



Baylor Invitational

Tracksters travel to Waco

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Sports Staff

It's that time of the year when times on the track should get lower and distances in the field should get higher. And the Texas Aggies men's track team is doing just that as the time draws nearer to the Southwest Conference championship meet in Austin.

Coach Charles Thomas's troops will run in the Baylor Invitational this afternoon and tonight, hoping to improve their performances as they prepare to defend their conference title in three weeks.

"Everyone is finally coming around," Thomas said. "It's going to be a tough meet but I think we have a

chance to win several events and possibly, the whole meet.

"I guess our best chances to win will be in the 440-yard relay and the mile relay." The sprint relay will consist of Steve Willis, Leslie Kerr, Vernon Pittman and Curtis Dickey while running on the mile relay will be Willis, Kerr, Pittman and Ron Wilson.

"Tim Scott could win both the shot put and the discus," Thomas said. "I think Kerr and Willis both have a chance to win the 440-yard dash. Randy Hall should win the pole vault and I think Curtis can win the 100-meter dash if he runs it."

Dickey, who is through with spring football for the year, is still

sore from the hard-hitting practices. Thomas said Dickey has a hip pointer, a sore hamstring and a slightly pulled quadracep muscle in his left leg.

"I'm more beat up than last year because we're doing a lot more hitting this year," Dickey said of the spring drills. "I'm just glad to be out of football. I may not run the 100-meters this week but I'll be ready for the Drake Relays next week. I'm just really sore."

The Aggies are coming off an impressive dual victory over Baylor last week much to the surprise of the Baylor coaches.

"They didn't have a couple of guys running but it wouldn't have made a difference if they had," Thomas said. "Our guys just got after it and are really performing now."

Thomas said one of the meet favorites would have to be Missouri which has an outstanding sprint medley team and several strong individuals.

"They have a guy who's run a 46.1 quarter mile and a high jumper who's cleared 7'3", said Thomas. "And they're sprint medley won at the Texas Relays so they're are going to be very tough."

"But you never know, we could just come away with the whole thing if we do as well as we can."

The running events start at 2 p.m. with the field events start at 3. The finals will start at 7:05 p.m. in Waco.

Spurs, 76ers meet again

United Press International

PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia 76ers had change on their mind Thursday as they prepared to get back into their NBA Eastern Conference semifinal series with the San Antonio Spurs.

The Central Division champion Spurs shot the lights out of the basket on their home court to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series and the Sixers must come back with a pair of wins tonight and Sunday to have any chance at all of advancing in the playoffs.

Sixers Coach Billy Cunningham

said defensive ace Bobby Jones, who guarded league-leading scorer George Gervin Tuesday night without much success, would go back to playing Larry Kenon, who had 13 of his 27 points in Game 2 during the fourth quarter.

Even though they're moving away from their home court, the Spurs were confident they could win at least one game in Philadelphia to allow them to wrap up the series next Thursday in San Antonio.

"We're going to get one up there," said guard James Silas. "It's possible we could get both."

One last shot at the buzzer

One year ago this week, I took my seat in the worn, gray office chair that, several volumes back, had been designated The Sports Editor's Chair. It sat, appropriately enough, in front of a desk known as The Sports Editor's Desk. A piece of labeling tape reading "Sports" clung to the wall above the desk, presumably to prevent any confusion as to who the furniture belonged to.

The Chair, I was certain, had accommodated in its time some quite famous and possibly some quite infamous persons, all trying as best they could to present an accurate, fair and entertaining account of athletic activities in Aggieland. Surely, they had all followed their fair share of winners and losers, angered their fair share of fans and bathed in their fair share of fleeting moments of glory.

And now here sat the tall, skinny country boy trying to get comfortable in the old, gray chair — contemplating the year ahead. Little did I know that it would be one of the most interesting years for sports at Texas A&M in some time.

As my tenure began, I could almost hear Jim McKay's voice echoing in the background: "The thrill of victory!"

Mark Thurmond pitched a no-hitter against Texas Tech in the Aggies' brand new baseball stadium on April 22. A few weeks later, in Fayetteville, Mike Hurdle caught a fly ball to center field, ending a game between Texas A&M and Arkansas and giving the Aggies their second straight Southwest Conference championship.

Aggies and championship seemed



viewpoint

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Sports Editor

to be synonymous that spring. The young Texas A&M track team won the SWC track and field championship in Austin by an almost unbelievable 44-point margin.

"This is going to be great," I thought. As every sports writer soon learns, it is much easier to listen to a winner than to try to interview a loser.

But the good fortune of spring soon turned into the bad omens of summer. During the off-season, the Aggies lost George Woodard, Eddie Hardin and Karl Godine, the first two to injury, the last to opportunity.

The summer yielded to the fall, and fall in Aggieland means only one thing — football.

The Texas A&M football team picked up where the baseball and track teams left off. The Aggies won their first four games of the 1978 season, outscoring their opponents 170-21.

But then I heard of Jim's voice again, echoing the inevitable: "The agony of defeat."

There are three days in history that I'll never forget: the day John F. Kennedy was assassinated, the day I

graduated from high school and the day Emory Bellard resigned as Texas A&M's head football coach and athletic director.

Following losses to Houston and Baylor, Bellard said that he was told he was going to be relieved of his duties at the end of the season. Bellard decided to beat the powers that be to the punch; he resigned on Oct. 24.

What followed was a week of emotional press conferences, upset players and, finally, the naming of Tom Wilson as new head football coach. The Aggies finished the season with an 8-4 record.

The Aggie basketball team finished an exciting 1978-79 season with a 24-9 record. Shelby Metcalf's young team (all five starters will return next year) made it to the quarter final round of the NIT before its season ended.

And, to complete the cycle, the baseball team is fighting the rain and the opponents, trying to win its third consecutive conference title.

Now it is time for me to surrender The Sports Editor's Chair to the next man in line. What kind of year can he

expect? It promises to be another sports mixed with political-canny combination that will make the legend athletics the interesting nomenon that it is today.

You see, I believe that the A&M athletic department is feeling the aftershock of a resignation a half a year ago. Only did Bellard take his offense with him when he also took his leadership.

The athletic department had a permanent athletic director six months. Instead, it sees power-happy group of Aggies are running the show. The been several resignations in department recently and several rumors of job terminations come. While no one will be being pressured by the and-white-leisure-suit team, Brister hinted at the press faces Aggie athletics.

"Everybody can't sit on the yard line," the former executive president of the Aggie Club he resigned last month. In words, you can't please all alumni all of the time.

And it is too bad that the situation has to exist. It is that people are running the athletic department have heard that the alumni are running in their direction. It is that an athletic program is marred by possible NCAA violations because of outside influence.

It is too bad that the next in the old, gray chair must only a sports reporter, but an analyst as well.

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