

Sports

# Aggies capture Border Olympics

By PAUL McCRATH  
The Texas A&M track team, led by hurdler Shifton Baker and a tall field events group, won the annual Border Olympics held in El Paso last weekend.

Each Charles Thomas' squad, the one observer aptly renamed the Aggies, won the meet. The Aggies and the Rice Owls separated by two points with events remaining, but pole vaulter Brad Blair and Jerry Strong one-three to give A&M 16 points and a comfortable lead.

Rice finished with 86 points to Texas' 79½, with Baylor third with 77½ points. Lamar finished a strong fourth with 69 points while Texas Tech had 25; North Texas State, 22; SMU, 19; and TCU, 9 points.

Baker scored 20½ of A&M's 34 points on the track in becoming the meet's high point man and Outstanding Athlete. He won the 440-yard intermediate hurdles, was second in the 120-yard high hurdles and ran on A&M's sprint and mile relay teams which placed second and fifth respectively.

Baker ran a respectable 52.7 in the intermediates and a 13.5 in the highs. Baylor's Davy Duncan also ran a 13.8, but was given the nod

ahead of Baker. It was Baker's first loss of the outdoor season.

Blair cleared 16-8 feet in the pole vault to better his previous school record by an inch. He barely missed on his last attempt at 17 feet. Strong, a freshman, vaulted 15-6 to place third.

The Aggies scored a big 24 events in the shot put with Frank West, Randy Scott and Tim Scott going one-two-three. Tim Scott also won the discus with West and Steve Stewart placing fourth and fifth to give A&M 16 more points.

The Aggies were a surprising second in the sprint relay, won by Lamar. Baker led off and gave the baton to Philip Steen. The Aggies were about even with the leaders

when Reggie Jamerson began the third leg losing several yards to Lamar, Rice and Baylor. Ray Brooks nudged into second at the finish with a strong anchor leg as A&M was clocked at 41.6. Baylor and Rice were third and fourth, also in 41.6.

It was A&M's best relay effort this season and the finish was protested by Rice Coach Bobby May with the judges confirming their previous decision.

"I thought we won it," said Brooks, the A&M anchorman. "I looked to my left after I crossed (the finish) and saw Baylor and Rice still fighting for the tape."

Texas, with Olympian Johnny Jones anchoring, finished last after a

bad exchange between the second and third men. Longhorn hurdler David Nelson injured his thigh during the race and he was forced to skip the intermediates. His loss also hurt the UT mile relay effort as Texas failed to field a team.

Jones easily won the 440-yard dash in an excellent early season time of 46.9. Texas miler Paul Craig and Texas Tech longjumper Jim McAndrews, both Canadian Olympians, won their events with Craig running a 4:09.4 mile and McAndrews jumping 23-7¼ feet.

The Border Olympics victory was A&M's first win in a major meet since the 1970 conference meet. Naturally, Thomas was very satisfied with the outcome.

"We figured on getting a maximum of 105 points, but we didn't know if that would win it or not," Thomas said. "Down the line, more of them (A&M athletes) just came through when we needed them."

The Aggies will be off this week, although Baker and Blair will be competing in the National Collegiate Athletic Association indoor meet at Detroit, Mich. Texas A&M will host the College Station Relays on March 19.



The entire Aggie infield converges on a stranded Oklahoma City baserunner. The Ags lost to Oklahoma City 7-5, and 3-2, with a two game series being held today beginning at 1 p.m. Battalion photo by Steve Reis

## Women find state tough

A disappointing state tournament weekend ended the season for the Texas A&M women's basketball team.

Missed baskets and turnovers throughout the tournament plagued the Ags, who were seeded and who had a good chance of advancing to final competition, coach Kay said.

The Aggies had no trouble getting past the University of Texas at Arlington in the first round of play, but were thrown into the consolation bracket when they lost to tournament winner Stephen F. Austin in the second game.

"We just couldn't hit against Stephen F.," coach Don said. "That plus the fact that they were outstanding the entire tournament caused the large point spread."

Susan Kimbro led the scoring for the Ags against SFA with 25 points followed by Cindy Gough with 12 and Sally Morrisse with 10.

The Aggies had a sluggish first half against Texas Tech in the consolation bracket and lost to the Raiders 69-50.

A&M had 22 turnovers against Tech and were only able to make 57 field goal attempts in the first half.

"We were physically and mentally tired after the defeat by Stephen F.," coach Don said. "We got behind by 15 points in the first half and were never able to make up the difference."

The Aggies ended the season with a record of 15-17.

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