

sports

# Aggie relay teams making tracks all over the nation

By KATHLEEN McELROY  
Sports Staff

The outstanding Texas A&M University track team — and in particular the relay teams — is making a name for itself all across the nation, and in Austin's Memorial Stadium the Aggies are virtually writing a book.

The Aggies last Saturday dominated the Texas Relays, one of the most prestigious meets in the country. Local media named Texas A&M the most outstanding school in the meet in which hundreds of schools competed.

"We were real pleased — anytime you place in the Texas Relays, you've done well," Texas A&M assistant track coach Ted Nelson said Monday. "You get 2400 other athletes doing the same thing, you're doing well to just to place."

Even though no points are taken at the meet, which is geared for indi-

vidual competition, Nelson said the Aggies would have scored more points than any other team in the meet.

The big winners once again for Texas A&M were the members of the 400- and 1600-meter teams. In the 400-meter race, Steve Willis, Leslie Kerr, Vernon Pittman and Curtis Dickey set a meet record in winning in 39.21, breaking the old record set by University of Houston last year by more than half a second. Last May in the Southwest Conference outdoor championship — run at Memorial Stadium — the relay team won with the time of 39.6.

Dickey, who defeated a special 100-meter race at the Dallas Invitational last Saturday, also won the special 100-meter event, running in 10.19 in spite of stiff winds. Dickey was named the outstanding individual performer of the meet.

The 1600-meter team — Kerr, Pittman, Willis and James Washington — won in 3:05, defeating University of Houston and Florida State, two school Nelson said have outstanding relay teams.

The Aggies also did well in the field events even though they didn't win any firsts. Randy Hall, the current NCAA indoor pole vault champion finished third, vaulting 16-7. Weightman Tim Scott was second in the discus and third in the shot put, and Chuck Perry captured third in the high jump (7-0).

"I thought our field events did real well," Nelson said. Of Perry's performance he added, "He's probably the most consistent jumper in the conference right now."

In the Texas Relays, the relay teams were the stars, but in some of the past meets the field events have been Texas A&M strong points.

"That's encouraging to us," Nel-

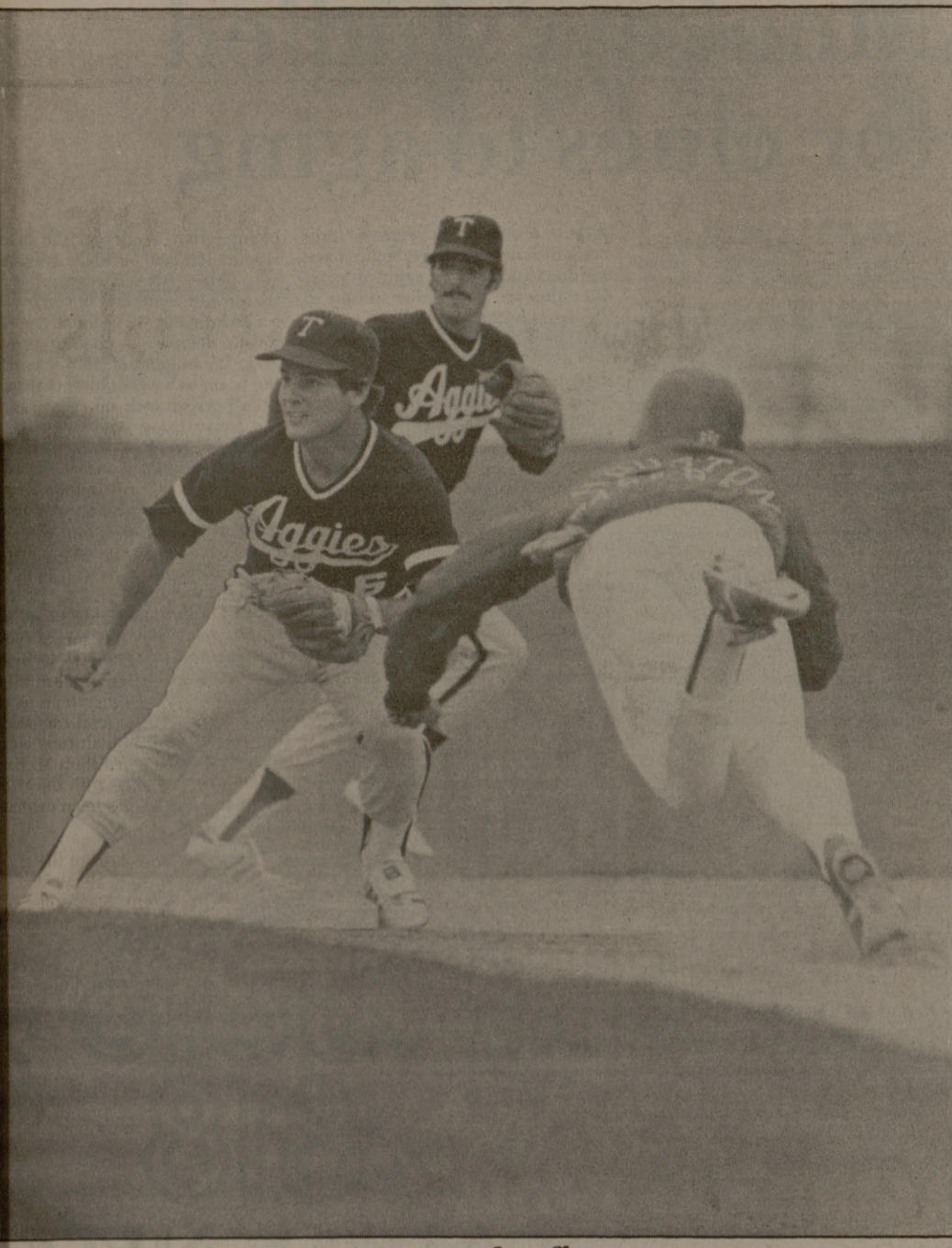
son said. "Sometime our field events are strongest, sometime our track events are. We'll put it all together in the Southwest Conference meet."

