



Texas A&M's pole vaulter Mark Rutledge tries to clear the bar in the finals of the Southwest Conference Indoor Track and

Field Championships Friday night at the Tarrant County Convention Center in Fort Worth. The Aggies finished fourth overall.

Photo by DEAN SAITTO

No surprises for Texas A&M at SWC indoor track meet

By JIM HINEY
Reporter

At the Southwest Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Fort Worth over the weekend, there were few surprises.

Arkansas captured the men's overall title for the fifth year in a row and Baylor and Houston finished second and third, respectively.

No surprises. Even the Texas A&M track team wasn't that surprised by its fourth-place finish.

The Aggies had hoped to finish in the top three, but A&M Track and Field Coach Charlie Thomas didn't seem at all disappointed with the team's performance at the Tarrant County Convention Center Friday night.

"We knew going in that Arkansas would probably win the meet. But we felt like we had a chance to get second-place," Thomas said. "I think we've had a real good season though."

Senior sprinter Rod Richardson had the best finish of the night for A&M, winning his third SWC 60-yard dash title in an exciting photo finish. It took judges 25 minutes to finally determine the winner of the race.

Richardson and TCU freshman Roscoe Tatum hit the finish line together. Lane judges gave the race to Tatum, but, after studying an *Accutrak* picture of the finish, meet officials ruled Richardson the winner. The record books will show Richardson winning the sprint in 6.13 seconds, just .02 seconds ahead of Tatum.

Thomas wasn't surprised that Richardson faced tough competition. Richardson had only run in one previous meet this season because of a leg injury. Most of the other competitors had run in four or five meets.

"Two or three of those guys had been running well all year long," Thomas said.

In terms of the caliber of competition at Fort Worth, Thomas said it was the best meet the SWC has ever had.

Although A&M only had one first-place finish, it did turn in a number of fine performances.

"We knew going in that Arkansas would probably win the meet. But we felt like we had a chance to get second-place. I think we've had a real good season though." — A&M Track and Field Coach Charlie Thomas



A&M's Rod Richardson

The Aggies' 4 x 440 relay team, composed of junior Matt Holt, freshman Kyle Hargett, freshman Maurice Holt and sophomore Kendrick Wesley, took second behind Baylor.

A&M senior Arturo Barrios placed third in both the mile and two mile events. Barrios' two mile time of 8:46.00 was only 14 seconds off of his own school record.

Thomas said Barrios ran a good race, considering the distance. Barrios had to run a mile Friday morning to qualify in the event, and then run another mile in the afternoon against two favored Arkansas runners.

A&M senior Ethan Glass placed third in the high jump with an effort of 7-foot-1, while Francisco Oliveras placed fourth in the triple jump with a leap of 52-3 3/4.

Defending 440-yard champion Tony Grier finished fourth in that event with a time of 48.56 seconds and Rickey Alexander placed fourth in the 60-yard hurdles with a time of 7.47 seconds.

The Aggies indoor season was composed of five meets this year.

A&M attended two meets in Oklahoma City, one in Baton Rouge, one in Dallas and the SWC meet in Fort Worth Friday.

The first four meets were non-scoring meets so there were no team places. However, there were new school records set.

Barrios set a new school record for the two mile run. Freshman Chris Walker set a record in the long jump and Oliveras broke the schools' triple jump mark.

Other team members worked on

improving their own times this season.

"We had quite a few personal bests this season," Thomas said.

A&M is now looking for the NCAA indoor championships will be held during the first of March. Thomas said his team for the meet is not so-so team finish, but to have individuals do well.

"We'd like to have some make All-American," he said.

Richardson has an excellent chance at All-American status this year. He is the returning champion in the 60-yard dash.

If Richardson wins at the meet he will become the second person in A&M history to be a two-time winner of the 60-yard dash. Only person to hold the 60-yard dash title three times is A&M football star, Curtis D. Williams.

