

Sports

Blair has career best at Drake Relays

By PAUL McGRATH
Track athletes have a term for when they improve their career's or season's best mark in an event. They call it a PR—personal record. Brad Blair, Texas A&M's senior pole vaulter, definitely PRed at the Drake Relays. Blair became the first Aggie ever to clear 17 feet when he somersaulted over the bar with an inch to spare.

He had cleared 16-6 by half a foot earlier. However, Blair's effort was only good for second place as he lost a jump-off to Jackson State's Hubert Butler. Both vaulters had to again clear 17 feet, but only Butler was successful. Texas A&M Coaches Charles Thomas and Ted Nelson protested the jump-off to the six field event judges to no avail. "They said the jump-off was fair for both vaulters," Nelson said, "and their right. But it was not

right. Brad should've had a chance to go at 17-3." The judges ruling was not the only decision that went against the Aggies. Hurdler Shifton Baker ran a 14.15 in the 110-meter high hurdle prelims, good enough to be the fourth best time in the prelim heats. But since Butler was placed in a fast heat and finished third, he was unable to compete in the finals. Only the first two finishers in each heat were accepted into the finals.

Thus, five other hurdlers, each with times slower than Baker's, went to the finals. The same ruling went against Texas' David Nelson in the intermediate hurdles and Oklahoma's mile relay team. Each had times better than others making the finals, but were forced to sit on the sidelines. Another mix-up occurred when the Aggies' Mike Newsom was somehow left off the list of competitors in the javelin. The officials

would not allow him to compete and thus, a 900-mile trip went for naught. Adversity again struck the Aggies when anchor man Curtis Dickey dropped the baton on the exchange from Phillip Steen during the finals of the 440-relay. The stick glanced off Dickey's hand and fell to the Tartan track, killing A&M's chances of placing in the event. The Aggies had run a 41.24 in the prelims to reach the finals, with the help of Kansas' disqualification. Dickey had brought A&M from fifth to third and because the Jayhawks made an illegal pass, the Aggies were able to proceed.

Texas' Johnny Jones was also victimized by butter fingers as he too, dropped the baton the same race. The Longhorns had been the favorite going into the event. Despite the mix-ups and bad luck, A&M performed very creditably at the 68th rendition of the Relays. The weather in Des Moines was warm and clear, a rare combination compared to past Relays. Again, a sellout crowd of 34,000 was on hand.

Baker finished third to Greg Byram of Oklahoma in the 400-meter intermediates with a time of 51.0. He was second until the last hurdle where he had to chop his steps to clear it. Mike Murei of Wisconsin was then able to catch and pass Baker to take second. Steve Stewart placed fourth in the discus with a toss of 169-8 feet. A&M's two-mile relay team, with Tony Wheeler running a 1:49.3 second leg, placed seventh. The Aggies sprint medley relay and mile relay teams, running respective times of 3:29.24 and 3:15.6, did not qualify for the finals. High jumper Lyn Byrd cleared 6-10 feet, his best of the year, but did not place. Although they won their heat, the Aggies' distance medley team placed seventh overall with a school record 9:49.8. The Ags were in the slower heat of two run against time. Florida's Mike Roberson pulled off an upset in the meet's feature race, the 100-meter dash setting

Ag women tracksters take second in state

The Texas A&M women's track team came in second in the state track meet Saturday behind Texas Woman's University. The win was an improvement for the Ags who tied for 10th in last year's state tournament. TWU picked up 135 points in the tournament, followed by A&M with 108. The Aggies led the tournament after the first day 62-43, but the difference came on Saturday when TWU had entries in each of the 13 events while A&M had competitors in only seven of those events. A&M's Linda Cornelius tied with The University of Texas' Julia Campbell for high point honors. Each girl collected 28½ points. Cornelius took first in the long jump and 100-meter hurdles and was third in the high jump. She also anchored the fourth place mile relay team and the third place 880-yard relay team. A&M's Martha Sartain finished second in the 3,000-meter run with a time of 10:28.7. Iris Tipton was second in the shot with a heave of 44-2. Cindy Bartlett finished third in the 400-meter hurdles with a time of 63.3. Julie White took third in the 800-meter run with a 2:09.3.



Battalion photo by David McCarroll

Aggie pole vaulter, Brad Blair, finished second in the Drake Relays this weekend, clearing a height of 17 feet. The vault

was a personal record for Blair. The Ags did well in the relays, with Oklahoma being named the outstanding team.

Softball team finishes first

Texas A&M's fourth-seeded intercollegiate women's softball team came away the winners of the 13-team Sooner Invitational in Norman, Okla. The Aggies took five consecutive victories on their way to the tournament title including a win over the University of Nebraska at Omaha, which is ranked second in the nation.

A&M faced Northeastern Oklahoma State University in a rainy opener and got off to a slow start offensively. But the Ags turned the tables in the top of the sixth when with one out, bases loaded and the score tied 3-3, Oklahoma's pitcher was injured and they were forced to forfeit the game for lack of a substitute.

A&M's Sami Evans picked up the victory relieving Kim Bellamy. The Aggies beat tournament host, Oklahoma University, the top rated Oklahoma entry, 7-0 behind the one-hit pitching of Michele Alford. Liz Zemanek led the Ags with three runs. Cindy Gough, Mary Mock, Vicki Markowsky and Toni Hymel each were credited with a run.

A&M then went on to beat The University of Nebraska at Omaha 5-2 in the quarterfinals. Bellamy picked up the win while scattering seven hits and going three for four at the plate. Gough, Cathy Boswell and Sharon Williamson scored three runs in the top of the first for the Aggies. Bellamy and Hymel each added an insurance run later in the game. Mock contributed three RBIs. This win gave the Ags the right to face the University of Texas at Arlington in the semifinals. The game was a rematch between these teams who were the top two finishers in state competition last fall. UTA won the previous game. A&M won this time when Bellamy reached first base on an error.

UTA earned the right to meet the Aggies in the finals by defeating Nebraska 1-0 in extra innings and eliminating them from the tournament. The Aggies took the championship with a 3-1 victory over UTA.

Advanced to second on Boswell's sacrifice bunt, took third on a wild pitch and ran home on Mock's sacrifice fly to centerfield. Alford pitched the first nine innings allowing five hits, and Evans picked up the win on relief.

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