

Sports

Richardson, Howard lead Aggies

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

The SWC Indoor Track Championships are only two weeks away, and the defending champions, Texas A&M University, are working hard in preparation.

That hard work has produced some surprises.

The Aggies, who swept through the conference last year, winning the indoor title for the first time ever last February in Ft. Worth and the outdoor title in May in Waco, are not favored this season.

The loss of world class sprinter Curtis Dickey and SWC champion

shot putter Tim Scott has dropped the Aggies a notch or two in the pre-season outlooks, but several "newcomers" have stepped in to make the Ags worth contemplating.

One newcomer who is rapidly making his mark is Rod Richardson, whose efforts in the 60-yard dash have turned a few heads. This past weekend in the Oklahoma Indoor Classic in Oklahoma City, Richardson ran a personal best 6.17 in the 60 to win that event at the meet. Against a world class field at the Dallas Times-Herald Invitational two weekends ago, Richardson won his heat and finally took fifth.

But, many of last year's team have returned to lead the Aggies again this year. In the Oklahoma meet, it was the veterans that made the show.

Randy Hall, who finished second in the pole vault in the prestigious Millrose Games in New York's Madison Square Garden Friday night with a 17-4 jump, came in second in Oklahoma also with a leap of 17-2.

SWC champ Leslie Kerr finished second in his specialty, the 440-yard dash, with a 49.28 time.

But it was the Aggies' pride and joy, Olympian Jimmy Howard, who took the spotlight once again.

