

# Ag tracksters finish third in SWC Indoor Meet

By PAUL McGRATH  
Battalion Staff

Almost, but not quite. Nearly, but not near enough. Those words could apply to half of the schools present at the fourth annual Southwest Conference Indoor Track and Field Championship last Friday night. A record crowd of 9,553 in Ft. Worth's County Convention Center witnessed the closest

and most exciting SWC track meet in recent years. The final tally of team points showed the University of Houston the winner with 43 1/2 to Baylor's 43. Texas A&M finished with 41, Texas had 38 1/2, Rice closed with 35 points and Arkansas had 25. The only teams out of contention were Texas Tech with nine points, SMU with four and TCU with only one point.

With one event remaining, the high jump, five teams still had hopes of claiming the team title. Coach Charles Thomas' Aggies held a precarious one point lead over the Cougars with the Bears, Owls and Longhorns tied with 35 points, six behind the leaders.

While workmen disassembled the wooden track and the clock neared midnight, the high jumpers struggled to pass safely over a slender, metallic bar. If they had not been acquainted with pressure before, they soon did as the situation forced them to suddenly become next of kin. The championship was to be determined by the spring in their legs.

After the narrowing process was concluded, Baylor's Kevin Delorey won the event and six points for his team. Delorey's victory, a repeat of last year, coupled with teammate Bill Wimberley's fourth place finish, appeared to give the title to Baylor for the second straight year. But Houston's Greg Caldwell tied for

second with Texas' Terry Davenport, adding three and one-half points to the Cougars' total and providing the narrow margin of victory.

An inch here or a slip there could have given the crown to any of the top five contenders. Misfortune especially rode hard for the Aggies as A&M's top contender in the 880-yard run, Tony Wheeler suffered a leg cramp while leading in his preliminary heat.

Thomas said his team could have won the meet if Wheeler had not been injured, pointing out that Wheeler would have placed high in the 880 and also could have scored points by anchoring the two-mile relay team. Wheeler won the half-mile last spring at the SWC outdoor meet.

But still the Aggies were close. Their best long jumper, Reggie Jamerson, placed fourth in the event, one and a quarter inches out of third. The mile relay quartet of Karl Figgs, Chuck Butler, Shifton

Baker and Ron McGonigle finished third behind Texas and Rice in a tight race. Only the width of a dime separated the Aggies' from second place.

The lane draw was the biggest factor in the mile relay Thomas said. Figgs, who placed second in the 600 yard dash, ran A&M's lead leg, and got a bad start due to running on the outside lane.

While ill luck shone upon the Aggies, just the opposite seemed to walk hand in hand with the Cougars. A Texas Tech man, the favored team in the distance medley relay, fell down during his leg of that event, allowing several teams, including Houston, to finish higher than they normally would have.

Another such slip gave the Cougars additional points in the mile relay when a TCU runner dropped the baton while leading the race. Without that point Baylor would have won the meet.

Houston sprinter Greg Edmonds defeated Texas freshman Johnny

"Lam" Jones in the 60-yard dash in the meet's feature race. Added to his previous win over Harvey Glance, Edmonds has now defeated one-half of the medal-winning United States sprint relay team.

The Aggies received fine performances from Baker and polevaulter Brad Blair and Pat Ruehle. Baker won the 60-yard high hurdles convincingly in 7.31 seconds. His hurdles' victory was his first in a championship meet.

Blair and Ruehle both cleared 16-0 feet to finish one-two in the pole vault. It was Ruehle's best indoor vault, coming after a year of non-competition while being red-shirted by Thomas.

Blair joined Wheeler on the injury list by cutting his ankle after unsuccessfully attempting to vault a meet record 16-7 feet. His injury is not serious and he should be ready to compete again soon.

Tommy Glass and Joel Vogt finished second and fifth in the 1,000-yard run (2:12.8 and 2:14.8),

while Jim Brannen placed

the 880-yard run in 1:57.4. Frank West, who was doing the meet, placed second in the 1,000-yard run with a heave of 55-3. Teammates Randy Scott and Carter were fourth and fifth in the same event with throws of 51-11 and 51-11 feet respectively.

The Aggies fared poorly in distance events as they scored no point in the mile, two-mile relay and distance medley.

Two meet records were set by Kansas' Niall O'Shaughnessy, 2:05.5 in the 1,000-yard run, and Cecil Overstreet of Houston, who jumped Tech's Canadian (C) Jim MacAndrew with a leap of 51-11 feet in the long jump, more than the previous record by Baylor's Ricky Thompson.

Texas A&M will have weekend off before meeting Jones-led Texas in a dual at College Station on Saturday.

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## Recruitments: sign on the dotted line

By DOUG ERCK

Amidst a rash of telephone calls and visits from head coaches, a young man might have a difficult time deciding where he is going to play football in college. Hopefully, with as much persistence exhibited by the A&M recruiting staff, and as much personal interest that is shown by the coaches, the Aggies will be the choice of many of the top players from Texas and Arkansas.

