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## sports

# Thomas lands 'The Rocket' at Aggieland

by RICHARD OLIVER  
Sports Editor  
To add to his already formidable  
lineup, Texas A&M University  
men's track coach Charlie Thomas

has netted one of the nation's premier schoolboy sprinters.

Last Wednesday, Rod Richardson, one of Louisiana's top high school sprinters on Louisiana's top high school track team, signed a scholarship to run track with the Aggies next season.

"I think I can play a major role in A&M's achievements next year," said Richardson from his home in Shreveport. "I can help keep things running smoothly. In fact, I can help keep things running very smoothly."

Richardson's specialties are the relays and the 100-meter dash, and the inescapable comparisons between him and star Aggie sprinter Curtis Dickey don't seem to faze him. "I can do the job," he said. "I can help in some way."

Fair Park, the high school where Richardson graduated as valedictorian last week, got a lot of help from Richardson in the state championship.

"The Rocket," as he is nicknamed, sped to first place finishes in the 100- and 200-meter dashes, and anchored the Quad-4 state title-clinching mile relay for Fair Park.

At that point, collegiate recruiters began to sit up and take notice. A May 18-20 trip to College Station, however, convinced Richardson that Texas A&M was the place to be.

"The turning point was that it was peaceful there," he said. "It gave me time to think. I'm sure it's not that peaceful all the time."

Richardson said he had to get his priorities in focus, and the College Station atmosphere helped him.

Richardson stressed academics was more important to him than running.

Richardson in the state championship.

Richardson, who plans to major in Journalism, said he is impressed with both the academics and athletics of the University, and will receive an academic scholarship and an athletic supplement.

During the summer, Richardson and Fair Park track coach Jerry Kelly will travel to several meets around the country. "The Rocket" arrives in College Station in mid-August.

Gene Richards, playing a 500th major-league game, broke a 1-1 tie in the eighth when he hit his second home run of the year following a pinch-hit single by Jerry Turner. The Astros took a 1-0 lead in the first when Enos Cabell doubled in Landestroy. The Padres tied it in the third when Gene Tenace scored on Richardson's fly ball.

The victory raises Houston's season record to 27-20. Entering Wednesday night's game, Houston was in second place, three games behind first place and two percentage points ahead of the third place Cincinnati Reds.

The Astros have a night tonight, and will start a three-game series against the San Francisco Giants Friday night at 7 p.m. in the Astrodome.

Ken Forsch, who was lifted for a pinch hitter in the ninth, raised his record to 6-4. Joe Sambito

## Landestroy's base hit pushes Astros to win

United Press International  
SAN DIEGO — Rafael Landestroy's one-out single to center scored Julio Gonzalez from third base to cap a three-run ninth inning Wednesday night and give the Houston Astros a 4-3 victory over the San Diego Padres.

With the Astros trailing 3-1, Enos Cabell led off with a single and Dave Bergman singled him to third. Reliever Rollie Fingers, 5-6, then wild pitched Cabell home, Bergman taking second.

Alan Ashby doubled in Bergman, tying the score 3-3. After Bob Shirley replaced Fingers, Joe Morgan's fly ball sent pinch runner Gonzalez to third, from where he scored on Landestroy's liner to center.

Ken Forsch, who was lifted for a pinch hitter in the ninth, raised his record to 6-4. Joe Sambito

pitched the ninth to gain his fifth save.

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## Texas A&M Sports Car Club plans Olsen Field autocross

The Texas A&M University Sports Car Club will hold the "Hot Summer Day Challenge Autocross" Sunday at the Olsen Field parking lot.

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Registration is Sunday at 9 a.m. For more information, call 846-9086.

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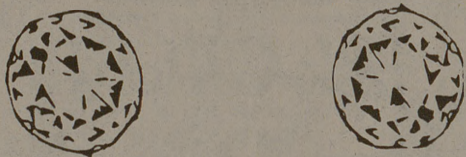
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.42	OVAL	AAA	875
.44	PEAR	AAAA	1100
.45	PEAR	AAA	750
.45	MARQUISE	AA +	775
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