

Sports



First A&M Relays successful, Ags prepare for SWC outdoor

By RICK STOLLE
Battalion Staff
For about an hour Saturday, a Baylor University relay team had the fastest 1600-meter run in the nation at the First Texas A&M Relays.

Unfortunately, two teams at the Penn Relays later squeezed by the Bears to get the fastest time in the nation. The Seton Hall team ran a 3:02.96 and the University of Arkansas team ran a 3:04.63.

The Baylor team of Bill Hartson, Bobby Burkhalter, Arthur McCullar and Zeke Jefferson ran a 3:05.39 1600-meter, three seconds under the olympic qualifying time of 3:08.

In fact, four other teams, went under the mark. TCU was second at 3:06.15, Texas A&M at 3:06.31, Texas 3:07.09 and Texas Southern at 3:07.88. It represents some of the fastest times at any one track meet in the nation this year.

"It was an outstanding meet," said Aggie track coach Charlie Thomas. "We had all the coaches of the 16 teams come up after the meet and compliment us on it and assure us that they would be back next year."

The meet next year will be held in Baton Rouge, La. with Louisiana State hosting the event. Originally, A&M was to have been the host every year but when it took two years to get a new track, LSU stepped into the void and began hosting their own meet.

"We worked it out with LSU,"

said Thomas, "so we will be flipping the sites to keep everybody happy. In fact, we hope to add Oklahoma and Oklahoma State to the list of teams next year."

The Ags had a good showing in the meet in taking four first places. Texas and Baylor had six and five first place s respectively in the non-scoring meet.

The four A&M first places came in the pole vault, the 10,000-meter run, the 110-meter shuttle relays and the 400-meter dash.

Five vaulters hit the 16-10 mark in the pole vault but the placings were determined on who got the mark first. Rob Montgomery took first over teammate Randy Hall who was in fifth place at 16-10 but was slowed by water on the knee.

"Their were four vaulters, including Randy and Rob, who have gone over 17 feet but for some reason, just didn't get there," said Thomas.

Ray Muenich ran a 31:13.5 to win the 10,000-meter run and Mike Glaspie, Craig Moody, Rick Thomas and Billy Busch ran a 56.24 in the 110-meter Shuttle Relay to take first place.

One of the outstanding per-

formances of the meet was turned in by Aggie All-American Leslie Kerr. He won the 400-meter dash with a time of 45.41. However, in anchoring the A&M 1600-meter relay team, he took the team from seventh to third place with a blistering 44.3.

The Ags are still hurting with injuries but Thomas hopes he will have everybody healthy when the

team travels to Dallas to compete in the Southwest Conference Outdoor meet May 15-16.

He said the biggest worry he has is if he will be able to have sprinter Rod Richardson back. Richardson strained some leg muscles in the Friday night preliminaries and was withdrawn from the competition.

Ags take 3 from Bears, prepare for UT weekend

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff

In a must-win situation, the Texas Aggie baseball team did just what it had to do against the Baylor Bears over the weekend.

The Aggies won 3-1 Friday night, and swept a Saturday double header by identical scores of 5-4.

Aggie pitcher Steve Davis struck out 14 in eight innings in Friday's game to earn his sixth win against no losses. A&M scored all its runs in the first inning as Tim Boyes hit a two-run homer and Rodney Hodde followed with a solo homer.

Davis pitched well all night, but was relieved by Perry Swanson in the ninth after walking the leadoff batter. Swanson earned his fourth save in two weeks by retiring three straight batters.

In Saturday's first 5-4 win, David Flores, 6-3, pitched six innings before Swanson relieved him in the seventh and earned his second save in two games.

Boyes, Hodde and Joe Szekeley were the leading Aggie hitters, each with two hits and Szekeley with three RBI, giving him 10 in the last four games. Hodde set a new A&M record by hitting his 17th double of the year, breaking the old record of 16 set by Robert Bonner in 1977.

In Saturday's second 5-4 win, Robert Slavens, 2-2, won in relief of Rick Luecken and Bobby Taylor. Luecken, making his first start since pulling a groin two weeks ago, came out of the game in the fifth inning after stumbling off the mound during a pitch.

Luecken was obviously still in pain from the muscle pull, and head coach Tom Chandler said Luecken's status for this weekend's Texas series is a "touch-and-go situation."

Even with the three-game sweep, however, the Aggies did not move out of sixth place in the Southwest Conference. Due to other SWC games played over the weekend, it is still undecided whether or not A&M will gain a spot in the four-team post-season SWC tournament.

The Aggies must await the outcome of other SWC games this week, as well as the outcome of their own home series with the Texas Longhorns this weekend, before they'll know if they're going to Austin for the May tournament.

Once again, the almost unavoidable ultimatum is this: A&M must win all three games from Texas in order to earn a spot in the tournament.

Here's the situation: the weekend began with Texas, Arkansas, Rice and Houston occupying the top four spots in the conference, with TCU and A&M in fifth and sixth. In its weekend series with Rice, Texas clinched first place by taking two of three games, while Arkansas clinched second place by taking two out of three games from Texas Tech.

That leaves Texas at 15-3, Arkansas at 12-9 and Rice at 11-10, in first, second and third. Now's when it gets confusing.

Houston and TCU had a three-game weekend series scheduled, but were rained out Friday and Saturday. The two teams played one game Sunday, with TCU winning, and will play a double header today. At this point, Houston and TCU are tied for fourth with 9-9-1 and 8-8 records, with the edge going to Houston because of the one tie on its record.

A&M is right behind at 8-9-1, so the results of the today's TCU-Houston double header are important to the Aggies' tournament

hopes. But even after knowing the outcome of those games, the Aggies must come as close as possible to winning all three games from the Longhorns. Also, an important series from the Aggies' standpoint is this weekend's TCU-Texas Tech series.

If the Aggies sweep the Longhorns and don't make the tournament, at least they'll know they did all they could. If they don't sweep the series, the Aggies' chances of earning a tournament spot are not good, since Rice virtually has third place clinched, while TCU, Houston and A&M are fighting for fourth.

The Aggies will host Tulane University in a three-game series Tuesday and Wednesday.

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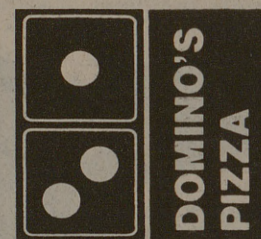
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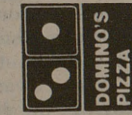
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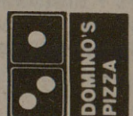
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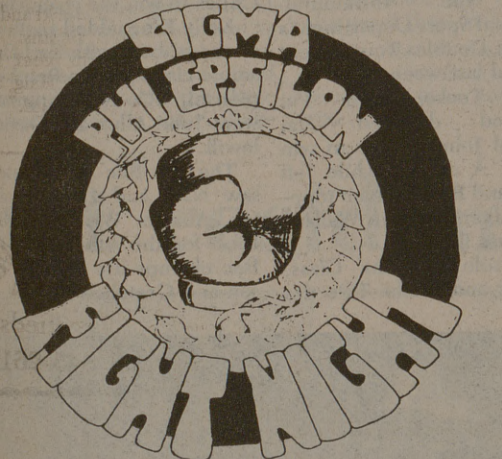
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