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sports

Ags hot in Iowa

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Sports Staff

The Texas A&M men's track team competed in the Drake Relays where it was cold and rainy, yet they managed to run some hot times.

The Aggies ran their best times of the year in both the 400-meter relay and 1,600-meter relay at Drake.

The team of Karl Figgs, Vernon Pittman, Arthur Williams and Leslie Kerr, won the 1,600-meter relay in a time of 3:06.27.

The 400-meter relay team of Charles Butler, Ray Brooks, Kerr and Curtis Dickey placed second with a time of 39.7.

The 400-meter relay team ran its best time of the season even with Dickey running with a sore toe. Dickey received the toe injury in spring football and scratched himself out of the 100-meter dash, which he was favored to win.

The Aggies have the best time in the Southwest Conference in both relays. They are also ranked in the top ten of the nation in both relays.

Aggie track coach Ted Nelson said he was very pleased with the Aggies' performance this week.

"The guys are running better than I expected and I really feel good about the Southwest Conference meet in May. This is the strongest we have been going into the Conference meet in a long time," Nelson said.

"Curtis wasn't even running full speed in the sprint relay," he said. Dickey will be ready for the conference championship in May as will hurdler, Mike Mosley.

Mosley sat out last week's meet recovering from the beating he took in spring football training.

Nelson said, "I was really pleased with the way the men performed. Many of the guys improved their times and should be peaking by the conference meet."

The Aggies will be running a Austin Thursday in a warm-up meet for the conference championships.

"We will try and win the meet this week but we are not going to make any of the guys run if they are a little sore or are just not ready to run. Curtis will sit out and Mosley will run so that he can get a little more practice and experience before the big meet."

Experience is a big factor for the Aggies. Many of the members of the team are freshmen and will be competing in their first Southwest Conference championship meet. There are three members of the 1,600-meter relay team who are freshmen: Williams, Pittman, and Kerr. Members of the 400-meter relay team are first-year men: Mosley and Kerr.

Billy Busch, in both hurdle and Randy Hall in the pole vault are both freshmen.

The freshmen have come through for the Aggies this season. All them have qualified for the NCAA meet in Eugene, Ore., some will be doubling in events. Mosley will be in the sprint relay and the 110-meter hurdles. Kerr will be the 400-meter relay team, running the 400- and 1,600-meter relays, and the 400-meter dash.

Thursday's meet in Austin will be a quadrangular meet with Texas, Baylor and TCU.

Outstanding performer at Drake from Oklahoma

United Press International

DES MOINES, Iowa — Maybe they should rename the Drake Relays the Randy Wilson-Oklahoma Invitational.

Wilson and his Sooner running mates have put together solid performances at the last two Drake meets and Wilson capped the latest effort by winning the outstanding performer award for the second straight year. Drake officials said Wilson was a clear-cut choice for the award in balloting by the news media.

Another victory in the special 800 meters and an outstanding anchor in the sprint medley relay won the award for Wilson this year at the 69th Drake Relays. He did the anchoring in winning top honors last year.

There was a difference this year however. The native of Knoxville, Tenn., caught both fans and athletes by surprise in 1977. This time about everyone in the stadium knew his name and the lanky Iowan did not let them down.

"It's like coming home when you're up here," Wilson said. "My family always here and I really enjoy it. It's quite an honor when you do well at Drake."

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