But before Texas A&M challenges the whole conference, the team has a couple meets in Waco. Next Saturday the Aggies compete against Baylor in a dual meet, and on April 18 Baylor hosts its Invitational tournament.

Baylor didn't exactly run wild in the Texas Relays, but the Bears did place second in the distance relay and sixth in the two-mile relay. The Bears also get to host the Southwest Conference championships in May.

Texas A&M should be back at full strength long before then by the Southwest Conference meet because the football players participating in spring drills — Johnny Hector, Eference Murphy, and James Redus — will again work with the track team after the spring football game April 19.

While Texas A&M and Baylor did what was expected of them, the University of Texas was disappointing. For the second straight year, the Longhorns, who are supposed to be strong in the long distance races, failed to win a single relay on their home track, however Texas may climb back by June when the school hosts the NCAA outdoor championships.



Stop, thief!

Randy Woodruff (6) and Twig Little converge on second base in an attempt to tag a University of Houston runner out. The Aggies swept a three-game weekend series from the Cougars to give them a share of the Southwest Conference lead. Photo by Dave Einsel

## Tennis team beats MSU

By MIKE BURRICHTER  
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M University tennis team swept its three doubles matches to break out of a 3-3 deadlock and defeat Memphis State University 6-3 Monday in action at the varsity courts.

Roger Webb and Robert Hak, Memphis State's top two singles players, started off what looked like a rout when they polished off their Aggie opponents, Reid Freeman and Trey Schutz in the No. 1 and No. 2 singles matches. Webb beat Freeman 6-2, 6-4 and Hak beat Schutz 6-2, 6-1.

But junior Max King and two freshmen, Brian Joelson and Tom Judson won their singles matches to make the match even going into doubles play. Boyd Bryan, another freshman, lost his match in the No. 6 seed slot.

Then the teams of Freeman-Joelson, Schutz-Jim Grubert, and

Judson-Ron Kowal all won their matches in straight sets to clinch the Aggie victory.

"We played great in doubles," Schutz, who is ranked No. 48 in the nation in collegiate tennis, said. "That was the first time we've pulled out a close match with our doubles play. We hadn't been playing too well in doubles, and we've made a lot of team switches. They paid off today."

With the win the Aggies upped their season record to 16-7. The team will play host to two conference powers this weekend, TCU on Friday and the University of Houston on Saturday. Schutz calls it the biggest weekend of the season for the team.

"It's definitely the most important weekend of the season," the junior marketing major said. "It will determine whether or not we get to play in

the NCAAs as a team."

Schutz says such a schedule is scary but feels the team has the ability to compete with anyone in the conference.

"We're up there with everybody," he said. "The only team that is better than the rest is Arkansas."

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## Nine Ag swimmers qualify for national championship

By JOHN BRASHER  
Sports Reporter

The Texas A&M men's swim team has qualified nine swimmers to compete in the National AAU Championships at the University of Texas in Austin, this week.

James Brown, a senior tri-captain from Pasadena, qualified for the 50-

yard freestyle with a time of 21.06, and also qualified for the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 49.61. Ed Kahil, a junior from Bryan, and John Oberto, a senior tri-captain from Los Angeles, also qualified in the 100-yard butterfly. Their times were 49.57 and 49.70 respectively.

The Aggies also qualified three relay teams.

The 400-yard freestyle relay team, which qualified with a time of 3:05.27, will consist of Brown, Rick Ranzau, Kord Ried, and Rich Subs. The 400-yard medley "A" relay team, which qualified with a 3:28.74, will consist of Ranzau, Ried, Pat Roche, Mike Shrader, John Oberto, Kevin Weaver, Brown, Kahil, and

Bob Leland, a former student who graduated last year.

"There should be some fast times since the meet will be held in a fast pool. We'll go out there hoping to do well and will be very pleased if one of our relay teams score points. As far as our individual swimmers are concerned, we are hoping that they can improve on their old times," Assistant coach Bill Miller said.

The Aggies will have their work cut out for them as they face some of the top teams in the country such as Texas, SMU and California.

## Netter Kowal improving

After a sluggish start for the 1980 tennis season, Ron Kowal has begun to make a mark on Texas A&M tennis.

"Ron started slow adjusting to the limited climate here," said David Kent, boys' tennis coach. "We are a young team without a great deal of experience." He pointed out that A&M has one senior and three juniors on the team. "Ron is one of the cornerstones of our program," Kent said. "He has come through with flying colors and should prove to be invaluable to the program."

The former Illinois state champion is 5-2 in singles and has been worked into a spot after losing his early two matches. He is 6-0 in doubles with Tom Judson, another freshman. "They play very well together," said Kent.

Kent said the future of A&M tennis is on their freshmen. "We are a young team without a great deal of experience." He pointed out that A&M has one senior and three juniors on the team. "Ron is one of the cornerstones of our program," Kent said. "He has come through with flying colors and should prove to be invaluable to the program."

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