

# 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 Greir 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,

just one one-hundredth of a second behind Baylor's John Robinson.

"Arturo did a good job in the two-mile," Nelson said. "We'll look for him to go the qualifying standard. The pace was just not fast enough for him (Saturday) — he had to do all the work. He was disappointed because he wanted to go the qualifying standard which is 8:40."

Also placing for the Aggies were Kurt Thome, third in the long jump; Tommy Alsbrooks, fourth in the 300; Aaron Ramirez, fifth in the two-mile; Todd Howard, sixth in the shot put and Des Kidd, sixth in the pole vault.

The mile relay team which underwent considerable change because of sickness and injury, placed fourth with a time of 3:15.64. On that team were Chappelle Henderson, Bill Shelton, Grier and Moody.

In spite of the Aggies' fifth-place overall finish, Nelson feels good about the way things went in Louisiana.

"Winning the meet is important," he said. "Even though we won the meet last year, I think we had better individual performances this year. We didn't double many of our guys up like other schools did — we felt like it was important to get some good marks and try to qualify some people. I felt like we competed well for the people we had in there."

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



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.

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-

tween first and last place is hundreds 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 a full team.

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## 'Hockey nut' ends up Russian hero

United Press International  
WINNIPEG, Canada — George Smith is "a hockey nut." All he ever meant to do was get right what he felt was a terrible wrong. Even if it was against Russia.

He did it. All by himself at first, thereby accomplishing more than all those SALT 2 talks put together, and ending up one of the biggest heroes in the Soviet Union.

Smith owns and operates his own trucking business in Winnipeg, where he was born. He was crazy about hockey as a kid when his idol was little Bill Mosienko, the Chicago Black Hawks' Hall of Famer who once

scored three goals in 21 seconds against the Rangers at Madison Square Garden and now runs a bowling alley in Winnipeg.

Whenever the Winnipeg Jets are at home, Smith is right there watching them and rooting for them. Otherwise you'll find him watching the action on TV. At 49, Smith loves the sport more than ever.

Let's go back a bit to September of 1981. The Russian National team beats Team Canada for the Canada Cup in Montreal, and Smith, viewing the final game on the tube in Winnipeg, sees Canada's Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau, and Alan Eagleson, hockey promoter and head of the NHL Players' Association, present the Cup to the Soviets' team captain.

Bright and early the next morning, Smith woke up and put on the news. He was shocked to hear Eagleson had called the

police and kept the Soviets from taking the Cup out of the Montreal Forum the night before. Eagleson felt that once the Russians got the cup to the USSR, they'd never bring it back to Canada.

"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 cheapskates," 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."

Smith called the local radio station and asked for the sports editor. He was told he was in Montreal where he had covered the night before. The editor told Smith to write a letter to the editor. Peter M called some open line program.

He called one station and solicited opinions on the matter from its listeners. Eagleson had them called in and 17 minutes with Smith.

Soon, a campaign got underway to obtain a replica of the Canada Cup and send it to the Russians. People sent in their dollars until the total reached \$3,000.

"We didn't need the money," Smith explained. "The Russians volunteered to make the replica of the engine block nickel alloy control valve an exact replica of the original. You couldn't tell the difference apart."

The home-made replica weighed 90 pounds. The original Canada Cup fashioned in Montreal weighed 124 pounds, but was too heavy for the Prime Minister to handle, a second was turned out and it weighed 90 pounds.

After Smith and his friends produced a new Cup, they presented it to the Russian embassy in Ottawa. They spoke to Vladimir Melnikov, 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, 1981. The Queen's representative in Manitoba presented the Cup to the Soviet representative and half of all the people in Winnipeg and Melnikov expressed gratitude.

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