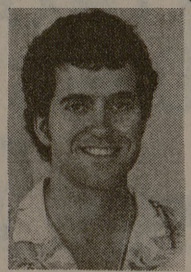


Reflections

by Richard Oliver



For Curtis Dickey, it's what he likes best — stiff competition. For he and 10 other members of the Texas A&M University men's track team, it's the "filet de mignon" of a long and satisfying season.

"It" is the 59th annual NCAA Track Championships, going on now through Saturday at Austin's Memorial Stadium. A school record 11 Aggies are travelling to the University of Texas to participate in this year's championships, and the A&M crop is possibly the finest in the history of the school.

Names such as Leslie Kerr, Tim Scott, Randy Hall, Steve Willis and Dickey have circulated quite a bit of attention lately, and those names will likely cause quite a stir this weekend.

Dickey, Hall and Scott are forces to be reckoned with. Dickey, who was beaten badly in the 100-meter dash by UH's Carl Lewis in the SWC Outdoor Championships May 17, tries to come back with a victory against the likes of former Olympian Don Quarrie and USC's James Sanford.

The much-touted rematch of the brash young Lewis and Dickey will not materialize in the NCAA meet due to a tactical decision by UH track officials.

Lewis, who after he defeated a worn Dickey in the SWC championship, said "I beat him this time and I'll beat him again," will concentrate solely on his specialty, the long jump.

The decision has disappointed NCAA officials, because Lewis had further enhanced his speedy reputation last week by whipping both Sanford and Quarrie in a meet at the University of California.

Dickey, however, was haggard from a grueling week at the Baltimore Colts' training camp at the time of the SWC race, and had a leg injury. Unfortunately, the nagging injury still plagues Dickey, and may be a major factor in his performance in Austin.

Scott led the Aggies to the conference title in the outdoor meet by running away with the discus and the shot put, and he is considered the favorite to win the discus. He comes into the NCAA championships with the best discus toss in the event, 206-6.

In the shot put, his chief competition comes from Oregon's Jeff Stover, who has a best toss of 68-4½. Scott, though, could be a spoiler in this event.

Randy Hall, the best and most consistent pole vault leader in the SWC, comes into this event with the highest leap in the competition, 18-0½, and will be shooting for even bigger things as he takes on a stiff field. Hall, however, is the favorite.

Billy Busch, Jimmy Howard, Chuck Perry, Mike Glaspie, Vernon Pittman and James Washington round out the Aggie NCAA squad, and each has contributed in a mighty way to the incredible track season.

Aggie coach Charlie Thomas, who has coached his team to its first SWC indoor championship ever, and the more highly-regarded outdoor championship, brings a powerful team to the track meet.

Although perennial powers USC, defending champion Texas-El Paso and UCLA are expected to fight it out for the title, most eyes will be on the individuals. This is, most likely, where Texas A&M will make its mark. When those 11 guys dressed in maroon and white hit the stadium, you can be sure they'll leave a few bewildered "favorites" in their wake.



Zisk lifts Rangers over Sox

United Press International
CHICAGO — Richie Zisk went 3-for-4 including a two-run homer and scored two runs Wednesday to lead the Texas Rangers to a 4-3 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Texas starter Doc Medich, 5-3, pitched the first 7½ innings before giving way to Sparky Lyle, who recorded his fifth save.

Chicago took a 1-0 lead in the fourth when Bob Molinaro doubled and scored on Harold Baines' single. But the Rangers took the lead for good in the fifth off Chicago starter Francisco Barrios, 1-1. Al Oliver led off with a single and scored on Zisk's 10th home run of the season. Jim Norris followed with a single, stole

second and scored on Jim Sundberg's double. Zisk led off the seventh with a single, advanced to second on an infield out, went to third on Sundberg's single and scored on Dave Roberts' sacrifice fly. The Sox closed to 4-3 in the eighth when Mike Squires doubled and scored on Lamar Johnson's two-run homer.

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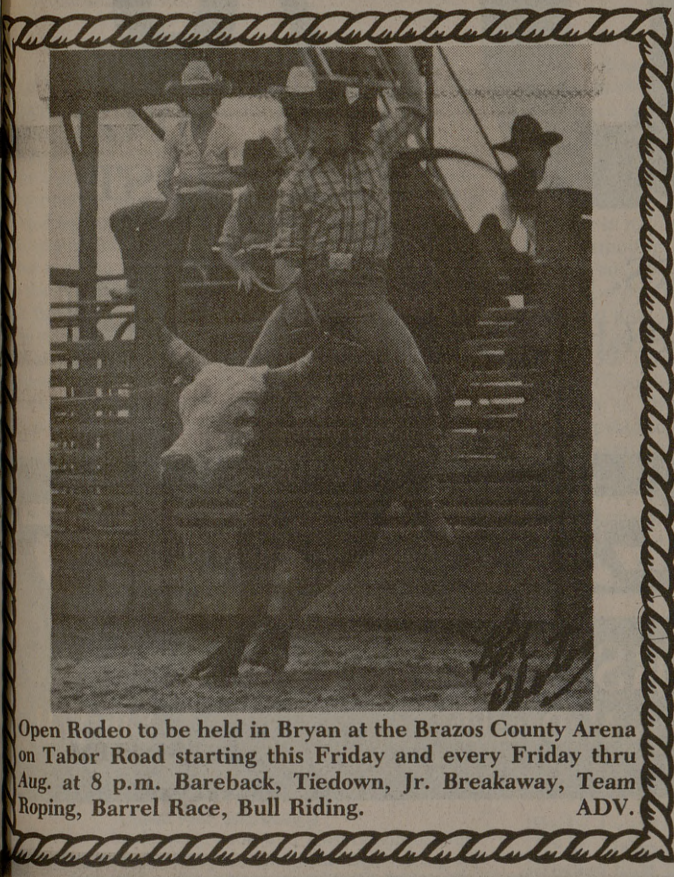
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