

Hall vaults to championship

by RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

The University of Texas-El Paso racked up 69 points in the NCAA track championships in Austin last week to take the NCAA title for the second straight year.

Texas A&M University, led by pole vault champion Randy Hall, finished 15th with 13 points. Eight Aggies qualified for the AAU championships to be held Friday and Saturday, and also the Olympic trials, held June 21-29.

UTEP, carried by victories in the 400-meter dash, triple jump and 5,000 meters, ran away with the meet, beating second place finisher UCLA by 23 points.

Hall, a 5-11, 160 pound junior from Port Lavaca, won the pole vault championship despite a highly psychological competition between himself and his competitors.

"He was super," said Texas A&M track coach Charlie Thomas. "He really came through. The other guys were playing the 'sight game' with him. You know, looking each other over like they do. He was doing fine until the other guy jumped 17-11 on his first jump. Randy had to work then."

The "other guy," Oregon's Tom Hintnaus, couldn't keep up with Hall, however, as Hall eventually cleared an NCAA record 18-2 1/4 on his only try at the mark. The record betters that of 18-1 3/4 set by UCLA's Mike Tully in 1978.

The other Texas A&M competitors didn't have quite as good a week.

Aggie weightman Tim Scott flirted with tragedy Friday when he hit an NCAA official on the face with a 16-pound shot put on his last practice throw.

While Scott watched sobbing, the official was taken to an Austin hospital. The official is reported to be in satisfactory condition.

Scott never got back in groove after the accident, managing only a 62-3/4 toss Saturday in the finals to take sixth place.

"There's no doubt it bothered him," said former Olympic discus champion Randy Matson. "I saw it happen. I would have had a hard time competing."

"I know how it feels. It leaves you very hollow when you almost hit someone. I've almost hit people several times. In fact, I've hit people on the leg before."

Matson, now the director of the Association of Former Students, said Scott will be all right.

"I think the fellow's (official) going to be OK," he said. "I think he (Scott) did a real good job. He's very enthusiastic and emotional, which makes him a good athlete. But there's no way you can concentrate after something like that."

"The official just kinda looked off. He was a veteran official, and he knew what he was doing. Tim was just takin' his last warm-up toss and it hit the guy."

Two other Aggies placed in the top six in their events.

Leslie Kerr, a favorite to place high in the 400 meters, was hampered by a stomach virus and finished sixth with a time of 46.05.

Jim Howard jumped a personal record 7-3 1/2 in the high jump and also finished sixth.

Thomas said the poor Texas A&M showing in some events was due to various injuries and illnesses.

"Tim (Scott) of course had a disappointing time," said Thomas. "Leslie (Kerr) was just sick. The day before his races, his stomach was upset. He just wasn't running as well as he could."

"Outside of that, we did pretty well. All four members of our relay team had something wrong with them. Willis ran real good, probably better than anyone. (Curtis) Dickey's leg is hurt, and (Vernon) Pittman hurt his leg. The speed just wasn't

there. The last four or five times we've run, we haven't run too well." Thomas said the season has been satisfying.

