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Stellar polevaulter signs with Aggies

Randy Hall picks Texas A&M

Not long ago, Randy Hall broke the state record in the pole vault by clearing 16-8. The Port Lavaca High School senior had cleared the same height earlier in the year, so it was nothing new to him.
But as his effort was only four inches off the national prep record and would have earned him second

place in the Southwest Conference meet, it was big news to a lot of college track coaches.
Hall became one of the most highly sought track athletes in the state. He soon narrowed his choices to Baylor, SMU and Texas A&M. Yesterday, he made his choice.

Hall signed his name to a letter of intent with the Aggies.
Texas A&M Track Coach Charles Thomas was extremely happy in obtaining Hall, perhaps partially due to the fact that A&M's premier pole vaulter Brad Blair, is graduating. Blair owns the SWC record in the

event with a leap of 16-9 as well as the indoor and outdoor school records.
Hall is only one of several top track recruits signed by Thomas. The Aggies received sorely needed help in the sprinting department by signing Leslie Kerr from Snook.

Kerr, the Class A champion 100- and 220-yard dashes, ran times of 9.5 and 21.3 for the events.
Texas A&M signed another recruit in Vernon Pittman out of High School. Pittman placed in the AAAA state meet in the yard dash and has a best time of 47.7.

Thomas, Ags visit Wichita for Federation track meet

Texas A&M Track Coach Charles Thomas will take a five-man team to Wichita, Kan. this weekend to compete in the United States Track and Field Federation meet.

The Aggies will send Brad Blair and Pat Ruehle to compete in the pole vault. Blair, who has a best this season of 17-0, won the event at the Federation indoor meet in March and was this year's Southwest Conference champion with a record jump of 16-9. Ruehle, who placed second to his teammate in the conference indoor and outdoor meets, has a best of 16-0.

Conference champion Steve Stewart and freshman Tim Scott will

apply their skills in the discus. Stewart, only a sophomore, won at the SWC meet with a personal best of 189-1. Scott, who failed to make the finals at the conference meet, has a best of 186-6.

A&M's only competitor in the running events will be hurdler Shifton Baker. Baker, a senior, will compete in both the 120-yard highs and the 440-yard intermediates.

He won the intermediates at the SWC meet and has a best time of 50.98 in the event, although he ran a 50.3 last year. Baker, placed second in the highs at the SWC meet and has a best time of 13.62 this year.

Shot putter Frank West, who has

a best of 56-6 1/2, may also go to the Federation meet, Thomas said, adding that he was not sure as yet.

All of those making the trip are also A&M's national qualifiers, except for Ruehle and West. Ruehle needs to clear 16-6 to qualify for the upcoming National Collegiate Athletic Association meet while West needs a throw which surpasses 59 feet.

The Aggies, who placed second to Texas in the SWC team standings, also qualified their 440-yard relay unit which has posted a best time of 40.18. However, sprinter Ray Brooks is sidelined with a leg injury and anchorman Curtis Dickey cannot compete because of a summer job.

Thomas will remain in Wichita following the meet and then take his national qualifiers to the NCAA meet at Champaign, Ill. on June 6.

The A&M women's track team completed their season at the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women national meet held at UCLA in Los Angeles, Calif.

Linda Cornelius placed second in the pentathlon with 102 points as she was the only A&M athlete to place in the meet. Sandy Lambert qualified for the finals of the long jump but failed to place.

With Shifton Baker at his eligibility, the Aggies lost of the 103 points they scored conference meet. Baker, a league's top hurdler last year, also served the Aggies well in relay teams.

In hopes of replacing Blair, Thomas signed Humble's Busch, who placed second in hurdles events at the AAAA meet. Busch has best times of 47.7 for the highs and 37.7 for the yard intermediates.

Busch was a teammate of football recruit Mike Moseley, who, in addition to playing quarterback in the fall, was the state prep hurdler. He ran a 13.6 in the 120-yard highs, ran a 9.5 in the long and jumped 24 feet or more consistently. Whether Moseley runs track next year is not yet known because of spring football training.

Texas A&M has also signed top high school baseball player next year. Ray Corbett, a prep America from Sam Clemens School in San Antonio, will compete as a catcher for the Aggies.

Corbett, a righthander, is one of the top prospects in the state at his position. Baseball Coach Tom Chatterbox also signed Rodney Hodde, an All-gamer pitcher who also carries a batting average near .500.

Texas A&M Tennis Coach Richard Barker signed a prospect in Reid Freeman of Dallas Highland Park. Freeman was the state AAAA singles champion and was rated the top player in the state last year. He is the highest prospect ever to be signed by the

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