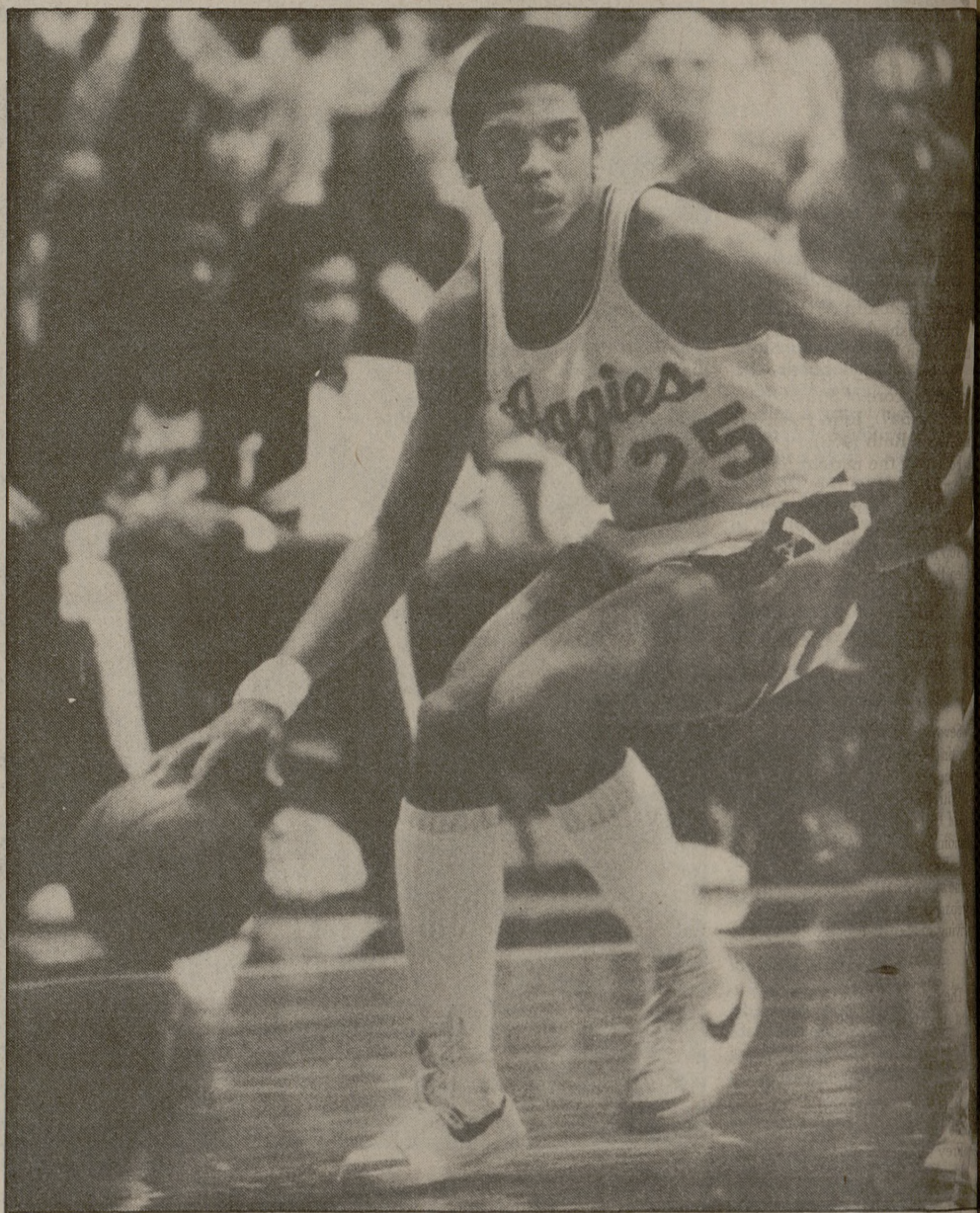
Last winter, Howard overcame a

severe ankle injury to win the SWC outdoor high jump championship, and then made the U.S. Olympic Team in June at the Trials in Eugene, Ore.

This year, Howard is back stronger than ever. He's already broken his career best jump this season at 7-4, and he's looking to break at least 7-6 before the year's out.

"I'm really pleased (with the performance)," he said Monday. "I didn't expect to do quite this well."

"I think I can break 7-6 indoors if I can just get my technique down right."



Guarding the guard

Staff photo by Greg...

Texas A&M University guard Milton Woodley is handchecked by Texas Tech defender Bubba Jennings in Saturday's game at C. Rollie White. The Aggies won the game, 65-

52, to climb out of the SWC cellar with a record. Tonight at 7:05 p.m., Texas A&M plays last-place SMU, 3-8, in Dallas.

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U.S. coach says pilot error is reason for bobsled accident

United Press International
CORTINA D'AMPEZZO, Italy—The coach of the U.S. four-man bobsled team said Monday the crash that killed American driver Jim Morgan over the weekend seemed to be caused by pilot error.

"Even though he was a very expert driver, he wasn't able to avoid an error that cost him his life," said Luciano De Paolis, the Italian coach of the U.S. team. "Jim was a real lover of the sport. He had been racing for 10 years."

Morgan, 31, of Saranac Lake, N.Y., was killed Sunday when the bobsled he was piloting down the icy Cortina world championship course turned over on its right side coming out of the final, steeply banked curve, smashing his head against the course guardrail. He was pronounced dead on arrival at a nearby hospital.

The other three members of Morgan's crew — Jess Jost of Burke, N.Y., and Paul White and Randy Blieski, both of Towson, Md. — were slightly injured.

Experts who studied slow motion videotapes of the crash said the bobsled Morgan was driving took a mistaken trajectory going into the final curve, rode too high up the banking and swerved suddenly coming out of the curve, apparently in response to Morgan's attempt to correct his exit line.

The bobsled was traveling at about 93 mph at the time, they said.

John Morgan, one of the dead driver's 11 brothers, was reporting on the bobsled event for a U.S. television network.

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Williams top player again
United Press International
DALLAS — Rob Williams, the league's leading scorer who poured in 61 points last week, was named the Southwest Conference player of the week Monday.
The Houston Cougars guard won the honor for the second straight week.
In leading the Cougars to victories over SMU and Texas, Williams creased his conference-leading average to 25.6 points per game and has scored more than 1,000 career points in just 50 games. Williams also leads the conference with 4.9 per game.

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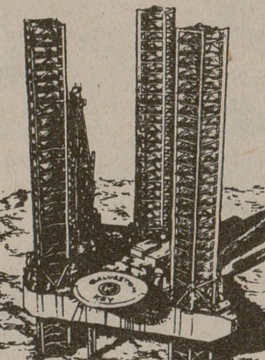
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