

SPORTS

Texas A&M Sportscope

No. 18 A&M baseball team heads to Houston

Coach Mark Johnson's Texas A&M baseball team (35-11, 8-4 in the Southwest Conference) takes on Rice (25-16, 3-11 in the SWC) in a three-game series this weekend in Houston. The Aggies and Owls square-off in a single game Friday at 7:35 p.m. at Cameron Field and complete the series with a double-header Saturday at 5:05 p.m.

No. 9 A&M netters embark on road trip

Coach David Kent's ninth-ranked Texas A&M men's tennis team (35-19, 3-3 in the SWC) travels to Fort Worth for a crucial match with TCU (39-24, 5-2 in the SWC) on Friday at 1:30 p.m. The Aggies then head to Lubbock Saturday for a dual match with Texas Tech (11-43, 1-5 in the SWC). A&M is currently in fifth place in the SWC standings behind TCU, Texas (5-2), Arkansas (6-2) and first place SMU (8-0).

Coach Jan Baldwin's A&M women's tennis team (29-25, 2-4 in the SWC) will stay in College Station this weekend for their final SWC matches of the season before the conference championships. The Aggies host Texas Tech Friday at the Omar Smith Tennis Center at 1:30 p.m. and Houston Saturday at 1 p.m. A&M currently holds onto sixth place in the SWC standings behind TCU (5-3), Rice (4-2), Houston (5-2), SMU (5-2) and first place Texas (8-0).

A&M golfers geared for SWC Championships

The Texas A&M men's and women's golf teams will compete in their respective Southwest Conference Championship tournaments over the weekend. Coach Bob Ellis' