

Sports

Ags to compete in Texas relay



Staff photo by Greg Gammon.

Homing in!

Senior Aggie defensive end Keith Baldwin Welch look on. Action came in Wednesday's scrimmage. The Aggies are in the midst of spring practice which will close out Saturday, April 11.

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor
Texas A&M University head track coach Charlie Thomas takes a somewhat "hurt" 22-man squad to the prestigious Texas Relays this weekend in Austin.

Injuries have plagued the track team throughout the season, particularly in the last couple of weeks.

"We've still got a bunch of injuries, but we're about to get back to full strength," Thomas said. Last week the Aggies traveled to McAllen for the City of Palms Invitational where they finished third in the four team meet. Five of the Aggies' top participants, however, did not compete in their specialties due to injuries.

Sprinters Rod Richardson and Floyd Furlow did not run in the meet due to sore hamstrings. Hurdler Mike Glaspie was held out with a sore thigh, and high jumper James Howard had a sore heel.

The Aggies won three events last week and set one meet record. Pole vaulter Randy Hall cleared 17 feet, 4 inches to set a meet record in that event. Richard Lamb won the javelin with a throw of 210-4, and the 1600-meter relay team of Larry Kerr, Bart Daniel, Rick Thomas and Leslie Kerr won with a time of 3:10.69.

Leslie Kerr did not run in his specialty, the 400-meter dash; instead he competed in the relay. He will not compete in the 400-meter dash in Austin this weekend.

but will run in the 1600-meter relay.

Texas A&M will send only two relay teams to the meet this weekend; the 1600-meter and the shuddle hurdle.

Thomas said Richardson and Furlow are not at full strength yet, but will compete in the mile relay in Austin to "get back in shape".

Glaspie has not healed sufficiently enough to compete in the meet so he will not make the trip. Texas A&M was scheduled for a home track meet with Lamar April 11, but Thomas said that both teams have several injuries and thus will take the week off to let everyone heal.

Over 40 teams will be competing in the university division in the Texas Relays, which is considered one of the top track meets in the nation.

The two-day meet begins Friday at 9 a.m. in Memorial Stadium in Austin.

lie Kerr, Bart Daniel
Shuddle human relay — Glaspie,

Thomas, Moody, Busch, Kevin
Stevenson



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Tate responds to NCAA preliminary investigation

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor

Texas A&M University Athletic Director Marvin Tate released a statement Wednesday concerning the preliminary investigation of the NCAA is conducting into the Athletic Department.

The letter Tate received from the NCAA March 23 informing him of the investigation did not state what area of the Athletic Department was being looked into. However, Tate said the investigation concerns possible recruiting violations and that investigators have reportedly been approached with allegations of infractions by several former football players.

Tate said he had no knowledge of any wrongdoings on the part of his coaches or any former students connected with the Athletic Department.

He added that preliminary investigations of this type happen and have happened to almost every school in the nation.

"I can name a hundred schools that have undergone preliminary investigations of this sort," he said.

He said the majority of those investigations did not turn up anything.

"(Investigation) is being conducted," he said, "to see if there is enough evidence of any wrongdoing to warrant a full-scale investigation."

"It's just a preliminary investi-

gation and not a full-scale investigation, and that's all it is. Most likely, it won't lead to that (full-scale investigation)."

About any alleged violations Tate said, "I don't know if it is happening. I don't feel that our people are going out and violating any rules. I feel strongly that we are abiding by the rules and regulations laid down by the NCAA."

Although some students have speculated that former students may be involved in any recruiting violations, there is no evidence to support the claim.

Tate said that after the Karl Godine, Jarvis Williams blow-up of three years ago — after which the Texas A&M basketball team was suspended from post-season play for a year — the University conducted a two-day seminar in which then Athletic Council Chairman Charles Samson, President Jarvis Miller, Tate and others spoke to 57 people who had athletic interests in Texas A&M.

During the seminar these members of the so-called "athletic interests" were told what they can and cannot do with the Athletic Department or on their own concerning recruiting.

"I don't know of any other program that has ever done that," Tate said.

He said that he was confident that none of the people attending the seminar had anything to do with any wrongdoings, but also that they would have no way of

knowing if they did.

If any violations of NCAA rules are found on the part of Texas A&M or its alumni, Tate said, that necessary steps would be taken to correct the situation.

"If it's found that we are in violation (of any rules), steps would be taken by us, by the NCAA and the Southwest Conference. We would obviously take corrective measures," he said.

He said that if rules are knowingly violated, and it is proved, then those involved will have to "suffer the consequences".

Tate stated that he does not know all of the information the NCAA has or is looking into, and won't know until it is released by the NCAA.

"If it leads to something I hope that it leads to clearing up of any allegations or any suspicions on the part of everybody," Tate said.

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.38	3A+	875	780
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.58	3A+	1700	1530
.72	3A+	2350	2115
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1.02	3A	3450	3105

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