

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## Mustangs battling for NCAA track crown

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — In the qualifying heats of the NCAA track and field championships, the Mustangs are not necessarily to win. The object is not to lose.

And on the opening night of the 62nd annual NCAA meet, Washington and SMU managed not to lose. The Alabama Crimson Tide, however, did not appear to be so fortunate.

The SMU Mustangs and Washington State Cougars, favorites to fight down to the fill event for a championship neither school has ever won, man-

aged to do the things necessary Wednesday to stay alive.

Alabama had hoped to challenge for the team trophy, but in the course of a split second those hopes were badly victimized.

Emmit King and Lamar Smith, whose job it was to make the first baton pass in the 400-meter relay, failed to do so cleanly and wound up passing out of the zone. That disqualified the Crimson Tide, heavily favored to win the 400 relay, and thus cost Alabama a chance for 15 points that were almost a must if it was to upset SMU and

Washington State for the team trophy.

Washington State, meanwhile, easily pushed Julius Korir and Richard Tuwei — two-thirds of their distance running trio — into the finals of the 3,000-meter steeplechase. They could finish 1-2 in that event and both will also run in the 5,000 meters along with Peter Koech. Koech, who like Korir and Tuwei is from Kenya, will compete in the 10,000 meters as well.

With all of that running in front of them, the key could be the weather and the humidity in

this normally muggy city.

"The weather was pretty good tonight," said Korir after he clocked an 8:29.57 in the steeplechase qualifying. "I don't see the conditions being any problem if they stay like this."

SMU, meanwhile, qualified all three of its hammer throwers in an event it must dominate if it is to challenge Washington State.

The only major loss in the women's competition, meanwhile, came to UCLA. The Bruins will have to win the team championship without sprin-

ter Jeanette Bolden, who has been suffering from a leg sprain that has not healed to the point where she can compete.

Although Washington State and SMU did manage to escape any disasters in the qualifying, the teams did suffer mild disappointments. The Mustangs had hoped to put Robert Weir into the discus finals and he did not make it. And the Cougars had expected Chris Whitlock to pick up some points in the 200 meters, but he also failed to make the finals in that event.

Among the pleasant sur-

prises, however, was the showing of TCU's 400-meter relay team. With both Alabama and defending champion Houston fouling up handoffs and dropping out of the competition, the Horned Frogs ran a 39.01, easily the best in the country this year.

Other top qualifying performances Wednesday included Reginald Kelly of Jackson State in the long jump (26-5 1/2), Rick Meyer of Houston in the scus (209-10), Joaquim Cruz of Oregon in the 800 meters (1:46.56), Terry Menefee of Alabama in

the 400-meter hurdles (49.88) and Elliott Quow of Rutgers in the 200 meters (20.35).

The only finals run off Wednesday night came in the women's 10,000 meters where Betty Jo Springs ran a 33:01.02 to surpass Carey May of Brigham Young (33:04.23) and Melanie Weaver of Michigan (33:06.70).

Other top showings in women's qualifying included Tennessee's Sharrieffa Barksdale 56.77 in the 400-meter hurdles and Nebraska's Merlene Ottey's 11.20 in the 100 meters.

## Chicago downs Astros, 4-2, to end losing streak

**United Press International**  
CHICAGO — Chicago pitcher Chuck Rainey says there's more important things than pitching a complete game.

"I've learned not to be disappointed because ending our losing streak is much more important than my getting a complete game," Rainey said Wednesday after the Cubs nipped the Houston Astros, 3-2, to break a four-game losing streak.

"It's no big deal not pitching a complete game," Rainey said. "But with 11 starts now, it would look nice on my record to have a complete game to my credit."

The last Cub pitcher to record a complete game was Ferguson Jenkins, who beat Pittsburgh, 7-2, last Sept. 15.

Rainey, 5-4, gave up just two runs through 8 1/3 innings Wednesday before finding himself in trouble when he gave up hits to Terry Puhl and Dickie Thon to start the ninth.

