

Cross country runners unique

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

Try to imagine running at least 10 miles a day, seven days a week at about a seven-minute-per-mile pace. Imagine running 15 to 20 miles one of those days at a tough pace. Then, imagine going out on Friday and running a race where it is just as important if you come in first or 101st.

While most students at Texas A&M were in bed or trying to recover from Friday night, the Texas A&M cross country team was busy running a brisk 15 miles Saturday morning. Try doing that after going to midnight yell practice the night before.

Approximately 14 men run for the Aggies, who came in fourth in the Southwest Conference last year, being edged out by Texas Tech by one point.

There is a uniqueness to cross country competition that most people do not realize. It is a team sport in every sense of the word. The worst runner on the team is as important as the best in a cross country race.

A team can enter seven runners in a race but only five can score. Whatever place a runner comes in is the amount of points he gets, so the object of cross country running is to score the least points. This is accomplished by a team's five runners finishing as high in the race as possible.

Manfred Kohrs is the captain of the Texas A&M cross country team. He described the feelings and thoughts that go through a runner's

mind as he runs a typical 10,000 meter (approximately 6.2 miles) race.

"The race is very team oriented because we all know that we all have to run well in order to win," said Kohrs, a senior from Pflug Mkuze, South Africa. "Not just me or Lane (Mitchell) or someone else, but everyone must push themselves all the way."

"It is a very competitive race, especially if it is one with many schools. You have to run almost your maximum in every race. There is a lot of physical and mental preparation involved in a race."

Kohrs has also run track for the Aggies the last four years and said there is a difference between a cross country race and the 1,500 meter or 5,000 meter run.

"In the 1,500 meters for instance, there is slightly less pressure than the cross country race because it is much shorter," Kohrs said. "You have to be alert because you could lose the race in one lap if you wait too long."

"The cross country race is a more controlled race, much longer and harder on the mind and body. But there is not the pressure to stay right with someone or take the lead immediately in cross country. You can stay back for a while and decide when you can make your move because you have to take the terrain into consideration in the race. You have to realize where the hills are or if you can pass on the flat area or catch a man going up a hill."

But the cross country runner must have a strong mental attitude

because a lack of concentration can put a man out of a race. The cross country runner sets a grueling pace and the physical strain can get to him just like a marathon runner.

"You have to develop mental toughness," said Kohrs, "because there is a point in the race where you say 'I'm hurting but I have to go on' and if you can get by that pain barrier you can finish strong. But it's tough to break through sometimes."

The Aggie's top nine runners are Kohrs, Mitchell, Tom Glass, Rick Huggins, Ken Wilkner, Keith Bratten, Ralph Havens, John Casmus and John Blyle.

Of the top nine runners on the team, one has a full scholarship (Kohrs), two are on partial scholarship and the rest are walk-ons who desire the competition and challenge cross country brings.

"Bratten and Huggins have been running 90 miles a week," Kohrs said. "Huggins is racing very well and Wilkner, a freshman, is running

well also.

"We all work hard and the suffering we all go through when we are running during the week brings us together so that we fight for each other. In a race, every guy knows that he must run his hardest and keep up just like in practice."

The Aggies have had two meets this year. A tri-meet here with Texas and Baylor and a five team race at Baylor. Kohrs said the team hasn't run very well this year for two reasons.

"The meets started earlier this year so we did not have a chance to work out hard before them," said Kohrs. "It also takes a few races to get competitive."

The Aggies will go to Fayetteville, Ark. for the Southwest Conference meet Oct. 30. They can then advance to the district meet in Georgetown to qualify for the NCAA championship Nov. 11. They would then go to the NCAA championship in Madison, Wis. Nov. 20.

Meyer takes nostalgic trip

United Press International

DALLAS — This is nostalgia week for SMU coach Ron Meyer. Naturally he hopes to make it a winning week as well.

Meyer's Mustangs meet Ohio State in Ohio Stadium Saturday and that is where the SMU coach spent many an autumn afternoon as a lad.

When he was growing up in Westerville, Ohio he sold Ohio State football programs as a boy scout. He could not see his favorite team play any other way.

Meyer recalls he would sneak into a restroom at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and stay there until crowds began to fill the stadium three hours later.

