

# Aggie track teams at Border Olympics

by Joe Tindel Jr.

**Battalion Staff**  
Most Aggies know it's a tradition here to stand at football games, light Bonfire before the Texas game and quad the yell leaders after a football victory. But it's probably safe to say that considerably fewer Aggies are aware of a tradition the Texas A&M track teams have established in Laredo. Yes, Laredo.

That border town is the site of the Border Olympics, a tradition in itself in that it was the first major outdoor track and field competition held in the United States. And the Aggie track teams have established their own tradition of success at Laredo.

This weekend the Aggie men and women will head for the valley to try and uphold that tradition. Texas A&M has fared well

in the meet for the past few years — well enough to finish first in 1980 and 1981 and second last year.

"We've had some real good field performances from our field event men at the meet," Assistant Coach Ted Nelson said. "We sort of established a little bit of a tradition. A&M's been going to the meet for about 40 years, and we've always been right at the top of the competition."

But the Aggie men must overcome a handicap this time to bring home another championship. Four of their top runners will miss this year's meet with injuries.

And Rod Richardson, the current NCAA indoor record-holder in the 60-yard dash, is still nursing an injury suffered in football practice last fall. Nelson said Richardson should be back in competition by the first of April, but probably won't regain his world-class status for another month and a half.

Nevertheless, Nelson said his bunch still could be in the running for the top spot this weekend. "We should be competing for the championship," Nelson said. "I think probably the University of Texas should be the team to beat, and we've beaten those guys twice. But without some of our people it's going to be shaky."

The Border Olympics will be the first major outdoor meet of the season for the Aggie men, who finished third in the SWC indoor meet. The meet will begin Saturday morning, with preliminaries starting at 8:30. Field event finals will begin at 1:30 p.m. and running finals at 3 p.m.

Nelson said the transition from the indoor season to the outdoor season won't be as hard for the Aggies as it might be for some teams.

"It's always a good transition for our teams because traditionally we have been strong in the field events and the sprints and the quarter-mile," he said.

Nelson said the Aggie men are a better outdoor team than they're oriented around sprint races and field events which the coach said is an advantage. The men's sprint race run in indoors is the 60-yard dash, and meets don't have the discus and javelin events.

"It's a good conversation because we've got a good thrower," Nelson said. "We've got a couple of pretty good throwers."

"It helps our quarter-mile a little bit. The type of milers we have are not door runners. They do the turns real well."

He said the teams that indoors are stronger in tance races, and sometimes a little ground in the outdoors.

Top Aggie competitor this weekend's competition be high jumper Jimmy H who finished first in the indoor meet and set a record with his jump of 7 3/4-inches. Tony Tolson, SWC indoor champ in the yard dash and Bart Dand finished third in the 880-yard meet in the 880-yard

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