

Aggies place second

# Texas claims SWC track crown

By PAUL MCGRATH  
Battalion Sports Editor

Using Johnny "Lam" Jones' meet high 29 points and a combined 44 points in the long jump and high jump, the University of Texas claimed its sixth straight Southwest Conference track and field title at the Memorial Stadium.

It was the Longhorns' 37th crown of 62 conference meets. With Jones only a freshman, one wonders where the Longhorn skein will stop. Coach Cleburne Price's squad totaled 127 1/2 points to Texas A&M's 83 to take win No. 37. The SWC's longest win streak is six, accomplished twice by Texas Coach Clyde Littlefield and now by Price.

The Aggies of Coach Charlie Thomas battled heroically against onslaughts of Jones & Co., but in the end, were no match for the talent-laden Longhorns. Jones personally set one SWC record and had a hand in another. The former Olympian blazed to a 14 in the 220-yard dash prelims, bettering the old mark of 20.7 held by SMU's Billy Foster and A&M's Curtis Mills.

Jones also anchored Texas' 440-relay unit to a 39.54 victory, breaking Texas A&M's old record of 48.8 set in 1970. Jones won the 400-yard dash in 9.42 after running 1:53 in the prelims and also placed fourth in the long jump with a 24-4 foot effort.

As if this were not enough, he anchored the Longhorn mile relay foursome to a win and a sweep of the relay events. His 45.09 anchor leg sparked Texas to a 3:08.24 time from behind victory as Rice maintained a 12 yard advantage when the baton was handed to anchorman Sam Waugh. Waugh's brilliant 46.4 leg was overshadowed by the feat of the Texas freshman.

The Aggies had depended upon their strength in the field events to offset Jones and almost pulled off an upset. Unfortunately for the Aggies, Texas produced some field event muscle of its own — winning the javelin and going one-two in the high jump and taking the third, fourth and fifth spots in the long jump. Adding a third place finish in the pole vault and a tie for sixth in the high jump to the other points gave Texas 46 1/2 points in the field events.

A&M's Brad Blair won the pole vault, setting a SWC record with a 59 effort. The old mark was 16-8 set by Dickie Phillips of Rice in 1970.

Pat Ruehle and Jerry Strong gave A&M additional points in the pole vault, placing second and sixth with jumps of 15-6 and 15-0.

Aggie sophomore Steve Stewart won the discus with the best throw of his career, 189-2. Stewart defeated favored Mark Baughman of Houston, who placed second.

"The wind was just right for me," Stewart said. "It was a line driver's wind, which is what I am. Baughman is a lofter and the wind didn't help him."

yard highs after grabbing a sizable lead coming out of the blocks. Doc King of Rice won the event with a 13.86 while Baker had a 13.92 clocking. Baker, running in the fourth lane, apparently didn't see King moving up in lane seven.

"I just didn't see him. And when I did, it was too late," Baker said.

One of the more spectacular races of the meet involved Jones and A&M sprinter Curtis Dickey, both of whom play college football in their spare time. The race was the 100-yard dash, an event each had won at the state high school meet a year earlier.

Both had won their prelim heats and thus were side by side in the finals, AAA champion versus AAAA champion, running back versus running back.

Dickey was out of the blocks like a hungry youngster hearing the dinner bell, taking a five yard lead before the rest of the field had gone two steps. The pro-Longhorn crowd dropped its jaws as Dickey appeared well on his way to producing the upset of the meet. But Jones caught and passed Dickey in the last 15 yards, running a 9.42 to Dickey's 9.45.

Another dramatic race soon followed as defending 880 champion Tony Wheeler of A&M met the challenge of Baylor's Mark Collins.

Wheeler, injured and sick much of the year, ran his best race of the year as he took the lead on the first lap and struggled to stave off Collins for 800 yards. Collins, a converted 45.8 quartermiler, had too much kick for the Aggie sophomore and took the win in 1:50.82. Wheeler, who had to be carried from the track by his teammates following the race, was second in 1:51.12.

Frank West placed second in the shot put with a throw of 55-5 1/4, while teammates Randy and Tim Scott were fifth and sixth.

Freshman Mike Newsom placed second in the javelin behind Porky Lyons of Texas with a toss of 217-8 feet on his last attempt. He was third going into his last throw. Former Aggie baseball pitcher James "Hoot" Gibson produced a 203-6 foot toss for fourth place.

With Dickey running the anchor, the A&M 440-relay squad ran their best time of the year, placing third behind Texas and Houston with a 40.18 clocking.

The Aggies' mile relay unit, consisting of Karl Figgs, Chuck Butler, Baker and Ron McGonigle, ran to a surprising fourth place finish with a season's best time of 3:11.51. The Aggie quartet was virtually a pickup team as Thomas had to ask for volunteers.

A&M's hopes were severely hampered when sprinter Ray Brooks was injured in the 220 prelims, suffering a severe leg cramp. Brooks had qualified for the 100 and 220 finals and was to have run on both relays. The Aggies were also hurt in the distance races as none of their milers qualified for the finals and only Wheeler qualified in the 880. In addition, no Aggie runner placed in the three-mile run.

The distance races saw two SWC records fall as Arkansas Irish leprechaun, Niall O'Shaughnessey, cracked the four minute barrier with a 3:49.47. He broke his own record of 4:02.8 set last year.



Battalion photo by Steve Goble  
Sophomore Steve Stewart's win in the discus was not enough as Texas captured its sixth straight track title.

Rice freshman Marty Froelick broke Razorback Randy Melancon's year old record of 13:44.9 in the three-mile with a 13:41.43. He crossed the tape 14 seconds ahead of teammate Mike Novelli.

Rice dominated the running events at the meet, piling up 86 points on the track. However, the Owls got only six points in the field to place third in the team standings with 92.

Houston, the indoor champion, was fourth with 68 points. Baylor followed with 40, Arkansas had 32, Texas Tech had 24, SMU had 7 1/2 and TCU had 2 points.

The track season is not yet over for some teams as Texas will host Baylor, Houston and Rice in the Longhorn Invitational this weekend. The United States Track and Field Federation meet will be held in Wichita, Kan. on May 27 and the National Collegiate Athletic Association meet will be held June 6 in Champaign, Ill.

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