Aggie track teams at Border Olympics

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

This weekend the Aggie men and women will head for the val-ley to try and uphold that tradi-tion. Texas A&M has fared well

in the meet for the past few years — well enough to finish first in will miss this year's meet with 1980 and 1981 and second last

"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 right at the top of the competi-

But the Aggie men must over-

Tony Grier, who finished second in the 440-yard dash in the SWC indoor meet, suffered a leg injury Tuesday and won't run this weekend. Grier would have been the Aggies' anchorlittle bit of a tradition. A&M's man on the 400-meter relay been going to the meet for about team, a member of the 1600-40 years, and we've always been meter relay team and a competitor in the 200-meter dash and the 400-meter dash. The Aggies also will be without Bill Shelton come a handicap this time to in the 400 and Mike Glaspie in the 110-meter hurdles.

And Rod Richardson, the current NCAA indoor recordholder 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 re-gain 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

"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 pre-liminaries starting at 8:30. Field event finals will begin at 1:30 p.m. and running finals at 3

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

'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.



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a better outdoor they're oriented sprint races and field Mid-ter which the coach said he ut inevi an advantage. The countless is the 60-yard dash, and sually ca meets don't have the ne year v discus and javelin eventornia Sta

"It's a good conversinggie ba because we've got a good lisen Fie thrower," Nelson said orts — T got a couple of preny ot more

cus throwers. "It helps our quarterlittle bit. The type peries parmilers we have are not series parmilers. door runners. They do and curre

the turns real well."
He said the teams the indoors are stronger in tance races, and somet lone its

a little ground in them o play. to the outdoor season. "We' Top Aggie competition this weekend's competition be high jumper Jimmy indoor meet and set an standing cord with his jump of 3/4-inches, Tony Tols SWC indoor champ it yard dash and Bart Damaffair. finished third in the S door meet in the 880-yar they're g

Tolson will run on 400-meter dash. compete in the 110 and

meter hurdles.
Coach Bill Nix's w
team should get good
from Suzanne Sheffield. the process of finishing the SWC indoor me SWC meet record and record. The Aggie finished fifth as a tea SWC indoor meet.

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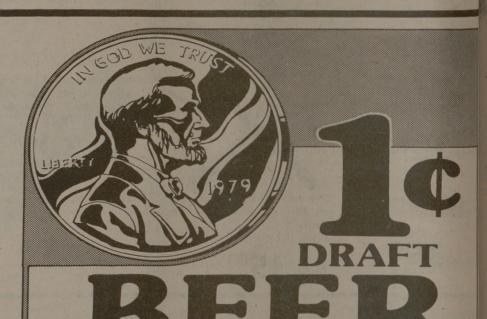
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