

Ags meet LSU; set records

By BOB CASTER
Sports writer

BATON ROUGE, La. — It would be easy to just say the Texas A&M men's track team placed fifth at the LSU Invitational indoor meet, behind Auburn, Florida St., LSU and Baylor and leave it at that.

It would be just as easy to say that as returning champions of the LSU Invitational, the Aggies just didn't have what it took to

give a repeat performance this year.

But that really wasn't the case. The Aggies didn't bring home the bacon but they did have three more people meet qualifying standards for the NCAA indoor meet. The team also set four school records and an LSU field house record.

Perhaps the most impressive performance of the meet was given by Aggie quarter-miler

Tony Grier who clocked the fastest time ever recorded for the 440-yard dash in the LSU field house. His time of 46.90, which is also an A&M indoor record, broke the record of 47.2 set there by Willie Smith of Auburn in 1980. Smith went on to run a 44.50 in the open 400-meters that same year.

"Our top performance (Saturday) was by Grier," A&M assistant track coach Ted Nelson

said. "As far as I know, that's the second fastest time in the nation. I think that if he had been in an outside lane instead of the inside he could have run it three- to four-tenths of a second faster."

On indoor tracks, the distance around the track is much shorter making the turns tighter.

Sam Seams, who has been the track coach at LSU for ten years, said Grier's time Saturday was the fastest quarter-mile he had ever seen at the field house. Needless to say, Grier's 46.90 qualified him for nationals.

Also meeting NCAA qualifying standards for the Aggies were Chuck Perry in the high jump and Craig Moody in the 60-yard high hurdles.

Perry won first place in the high jump with a third-jump effort of 7-3 1/4. Nelson said he felt that Perry was capable of jumping 7-5 this season. Moody's third-place time of 7.29 in the high hurdles was not only enough to meet the NCAA standard but was also an A&M indoor record.

"I was proud of Craig Moody," Nelson said. "He did a real good job in the high hurdles, but to get to NCAA I think he'll have to run faster."

Just because someone makes the qualifying mark doesn't mean that person will run in the national indoor meet. Only the top 20 qualifying times actually compete at nationals.

Two other school records were also broken by Aggies Saturday. Arturo Barrios took first place in the two-mile run with a time of 8:49.32. And Andy Elliot finished second in the mile with a time of 4:07.37.

And that leads to another factor that figures into the Aggies' overall performance — their current state of health. The Aggies could have possibly pulled in quite a few more points

had the team been in better health.

"Having people out is not unusual," Nelson said. "But we've probably had more people sick than usual."

"Track is probably the hardest sport there is to keep everyone well. The difference be-



Craig Moody flies through the 60-yard high hurdles in Baton Rouge this weekend. Moody's time of 7.29 seconds in the high hurdles set an A&M indoor record.

between first and last place hundredths of a second — you're not a hundred percent healthy, it's hard to be competitive. Any injury to a track can be serious."

The Aggies travel to Oklahoma next weekend and Nelson says they probably won't be full team.

Smith called the local media asking for the sports editor to be told he was in Moscow the night before. He had covered the minute 45 the night before. The editor Johnson talked to Smith and instructed him to write a letter to the editor Peter M. to call some open line program.

"I was mad," Smith said. "Here we are living in a country where we talk about what's right and also the rights of others. They had beaten us fair and square."

Smith was irked over something else Eagleson had done as promoter of the series.

"He came to Winnipeg and called us a bunch of cheap-skates," said Smith. "Winnipeg is a workingman's town. Eagleson wanted us to shell out \$30 to watch the Finns play the Swedes at 3 o'clock on a weekday. You had to buy tickets to bad games like that to see a good one like, say, Czechoslovakia against Canada."

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After Smith and his friends produced a new Cup, they visited the Russian embassy in Moscow. They spoke to Vladimir Melikyan, the No. 2 man there, and told him to come and get the Cup. He did at a special ceremony in Winnipeg on Oct. 3, 1983. The Queen's representative Manitoba presented the Cup to the Soviet representative on behalf of all the people in Canada and Melikyan expressed gratitude.

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