"I remember standing on toilet seats so I would not be caught by the guards," Meyer said. "You've got to really want something bad to stand on a toilet seat for three hours."

"I guess I wanted to see the Buckeyes pretty bad."

Meyer will have one of the best viewing spots in the house Saturday and his Mustangs go to Ohio with what appears to be a legitimate chance against the nation's 14th-ranked team.

"People seem to be maligning Ohio State because they had a hard time beating Baylor," said Meyer, referring to the Buckeyes 34-28 triumph over the Bears last Saturday. "Well Baylor is a good football team. Ohio State actually shut it down with time running out or they might have scored again so the score is a little deceiving."

Nevertheless Meyer does not think the Buckeyes are the same club that whipped the Mustangs last year in Dallas, 35-7.

"I don't think they are as good as they were last year," he said, "but they are still a good football team. They are better than we are. I think their loss to Penn

State (19-0) hurt them."

SMU had a week off to get ready for Ohio State and Meyer thinks that helped his club.

"We needed some time to get over some bumps and bruises," he said. "Our morale is good. We played a pretty good football team in Penn State (weeks ago) but we got beat. The kids have bounced back, though, and I think we will be ready to play a good game against Ohio State."

SMU quarterback Mike Phipps who threw seven interceptions against Ohio State last year, said he has something to prove in one.

"All my life I've heard it's great to be in play at Ohio State," he said. "One of the reasons I came to SMU was so I could play against great teams like Ohio State. I threw seven interceptions against them last year so this year I'm out to show them how SMU really is."

Royals tie series, Dodgers win opener

United Press International

KANSAS CITY — Larry Gura, once scorned by former Yankee Manager Billy Martin, had his revenge Wednesday with 6 1-3 innings of strong pitching and got the Kansas City Royals even in the American League playoffs by sparking a 10-4 rout of the New York Yankees.

Sixteen hours after their most embarrassing performance of the season at home, the Royals bounced back with a 16-hit attack that featured a rare two-run homer by Fred Patek and two RBI apiece by Frank White and Darrell Porter to send the best-of-five series back to New York tied at one game each.

While the Royals bats came to life after being silenced on two hits in a 7-1 loss Tuesday night, it was the stellar pitching of the left-handed Gura that kept the Yankees in check for most of the game.

Gura, a former Yankee once called a "batting practice" pitcher

by Martin, had been roughed up by the Yankees in four previous playoff appearances, but this time he came prepared to get even and mesmerized the Yankees with off-speed pitches before tiring in the seventh.

By the time the Yankee bats got going had built a 5-0 lead against Ed Figueroa and Dick Tidrow. That cushion proved to be enough as Marty Pattin and Al Hrabosky protected the lead over the last 2-3 innings.

Not that the Yankees didn't scare the Royals. The Yanks had 12 hits of their own, including a perfect 4-for-4 by Chris Chambliss, but this time the Royals didn't fold when the pressure was put on them.

After the Yankees scored twice in the seventh to close the gap to 5-2, the Royals applied the crusher with a three-run outburst in their half of the inning to take command of the game.

It was Patek, the bearded little man who plays so well in post-season

play, who came up with the big hit. Facing Tidrow in the seventh inning, the Royals went away from their singles attack with a long-ball barrage that began when Pete LaCock laced a double off the right field fence.

Clint Hurdle, a rookie appearing in his first playoff, followed with a triple and, after pinch runner Willie Wilson was thrown out at the plate, Patek drilled a home run into the left field seats. It was only Patek's third home run of the season, but he raised his batting average in post-season play to .389.

In Philadelphia, Steve Garvey slammed a pair of homers and drove in four runs while Davey Lopes added a two-run blast to highlight a vicious long-ball assault Wednesday night that carried the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 9-5 triumph over the Philadelphia Phillies in the first game of the National League championship series.

In taking a 1-0 lead in the best-of-five series for the National League pennant, the Dodgers battered Larry Christenson, the Phillies' starter, for seven runs on seven hits — five of them for extra bases — in 4 1-3 innings.

The four home runs by the Dodgers tied a National League championship series record, set by the Pittsburgh Pirates in 1971.

