

sports

Aggies led by Bryan's speedster



Battalion photo by David Boggan
Texas A&M track team member Ray Brooks was part of the victorious quartet that won the 400-meter relay at the Texas Relays in Austin last weekend. The Aggies will compete in a triangular meet Saturday at Kyle Field against LSU and Baylor.

By SEAN PETTY
Curtis Dickey wanted to make his weekend visit to Austin a memorable one.

Texas A&M's junior-to-be halfback from Bryan did it right by being named outstanding performer of the 51st Texas Relays.

Dickey left College Station after Friday's football scrimmage to run in Austin Saturday.

It was the final race of the day on Saturday. The Invitational 100-meter dash featuring the highly touted Johnny "Lam" Jones of Texas and eight other prominent sprinters. Dickey had never beaten Jones in their previous meetings. As the announcer introduced the elite group of sprinters, the crowd began to move towards the finish line in anticipation of the big shootout.

The tension mounted as the nine men climbed into their blocks for the start of the race and the crowd of over 5,000 became silent.

The gun sounded and Curtis Dickey exploded out of the blocks leading the race from start to finish. He won the event in a time of 10.22 over a star studded field which included Bill Collins, Willie Turner, Ainsley Armstrong, Rice's Carlton Derrett and several other notables.

But Dickey's performance was not over. His encore came in the 400-meter relay where the team of Charles Butler, Ray Brooks, Leslie Kerr and Dickey won with a time of 39.35. Kerr gave the baton to Dickey in fourth place and the Aggie halfback breezed by the rest of pack to finish three yards ahead of Texas Southern who had set the meet record the day before with a time of 39.87.

The Aggie 1,600-meter relay team also ran its best time of the year in the preliminaries Saturday. The team of Brooks, Arthur Williams, Vernon Pittman and Kerr ran a 3:07.36 to have the second best time going into the finals. The Ags did not get to run in the finals because of an injury to Arthur Williams.

The Aggies competed well in the meet which brought teams from all over the nation. The Texas Relays is considered one of the top meets in the country, as the competition showed.

Tim Scott threw 183 feet 2 inches to qualify for the national meet in the discus but did not even place in the top six.

The 800-meter relay team of Butler, Williams, Kerr and Brooks finished third with a time of 1:23.46.

The 3,200-meter relay team of Tom Glass, Tony Wheeler, Joel Vogt, and Karl Figgs took fifth in a time of 7:27.46.

Manfred Kohrs, captain of the A&M team placed third in the 1,500-meters with a time of 3:53.03. Kohrs had to go around a man who had fallen in front of him but managed to get third anyway. In the 5,000-meter run Kohrs placed sixth with a time of 14:06.33.

A&M assistant track coach Ted Nelson said of Dickey's performance, "Curtis ran good in the 100-meter race, but he ran great in the 400-meter relay."

Nelson felt the Aggies had a good chance at the team title because they won the sprint relay and Dickey won the 100-meter dash, along with the rest of the Aggies that placed. The team title is not decided by points like a usual track meet. The Texas Relays champion is decided by the coaches and sportswriters with the title going to whichever team did the best job. In the past the title has

gone to the team that has won or placed high in the different relays.

Coach Nelson felt that the Aggies would have been able to win the team title if they would have run in the 1,600-meter relay. Nelson said, "Leslie Kerr and Arthur Williams were pretty sore and we did not want to risk hurting them." He added, "Besides, we have a bigger meet to get ready for." Nelson was speaking of the Southwest Conference meet in May.

Although the Kenyan-filled New Mexico team won team honors, the Aggies had a strong showing over teams from the Big Eight, Big Ten, Southeast, Western Athletic and Southwest conferences.

Curtis Dickey will be back in football pads this week, but what a way to spend a weekend.

The Aggie thinclads will be at home Saturday to compete against LSU and Baylor.

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