Although he was yanked for reliever Lee Smith, Rainey said he was "feeling really good about myself" at the end of the game.

"I was really motivated Wednesday, especially after getting by the second inning, when I walked Phil Garner and gave up a single to Jose Cruz," he said. "I really concentrated and



Bob Knepper

Garner, who was able to load up the bases with a ninth-inning single, said he respected Smith's arm. "Smith is almost overpowering. As I mentioned yesterday, I don't look forward to facing the Cubs' bullpen."

Chicago manager Lee Elia said the key to the Cubs' win came when Cruz hit a hot smash toward left field in the ninth, only to have shortstop Tom Verzyer force Garner at second. A run scored but Smith got Knight to strike out to end the game.

The defeat was especially tough for Houston starter Bob Knepper, who suffered his eighth loss of the season against one win.

"When Knepper walked Rainey to lead off the Cubs' third, Bob dug himself a hole," said Houston manager Bob Lillis. "And because we had trouble putting any hits together, we could not do him any good."

Houston took a 1-0 lead in the second on Knight's sacrifice fly to score Garner, but the Cubs tied the score in their half of the second on Keith Moreland's seventh homer of the year.

After Rainey walked leading off the Cubs' third, Gary Woods beat out a bunt single and Ryne Sandberg was hit by a pitch to load the bases. Rainey scored on Bill Buckner's sacrifice fly and a single by Moreland brought home Woods.

after giving up a sacrifice fly to Ray Knight I found the groove and went out of the game in the ninth inning feeling really good about myself," he added.

Lee Smith said his ninth-inning performance, which earned him a save, left him "completely vindicated after what happened the previous day when I gave up a three-run double to Garner."

## Stadler counting on Kemper

**United Press International**  
BETHESDA, Md. — When play begins today in the \$400,000 Kemper Open golf tournament, Craig Stadler would like to turn back the clock a year or two.

Stadler won this tournament the past two years and finished second the previous year behind John Mahaffey. The three years were worth \$187,200 for Stadler, making him one of the few

tourists to visit the Washington area and come out ahead financially.

It seemed Congressional Country Club's 7,773 yards, which play to a par-72, became Stadler's private playground.

But recent history has been a bit different. After winning \$446,462 last year, Stadler has earned \$115,099 this year, none of it lately. He missed the cut in

his last two tournaments.

Two of Stadler's biggest threats this week seem to be Hale Irwin, winner of last week's Memorial Tournament, and Australian David Graham, who won the Houston Open a month ago.

Both have played well in recent weeks and have the long game and patience to conquer Congressional.

## Sample gets 3 hits, homer

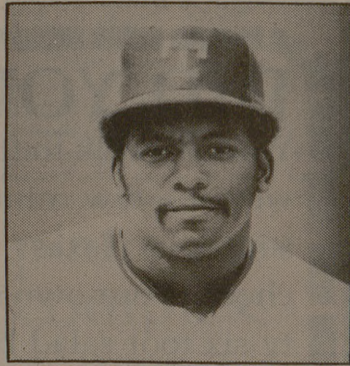
# Rangers stop Kansas City

**United Press International**  
At Arlington, Texas, Billy Sample collected three hits, including his sixth homer of the year, and drove in two runs to help the Rangers snap a four-game losing streak with a 7-4 victory over the Kansas City Royals. The Rangers are now 23-24 in the American League West division. They'll face the Detroit Tigers Friday night.

Elsewhere in the American league, Chicago rookie Ron Kittle had it all figured out way ahead of time. American League pitchers, however, haven't figured him out yet.

Kittle hit his AL-leading 12th homer Wednesday night — a two-run shot in the sixth inning — to lead the home-run crazy Chicago White Sox to an 8-3 victory Wednesday night over Boston.

"I kind of figured I'd do well (in the majors)," Kittle said. "You gotta do it in the minors so and it's still the same



Billy Sample

game — I always figured I could hit.

"But actually, my four stolen bases is the real difference," he cracked.

