



Tony Franklin, Texas A&M's all-SWC placekicker and owner of the NCAA record for the longest field goal, demonstrates his kicking style for a study conducted by Texas

A&M researcher George R. Colfer. Franklin and two other top college kickers were the subjects of the experiment.

Battalion staff photo

A&M golfers place 11th at NCAA meet

Surviving Friday's cut by a cat's whisker, the Texas A&M golf team came back for combined 291 final round to place 11th at the National Collegiate Athletic Association tournament in Hamilton, N.Y.

The University of Houston, the Southwest Conference winner, won the national crown by eight strokes over defending champion Oklahoma State.

While the Cougars were running away with the team title at the four-day tournament, the Aggies of Coach Bob Ellis were barely managing to become one of the 20 teams qualifying for the final round after 54 holes.

The Aggies, ranked sixth in the nation by one collegiate golfing magazine, posted their best score of the tournament to finish 11th.

"I'm real proud of the team and how they came back," Ellis said of his squad, which was second to Houston in the SWC race.

Dave Ogrin led the Aggie comeback with a score of 71. Bobby Baker and Tim Carlton posted 72s and Monte Schauer had a 74. Doug Ward scored a 76 on the final 18 holes.

With the team score totaled from a team's best four individual scores, A&M came home with a four-day tally of 1,247.

Ogrin had a 302 for the tournament and Baker had a 305. Carlton finished with a 317 total while Schauer was fourth highest with a 323.

Houston posted a 1,197 to Oklahoma State's 1,205.

Arizona State and Georgia tied for third at 1,211. Southern California was a stroke behind for fourth.



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Athlete's feet? Stellar kickers help in study

Tony Franklin, Ove Johansson and Russell Erxleben, three of the country's top collegiate place kickers, joined sides recently at Texas A&M University. Not against a common foe, but as part of a study of the physics of place kicking.

George R. Colfer, a lecturer in the University's Health and Physical Education department, assembled the trio at Kyle Field as part of a doctoral dissertation project.

He's investigating variables such as angle, speed and style in the form of kicking represented by each man. Colfer's search for subjects did not take him far because three of the nation's best attended Texas schools. Johansson of Abilene Christian University holds the national record for the longest field goal, 69 yards. Erxleben, the leading college punter last year, is enrolled at the University of Texas.

Franklin was a sophomore on the Texas A&M team and may hold the record for the shortest-held national record. He kicked 64- and 65-yard field goals against Baylor last year, entering the NCAA record books the same day Johansson boomed his 69-yarder for NAIA and overall honors.

Colfer is still analyzing data gathered using three sophisticated cameras which recorded each of the 50-yard kicks of the three athletes.

But already, preliminary findings show a difference of opinion with some textbooks.

Franklin's kicks come off the ground at an angle of about 30 degrees, 15 less than the prescribed angle for greatest distance. It remains to be seen if Erxleben's traditional style and Johansson's soccer-style approach will produce similar angles of departure. Franklin's technique is a combination of the traditional and soccer styles.

Colfer and assistant Dr. Linus Dowell were also surprised to find that air resistance was such a great factor in the range of the ball.

Findings indicate that air resistance may allow the ball to travel only a fourth as far as it does in a vacuum. The oblong pigskin does not follow a perfect parabolic path, either.

Dowell conducted a past study on air resistance in punting with instructor James Cunningham and they found that punts were only slowed about half by air resistance.

Place kicks are nothing new, they note. A 62-yard drop kick field goal was accomplished in 1898, a year after the place kick became a part of American football.

But most of the studies on place kicking have dealt with factors other than air resistance such as mechanical kicking machines, the use of a rubber kicking toe, inflated pressure of the ball or the path of the foot during the kick.

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Tarleton State builds new all-weather track

Naming Tarleton State University's new all-weather track to honor former track coach and faculty member Oscar H. Frazier has been approved by the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents.

Naming the new facility the Oscar Frazier track was recommended by the Board of Directors of the Tarleton Alumni Association and approved by the system board of regents last month.

Frazier was track coach and faculty member at Tarleton from 1925 to 1965. In 36 years of coaching at Tarleton, Frazier's track team won 11 state and conference championships.

A member of three championship teams himself, Frazier was born in Frazierville, and was a member of the 1918 state high school championship team at Hillsboro.

In 1975 he was named Tarleton's Distinguished Faculty Member by the TSU Alumni Association.

Frazier died in September, 1976. His widow, Adele, still resides in Stephenville.

The \$55,000 all-weather track at Tarleton's Memorial Stadium was completed in time for track season this spring and is part of a \$350,000 renovation and improvement program at the stadium.

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