"We have to do a lot of work every year, and with Houston coming in and doing as well as they did and with Texas Tech having a good year, well, this really gets to be a competitive business," says coach Bob Wright of the A&M staff. "Recruiting really can be a complicated, competitive business riddled with changing rules and standards."

Today at 8:00 a.m. was the signing date for all of the schools in the Southwest Conference. The Aggies were doing extremely well this morning as the early committed players officialized their decisions. Among the blue-chippers from Texas, A&M signed quarterback Mike Mosely (6-2, 170) from Humble, defensive back Elroy Steen (6-3, 200) of Gonzales, and Tim Ward (6-5, 260) of Conroe. Quarterback Rhett Darness (5-11, 194) of

DeKalb and runningback Leandrew Brown (6-2, 203) of West Columbia are also being heavily recruited.

Among the A&M hopefuls are defensive backs Basil Banks (5-10, 175) from Galveston Ball, Sammy Sims (5-11, 180) of Lubbock Estacado, and Dan Davis of Texarkana. Quarterbacks David Beal (5-11, 170) from Russellville, Arkansas, John Dawson (6-1, 175) of Dallas Hillcrest, Mark Gibson (6-0, 180) of Duncanville and Jennings Teel from Big Lake.

Obviously, the defensive backs and quarterbacks are in demand at Texas A&M. The Aggies established their priorities in these areas before this season. Fortunately, this year's crop of high school players was flooded with excellent talent in these positions. This is not to say that there is a deficiency in the other positions, such as lineman. Billy Don Jackson (6-4, 235) of Sherman, Hosea Taylor (6-4, 260) of Longview, Tim Huffman (6-4, 265) of Dallas, Thomas Jefferson and Buzzy Nelson (6-2, 210) of San Antonio Churchhill are super linemen and are heavily recruited by all schools.

The NCAA recruiting rules are many and changing. Among these is the 30 man signing limit, the limit of three official visits by staff, and the prohibition of the players to officially visit the college campuses until the seasons are over. Despite red tape, the players are not untouchable. The Aggies, for example,

offered many scholarships to student athletes on August 15, 1976. Telephone contact is made frequently and coach Bellard visits the home of each individual.

One area that the Aggies are not hurting in is kicking. Freshman David Applebee did an excellent

job this year, and super-kicker Tony Franklin still has two years to set a few more records.

With the A&M program doing as well as it has the past few years, and with the fine television coverage of this year and last, the job of recruiting out of state is made slightly

easier. Coach Wright agrees hope to sign two, and possibly out of state players. All of youngsters are very talented could play other positions. That the youngsters we have list and are recruiting are of quality."

## A&M women defeat Wharton prepare for Lamar tonight

By DEBBY KRENEK  
BATTALION NEWS EDITOR

The Texas A&M women's basketball team faces an aggressive Lamar women's team tonight at 5:15 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"Lamar is basically the same as last year," coach Kay Don said. "They have been beaten badly by two of the same teams that have beaten us — Sam Houston and Texas Southern — so they should be about equal to us in team ability."

"Lamar is not a large team," coach Don said, "however their players are aggressive and go after the ball. That will be one of our main problems because our girls are not as aggressive as they should be on the board."

The Ags upped their record to 9-8 last Friday night with a 72-65 win over the Wharton County Junior College Pioneers. Wharton beat the Aggies by three points earlier this season on their home court.

"We lost our first game to them because of team inexperience, but now we have more maturity and that contributed to our win over Wharton," Don said.

The two teams stayed neck-in-neck until late in the first half when the Pioneers ran into foul trouble that cost them eight points in 1:28 seconds of the play. The Ags capitalized on this and took a 16-point lead into halftime, 44-28.

Wharton came back in the second half and narrowed the deficit to two points using a combination play from Wharton's Gayla Zwersche to 6 foot post Mamie Mauch.

"It took the girls a while to adjust to the three big players that Wharton had on its team," coach Don said. "We had to adjust our defense to man-to-man because when we played them before, they only had two really tall players." Three start-

ers on the Wharton team were above 5'11".

The combination of several 15-foot baskets by A&M freshmen Von Bunn plus several mid-courts passes from Cindy Gough to Bunn widened the Aggies' lead to eight points, which Wharton couldn't overcome.

This was Bunn's first foul since her leg injury three

ago. A&M shot only 38 per cent on the floor, but made up for it by 70 per cent on free throws. Pioneers had 42 per cent on field goals and free throws.

## Golfers finish third

The Texas A&M golf team finished third last weekend behind Houston and Texas at the Atacocita Invitational.

The Cougars won the tournament with a 36 hole total of 736. Texas was next with 750 followed by A&M with 754.

Medalist for the tournament was Mike Booker of Houston who shot a two day total of 144, just one shot behind A&M's Rusty Day and Monte Schauer.

Day held the first round lead with a two under par 70. Coach Bob Ellis

was disappointed with the

ing. "We wanted to get something better before we went to Ellis said, "but we were happy we would play a little better."

"Besides Rusty and Monte played very poorly. Our players usually play much better than this. Hopefully we can do better this week in Monte's Aggie finishers were Whiteside with 152, Bobby with 153, Ricky Jamieson with 154 and Jerry Orevag with 155.

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