Garvey, the Dodgers' hottest hitter down the stretch when he hit .430 in September, climaxed a four-run third inning by walloping a three-run homer over the left field wall. He added a solo shot leading

off the ninth — his fourth in championship competition — for the Dodgers' final run.

Lopes started the third inning uprising with a double. Mike Schmidt, who knocked in the Phillies' first run with a sacrifice fly in the second, kept it alive by letting Bill Russell's grounder skid through his legs at third for an error. Reggie Smith followed with a line single to center that delivered Lopes. Garvey then connected for his first homer of the game.

The Dodgers continued the bombardment of Christenson in the fourth when Rick Monday led off with a towering triple that caromed off the wall in deepest centerfield. Two outs later, Lopes drilled his homer over the 371-foot mark in left for a 6-1 lead.

Another triple to the centerfield wall by Garvey with one out in the fifth finally finished Christenson but reliever Warren Brusstar was greeted by Ron Cey's single for another Dodger run before getting Dusty Baker on an inning ending double-play grounder.

Yeager added to the Dodgers when he homered in the sixth. Rawly Eastwick, the third Philadelphia pitcher who was making his first appearance in three weeks

NL Championship Series

Oct. 4 — Los Angeles 9, Philadelphia 1
Oct. 5 — Los Angeles at Philadelphia
Oct. 6 — Philadelphia at Los Angeles
Oct. 7 — x-Philadelphia at Los Angeles
Oct. 8 — x-Philadelphia at Los Angeles

AL Championship Series

Oct. 3 — New York 7, Kansas City 1
Oct. 4 — New York 4, Kansas City 2
Oct. 5 — Kansas City at New York 2
Oct. 6 — Kansas City at New York 2
Oct. 7 — x-Kansas City at New York
Oct. 8 — x-Kansas City at New York

The World Series will open Oct. 10 at 8:30 p.m. in the home park of the National League champion.

Golfers in Louisiana

The Texas A&M golf team shot an even par 288 Wednesday in the first round of the Jim Corbett Invitational in Baton Rouge, La. The

Aggies are currently in ninth place in the tournament that is leahoma

State with an 8-under-par 280.

For the Aggies in the opening round Steve Bowman shot 69, Dave Orgin 70, Doug Ward 74, Jay Kent 75 and Brad James 79. The three-day, 15-team tournament will continue through Saturday.

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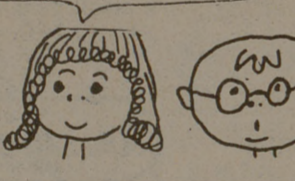
And they have p-i-z-z-a this big!!

Better not tell Dropsy, Tommy Rich.




That's why I was spelling it out.


Here she comes Tommy Rich, watch what you say.




We'll go to C-h-a-n-e-l-l-o's and get a 20 in. p-i-z-z-a.



I just l-o-v-e 20 in. p-i-z-z-a from C-h-a-n-e-l-l-o's



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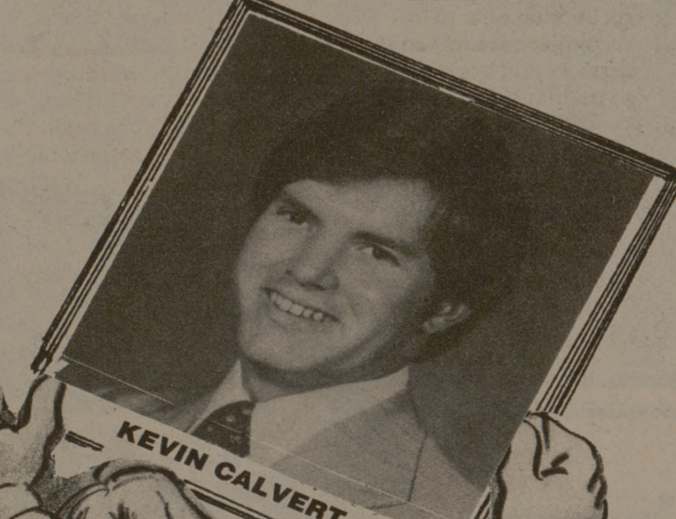
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