

## TSU fires baseball coach

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Dwight Perkins, coach for four years of the Texas Southern University baseball team, has been fired and replaced at least temporarily by assistant coach Louis Munk.

Athletic Director Rod Paige said the dismissal followed a confrontation between the players and Perkins when the coach ordered a team bus

to leave three players who were late reporting for a trip to Jackson, Miss. "I tried to do this in a way whereby

I'm not implying any negativism toward Coach Perkins," Paige said. "I just feel it's a time where, for the continued smooth operation as far as this baseball season, I need to take some of the pressure off Coast Perkins and the baseball team."

# Hall on vaulting

## Clearing 19 feet is just one of his many goals

By KATHLEEN McELROY  
Sports Staff

Pole vaulter Randy Hall has gone where no Aggie has gone before — he has cleared 18 feet, and one-half of an inch.

But the Texas A&M University junior isn't resting after achieving what no other U.S. collegian — nor any Southwest Conference athlete ever — has accomplished this year.

"That's a goal I've been trying to achieve, but that's not the only one," Hall said Thursday. "I have many more left."

Hall really wants to do what no one has ever done — clear 19 feet in the vault. The current world record is 18-8/4.

"I'd like to go for the world record, and I hope I have the determination to go for the record," he said. "I'd like to see if I or anybody else can clear it."

A while back Hall couldn't even clear 17 feet with regularity, but a little hard work has helped his career immensely.

"My freshman year was sort of a transition period — I was just getting

used to the college life and the college scene," Hall said. "I wasn't really impressed with my achievements."

But that summer, Hall competed in some meets and finally cleared 17 feet for the first time, and things have been clear sailing since that achievement.

This year has found Randy Hall, age 20, among the best vaulters in the nation.

"I'd say right now my vault is well within the top five of the nation," he said. "But it's early in the season and many of the vaulters are just starting to train."

"But I've got to keep training hard and hope for good weather condition and good competition."

His training so far has paid off. He won the NCAA Indoor pole vault championship March. A week earlier, Hall cleared 18 feet at the Rice Invitational meet.

All those accomplishments are pretty good for someone who skip-  
"The first day I'd tried to vault (at home), I was so far ahead than where I was in December last year," Hall said. "Staying home I was more confident."

Hall, a finance major, stressed he wasn't having any problems academically, even though he says his grades are just passing.

"I made a decision — either stay at home or go to California. I knew if I laid out a semester, it would help me."

The reason the small town of Port Lavaca won over sunny southern California is because his father — the man who introduced him to vaulting and who himself vaulted — would be there.

ped the 1979 fall school semester. Hall instead worked in his hometown of Port Lavaca, working in construction during the day and vaulting at night at the Port Lavaca High School where his father is the track coach.

"It's not that he can help me out on technique — I know about as much on technique as he does," said the younger Hall. But, he said, his father provided the psychological strength he needed.

Hall said he thought of attending the major schools in California — UCLA or USC, but he said he has no regrets about coming to Texas A&M.

"I'm pretty happy — on a scale of 10, I'm about a six or seven," he said. "But Texas A&M has advantages. I'm a home body."

If things were normal, a world class vaulter like Hall would be preparing for the 1980 Olympics, but, like other athletes, he's in limbo because of what may or may not happen.

"I really don't know what I should say about the Olympics. It's been another one of my goals," he said.

"Things look kind of bleak for everybody, but there's not very much we can do about it because we (athletes) don't have the final say-so."  
"So one just has to keep his goals in his mind and try to achieve them still and wait another four years."

Hall might not have the Olympics to look forward to, but he does an interesting summer ahead.

"Hopefully this summer — I plan to jump in Europe," Hall said. However, he still needs a sponsor to

support his travels.

The last two weeks, though, Hall hasn't been vaulting well. In the City of the Palms meet in McAllen and the Dallas Invitational meet, the 5-11, 160 pounder failed to place. But he doesn't blame the weather or the wind — which were bad for both meets.

"The last two weeks I've been a slump because I gone into the meets with a negative attitude," Hall said. "I don't mean saying I'm not going to do good, so I'm not even going to try to jump. I've been jokingly telling people I'll jump no height."

"Vaulting is 95 percent mental, and you've got to feel right. If you go in with a negative attitude, chances are you won't clear the height."

Right now, he's focusing on the Texas Relays, today and Saturday in Austin's Memorial Stadium. The Relays, one of the largest regional

meets, has what Hall calls "the attractions."

Hall may have a chance to win some of his toughest opponents in the meet. His closest competitor in the Southwest Conference is Houston's Mark Hearnes, highest vault so far this season, been 16-7.

"He's a long way down, but he's got a lot of potential," Hall said. "I never underestimate my competition."

While he likes the Texas Relays, what he is truly looking forward to is the Southwest Conference championship in Waco in May because it's a team effort.

"The past two weeks have let down," he said. "I like to set goals for myself, but I like to be the team because when I was in school (at Port Lavaca) we have much of a team effort."

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