Vance Law added a three-run homer to help spark Chicago to its fifth triumph in six games. The White Sox have

now hit 26 homers in their last 13 games.

Boston Manager Ralph Houk gave his assessment of the home-run pitches.

"The pitch to Kittle (a change-up) was awful," he said. "And the one to Law was right down the middle."

"I made a couple of bad pitches in lousy situations," Boston hurler John Tudor said.

LaMarr Hoyt pitched 7 2/3 innings to raise his record to 5-6.

TIGERS 3, BLUE JAYS 1 — At Detroit, Kirk Gibson grounded a single up the middle with two out in the eighth to score Lou Whitaker from second and lift the Tigers.

YANKEES 3, ANGELS 0 — At New York, Bobby Murcer and Oscar Gamble cracked sixth-inning homers to break a scoreless tie and Ron Guidry, 7-3, fired a five-hitter

to lead the Yankees to their sixth straight victory. California lost its third in a row.

INDIANS 5, MARINERS 2 — At Cleveland, Toby Harrah led off the eighth inning with his first home run of the season and rookie Neal Heaton picked up his fourth victory against one loss.

ORIOLES 6, TWINS 3 — At Minneapolis, Gary Roenicke went 4-for-4, including a homer, and drove in four runs to spark Baltimore.

AS 7, BREWERS 5 — At Milwaukee, Rickey Henderson's RBI single in the eighth inning broke a 5-5 tie and aid Oakland in ending its six-game losing streak.

In the National League, it was Chicago 3, Houston 2; Atlanta 6, Pittsburgh 3; St. Louis 8, Cincinnati 3; Montreal 8, San Diego 6; Los Angeles 1, Philadelphia 0; and San Francisco 4, New York 2.

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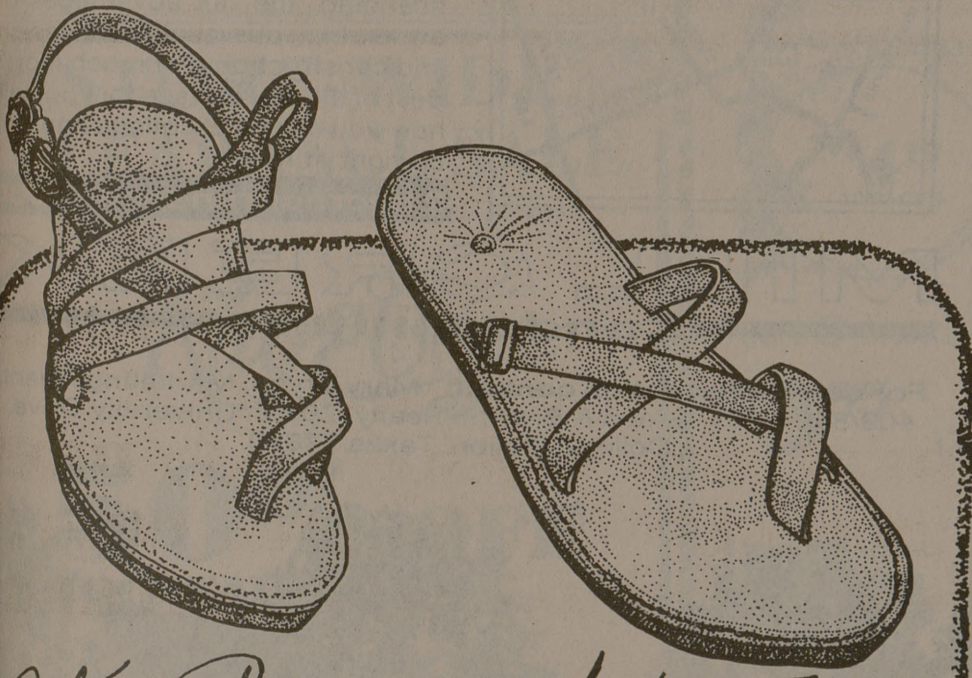
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