And what about next year? The Aggies will lose Richardson and Glass, which will hurt the team. But Thomas is confident that will continue to do well.

"We're looking forward to a real good recruiting year. We have a good core group of guys," he said.

That group includes Lawrence Mitchell and Tom who will try to take up the slack of Richardson graduates.

Will A&M take the SWC title this year?

"We're gonna do our best," Thomas said.

McDONALD'S®

INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

DRIVE-THRU WINDOW

At University Drive

At Texas and S.W. Parkway

At Manor East Mall

At 2930 E. Highway 21

BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING

IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES CLOSE:

HORSHOE DOUBLES - Look, Mr. Ed. We just want to borrow them for a little while. Entries close Tuesday, Feb. 19. Play begins Monday, Feb. 25. Each match consists of the best two out of three games to 15 points. Horseshoes are provided. No entry fee.

WRESTLING - Who said wrestling had to be done on Saturdays? Entries close at weigh-in on Monday, Feb. 25 at 4:30 p.m. in the Men's locker room, 173 East Kyle. Matches begin Tuesday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. NCAA rules will apply. Anyone who has wrestled for TAMU within the past two years is ineligible for this contest. No entry fee.

ENTRIES OPEN:

TABLE TENNIS DOUBLES - Two for the price of one - nothing! Entries open Mon., Feb. 18 and close Tues., Feb. 26. Play begins Mon., March 4 in 304 East Kyle. USTA Rules will be used. Matches consist of the best two out of three 21 pt. games. No entry fees.

FITNESS CLASSES AND SPORT CLINICS

The Intramural-Recreational Sports Department will be offering aerobic exercise classes and sport clinics throughout the Spring Semester. These classes are designed to meet the needs of men and women. The classes are open to all faculty, staff, students and spouses at Texas A&M who have a current ID, validated faculty ID, or recreation ID.

CLASSES		
Beginning Aerobics:	Tue. & Thur.	Noon-1:00 p.m. \$20
Beginning Aerobic:	Mon. & Wed.	5:30-6:30 p.m. \$20
Intermediate Aerobics:	Mon., Wed., Fri.	Noon-1:00 p.m. \$25
Intermediate Aerobics:	Tue., Thur., Fri.	5:30-6:30 p.m. \$25
Weigh Training:	Tue.	7:00-9:00 p.m. \$5
Racquetball:	Wed.	6:00-8:00 p.m. \$5
Golf:	Tue.	5:30-7:00 p.m. \$5

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

AEROBIC EXERCISE-class formats include stretching, warm-up, aerobic exercise, cool down and toning exercises. This is not a dance class, however the "routine" blends all types of exercises into a well-developed exercise program.

WEIGHT TRAINING-safety and use of University and Nautilus machines, setting up individualized exercise program using weight, implementing nutrition, diet and other exercise program to develop a total fitness regime.

RACQUETBALL-designed to teach novice players racquetball skills and rules in three, two hour sessions.

GOLF-emphasis on putting, chipping, short irons, and driving.

Entries close at weigh in on Monday Feb. 25 at 4:30 p.m. in the men's locker room 173 East Kyle.

MUD BALL

Please don't use the Main Drill Field, Penberthy, East Campus of Fowler Beach for Mud Ball. These fields are needed for IM games and should be kept in good shape.

FREE THROW RESULTS:

Men's Team - Jabberwocky
Women's Team - Lone Shooters
CoRec - Last Minute
Men's Indiv. - Kevin Cokinos
Women's Indiv. - Mary Schwind

INFORMATION NUMBERS:

IM-REC SPORTS OFFICE	845-7826
RAIN-OUT AND GENERAL INFORMATION	845-2625
RESERVATIONS	845-2624

Entries open Monday Feb. 18 and close Tues. Feb. 26

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored each Monday in the Battalion by your local McDonald's® Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall and Texas Avenue. Stories are written by members of the Intramural Staff, graphics by Joel Hickerson, and photos are by Tom McDonnell and Marcy Basile.