommon to A&M's tradition for obtaining the state's swiftest, will also damage Aggie chances in the 440-yard relay, mile, relay and distance medley relay.

Another discouraging note is the

up and down year the A&M high jumpers are having. If Ronnie Keys and Lynn Byrd can break up Baylor's Kevin Delorey-Bill Wimberley tandem A&M's title chances will be greatly enhanced. Delorey was the indoor high jump champ and Wimberley the outdoor champ last year.

With Jameson possibly gone, the Aggies will have only Shifton Baker to compete in the long jump, which will distract him from his usual chores running the hurdles. This is another event which should go Baylor's way.

The Aggies should do well in the shot put (with or without West) and Brad Blair should score high in the pole vault. Baker is a guaranteed point-getter in the 60-yard high hurdles and team captain Manfred Kohrs should fare well in the mile, although Rice's Ken Tolbert and Marty Froelick, Houston's Eric

Lathrop and Arkansas' O'Shaughnessey will still be in competition.

The middle distance runner also be a boon to the Aggies. Such talent as Tony Wheeler, Vogt, Tommy Glass, Jim Brown, Ron McGonigle and Kent Figgs available.

As always there is a bit of soup, as the middle distance runner also tend to Baylor's strength with premier quarter miler Collins leading the way.

The feature race of the meet will be the 60-yard dash. Olympian Johnny "Lam" Jones, Texas going head to head with Houston's Greg Edmonds, will be the nation's top sprinter. Edmonds' Harvey Glance several ago.

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