

Track team finishes first in SWC meet

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Editor

While the Texas A&M baseball team was having its troubles last weekend at Disch-Falk Field in Austin, the Aggie track team was having a heyday just down the road at Memorial Stadium.

Coming as a surprise to few, Texas A&M won the 63rd annual Southwest Conference track and field meet.

"A&M is going to win it," predicted Texas track coach Cleburne Price before Friday's preliminaries.

But what few people predicted was the great margin by which the Aggies ran away with victory. When all was said and done Saturday evening, A&M had accumulated 126 points, 44 points better than the nearest finisher, Baylor.

"I expected to win the meet," said Texas A&M coach Charlie Thomas said after the Aggies' first team title since 1970. "But I never figured the margin would be that high. I thought maybe 10 points would be the maximum."

The Aggies got off to a slow start, with Baylor leading the meet into the eighth event of the evening. It was at that time that Curtis Dickey, the Aggies' perennial track power, put the Aggies in front to stay with his win in the 100-meter dash.

This was the second meet in which Dickey had scored 100-meter victories over the highly rated Johnny Jones of Texas. The two also competed in the Texas Relays in April.

"My start was nothing special, it was just OK," Dickey said after clocking a 10.05 in the race. "I

thought I took control of the race about halfway down the track. In all fairness to Jones, his leg is still not 100 percent. I'm looking forward to running him again when we're both 100 percent."

Jones, who finished right behind Dickey in the 100-meters with a time of 10.09, is still recovering from an injury he received when the Longhorns played Notre Dame in the Cotton Bowl.

"I didn't think my start was abnormally slow," Jones said. "I always start slow, or at least that's

what they tell me. I didn't see Dickey start at all, I had to concentrate on my start."

"You always hate to lose, but someone has to and Dickey ran a great race."

Texas A&M's Ray Brooks finished third in the 100-meter dash, increasing both A&M's total points and his own personal point total. Brooks was the meet's individual champion with 18½ points. He also finished first in the 200-meter dash, a race that saw Jones finish fifth.

The evening was topped off with

an impressive Aggie victory in the 1600-meter relay. Karl Figgs started the event for the Aggies and gave the baton to Vernon Pittman. Pittman, who finished his leg of the race in 46.5 seconds, appeared to be tripped up as he handed the baton to Arthur Williams. Williams, however, made up for lost time with a 45.3 leg.

"I think that guy in the next lane tried to trip Vernon on purpose because I kept telling him to move over but he never would," Williams said after the race. "Anyway, I just

did my best and I gave it to Leslie (Kerr) and ain't nobody going to catch him."

Indeed, nobody, not even Jones, could catch the freshman from Snook as he crossed the finish line giving A&M a winning time of 3:06.13.

"This just feels fantastic," Kerr said on the victory stand. "This is what we've been dreaming of. We knew we could do it."

"I had two of my pals in there for this race, Arthur and Vernon. Arthur got us into second place and

then I knew it was up to me. I started looking at the clock and it read 40 seconds when I saw it. Well, I said to myself I can finish in 45 seconds. And I finished with a 45.7."

Randy Hall brought a new SWC record to Texas A&M with a 16-foot-10¼-inch effort in the pole vault. Hall surpassed the record of 16-9 set last year by Texas A&M's Brad Blair. Pat Ruelle finished second in the event for the Aggies with a vault of 16-0.3.

Other finishers for the Aggies included: 400-meter relay, first place,

Charles Butler, Brooks, Kerr, Dickey, 39.54, 110-meter relay, third place, Mike Mosley, 14.26, sixth place, Billy Busch, 14.26, meters, first place, Kerr, 46.99, second place, Williams, 46.99, fourth place, Pittman, 46.99, meters, second place, Wheeler, 1:50.8, third place, Vogt, 1:50.59; 5,000 meters, place, Manfred Kohrs, 14:14.3.

Coach Thomas plans to send of his team to the AAU meet in Houston this weekend to get them in shape.

Aggie Notes

Texas A&M signed two more outstanding women athletes and saw three previous signees do exceptionally well in state competition. The latest signees are Shirley Furlong, a golfer from East Central High School in San Antonio, and Vickilee Cobern, a discus thrower from Paint Rock, Texas.

Furlong finished third in the Class AAAA state tournament. Cobern won the Class B title with a throw of 150-1-0, second best in state history and 12 feet beyond the Texas A&M school record.

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