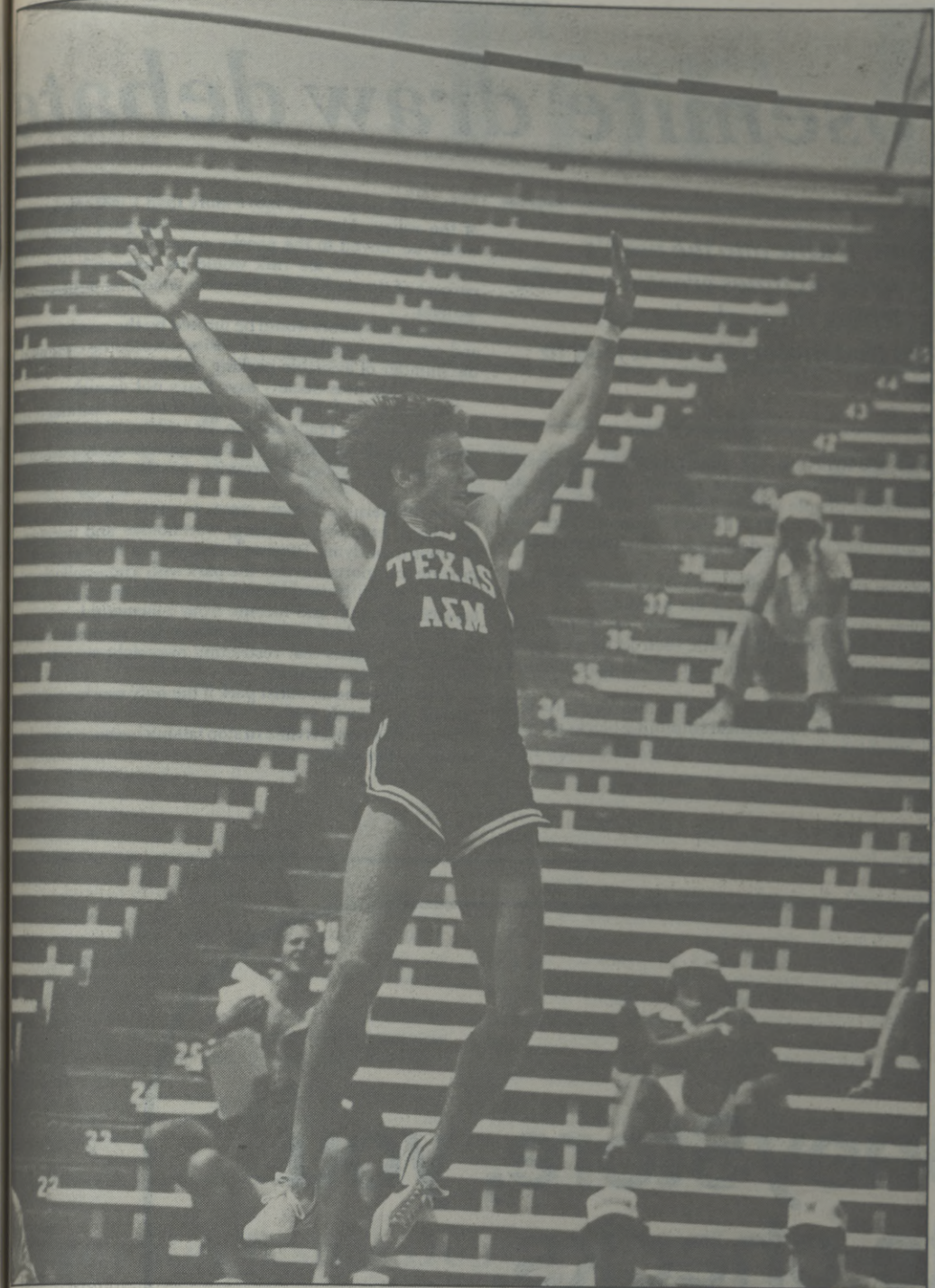
"We've just had a great season," he said, "a fantastic season."

The seven Aggies qualifying for the Olympic trials and AAU competition are Jim Howard, Chuck Perry, Randy Hall, Leslie Kerr, Billy Busch, Mike Glaspie and Curtis Dickey.

Thomas doubts any of the team members will compete in the AAU competition this weekend, but will go to the Olympic trials.

"Most of the guys I've talked to are probably going to rest this week," he said.

He added Curtis Dickey is through with competition now and will not compete in either event, and Glaspie is committed to summer school, and will not go, either.



Randy Hall clears the bar at 18-2 1/4 inches to win the NCAA pole vault championship last Saturday in Austin. The successful vault was Hall's last chance to stay in the competition,

and after Oregon's Tom Hintnaus missed his three attempts to make the height, Hall became the champion.

Photo by Pat O'Malley

Borg beats Gerulaitis again; takes home 5th French title

United Press International
PARIS — Bjorn Borg made it look

easy. The incredible Swede efficiently crushed American Vitas Gerulaitis, 6-4, 6-1, 6-2, in a one-hour 46-minute final Sunday to score a record fifth men's title at the \$650,000 French Open Tennis championships.

The top-seeded Borg took the \$53,000 first prize with his accurate ground strokes and careful placing of shots in what he said later was the second most satisfying victory he had ever had.

"It ranks just behind my fourth Wimbledon win," he said.

It was an anti-climax for the United States, whose players had taken all the other four titles earlier in the tournament, the best U.S. players have done here since 1950.

The fifth-seeded Gerulaitis, bidding to become the first American since Tony Trabert in 1955 to win the title, never really threatened to get a first victory in the 16-game series he has played against the current world champion since 1974.

"I tried to break up Borg's rhythm as much as possible," Gerulaitis said later. "It worked at the start but then he got used to my tactics of trying to hit and angle my shots as much as possible."

Borg, who took the title as in 1978 without losing a set, seemed unbeatable Sunday. Gerulaitis said afterward Jimmy Connors, whom the New Yorker beat in a five-set thriller

in Friday's semifinal, would not have done any better against Borg, playing on his favorite clay-court surface.

But Gerulaitis had his chance to shake the Swede, who said the critical juncture of the match came in the tenth game.

Gerulaitis had pulled up from 3-0 down to trail only 4-5. With Borg serving, Gerulaitis had a 40-15 lead and threatened to level the score. But Borg, with a sharply-angled smash and then a neatly-placed backhand down the line, got to deuce.

Two minutes later, after two misplaced shots by Gerulaitis, Borg had taken the opening set in 41 minutes.

"I was very tired going into that game," said Borg. "I had just been

pushing over the shots. It was very important for me that I won the game."

"Gerulaitis then played very, very badly for three games and seemed to be thinking about losing that game until well on in the second set," Borg added.

"Vitas tried different tactics by trying to angle his shots a lot," Borg said. "Every time I've played him recently he's tried something different."

Borg went to a 3-0 lead in the second set and although Gerulaitis broke his serve for 3-1 he never succeeded again and Borg swept to victory.

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