

# sports

## Ags in SWC Indoor Championships

# Tolson finding switch successful

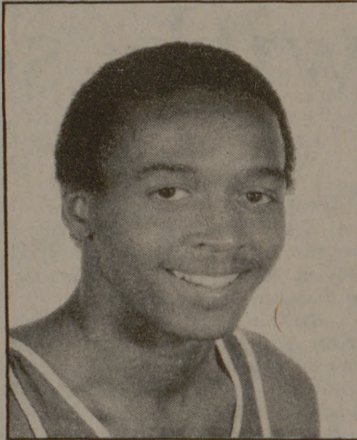
by Joe Tindel Jr.

**Battalion Staff**  
The Southwest Conference Indoor Track Championships are on this weekend's agenda, and the Aggies will be looking for some less recognizable faces to become more familiar around the SWC.

The best-known face won't be in Fort Worth. Rod Richardson, until last weekend the NCAA record-holder in the 60-yard dash, will miss the meet due to an injury suffered during football season. So coaches Charlie Thomas and Ted Nelson will be looking for points in other places.

One such event will be the 600-yard dash, where nine SWC runners have posted times so close together that the difference between the fastest and the slowest is 1.86 seconds.

Listed as having the second fastest time in that tightly-packed group is Texas A&M sophomore Tony Tolson, a relative newcomer to both the 600-yard dash and the world of indoor track. And Tolson is one of those the Aggies will be relying



Sophomore Tony Tolson a 600-yard dash newcomer

upon heavily for points. Yet the Aggies' new-found gem from El Paso has only recently begun to shine. Last year was a different story and a different race. It was the 440-yard dash and close-behind finishes. And it was last season when the former 400-meter high school

all-America "discovered that the 600 would be his race.

"I was losing (the 440) but I was running against guys who were good," Tolson said. "They weren't beating me that bad. I decided to run the 600 (last year) one meet, and I didn't win but I didn't do that bad. I had beat some good people.

"I was a freshman, and I didn't know how to run indoors," he said. "It was kind of a learning year for me. I didn't do that well indoors or outdoors. I guess that's one of the main reasons I'm trying to do well this year."

Tolson was also a member of the Aggies' mile relay team that finished sixth in the conference last year, but his new race, the 600, took precedence at season's end.

A combination of hard work and determination this fall has resulted in his winning the 600 in the Aggies' last three meets. In last weekend's Oklahoma Indoor Classic, he won in a race with 35 competitors and posted a meet record and school record time of 1:10.50. That time is

listed as a Texas A&M record despite Tolson's earlier posting of the 1:10.03 that defines him as the SWC's second-fastest competitor in the 600.

The faster time was not used as the school record because Tolson posted it while running on a wooden floor — a trait uncharacteristic of the track in Fort Worth.

Tolson's quick rise to the top has him thinking confidently about the SWC meet. But he'll be competing against some strong contenders like SMU's Leslie Brooks, who holds the one time faster than Tolson's. Additionally, Tolson will have to take his height, 6-feet, 1/2-inch, into account when he runs.

"I think I can beat Leslie Brooks," he said, "and as for the meet, I think I'll be the next Southwest Conference champion.

"I know I'm in physical shape to run it. (But) if I'm not mentally prepared I won't perform well. I have to really get out in front of everybody because I'm

such a tall person. I have to them run my race, because run their race I'm going to beat nine times out of 10."

Tolson said his being what taller than many of other runners keeps him being able to gain momentum fast as some of the shorter runners.

But he's had to deal with height all along. His confidence is something new to him, this season, he would enter a knowing he wouldn't win before the gun, he said. Now success and confidence has two other firsts for the track — attention and pressure.

"It's a shock to me that getting all this attention," Tolson said, "There's a lot of pressure. I know that now a people expect me to win."

And though Tolson does consider himself a leader, of that attention undoubtedly will come from his teammates.

"I know the guys expect score," he said, "and I myself to score. So I guess promise them that."

# Aggies

(continued from page 13)  
Ags went into a man-to-man defense that seemed more effective at stopping Baylor than the zone.

Metcalfe said the Aggies' man-to-man defense, somewhat less effective than in past years, has been improving.

"Our man-to-man has been real good up to this year," he said, "and this year we spent so much time on the match-up zone we probably neglected our man a little bit. But I think we're picking up a little bit. We played some good (man-to-man) tonight when we needed to."

"We played our man tonight because Jimmie (Gilbert) went out of the ball game, and Jim-

mie's our best five man in our match-up zone. We went with a quicker, smaller lineup and really got after it."

The Aggies, coming off a loss — but a good performance — against Arkansas, started the game with freshman Doug Lee in place of Reggie Roberts at one of the guard positions. It was only Lee's third start of the season, yet despite some shaky ball-handling, the freshman scored eight points on some impressive outside shots.

Lee said the new point-guard

position he played may have had something to do with his ball-handling problems.

"If I play off-guard I'm O.K.," Lee said. "That's more what I played in high school. I think Coach (Metcalfe) knows I play off-guard. He's just trying to get me and (freshman guard) Kenny Brown running the point some."

Metcalfe said he considers Lee and Brown to be the best two outside shooters at guard and in the same class that he's had since he's been at Texas A&M.

The Bears' loss drops them to 10-12 on the season and 2-9 in conference play. The Aggies, now 13-12 on the season and the sole occupant of fourth place in the SWC with a record of 7-5,

will host St. Mary's on night at 7:30 in a conference meeting.

**TEXAS A&M (74)**  
Riley 7-12 5-7 19, Jones 3-8 0-2 12, bert 1-1 0-0 2, Nauels 2-4 7-10 11, 0-0 8, Roberts 2-4 1-2 5, McHarris 5, Brown 6-13 2-2 14, Reed 6-13 Bock 0-0 0-0 0. Totals — 29-50 10-12

**BAYLOR (62)**  
Baucham 8-13 5-8 21, Glover 3-6 2-6 8, Kaiser 0-2 0-0 0, 10, Heller 1-3 0-0 2, Heyland 1-3 Totals — 26-57 10-19 62

Halftime — Texas A&M 34, Baylor 20  
Total fouls — Texas A&M 19, Baylor 15  
Assists — Texas A&M 26, Baylor 17  
Steals — Texas A&M 5, Baylor 3  
— Harvey, Mayfield, Glover, Jones — 3,868.

# Chiefs gain new receiver coach

**United Press International**  
**HOUSTON** — The executive director of the Bluebonnet Bowl, Richard Williamson, has resigned to join the Kansas City Chiefs as receiver coach.

The move follows that of John Mackovic, a Dallas assistant, who last month left the Cowboys to succeed Marv Levy as Kansas City's head coach.

"John and I have been friends for several years, since he was coaching at Wake Forest and I was at Memphis State," Williamson said.

Williamson said his departure had nothing to do with problems at the Bluebonnet Bowl.

"My resignation has nothing to do with the crowd of people we drew for the Bluebonnet Bowl last season," Williamson said. "I hope it doesn't look that way."

"Florida was a great representative, but we were all bring in Notre Dame to Arkansas. That game we have knocked the roof off the Astrodome. But Notre was lost and we didn't get the tie."

Williamson played football at Alabama and was assistant coach at Arkansas before becoming head coach at Memphis State. He went to work for the Bluebonnet Bowl a year ago.

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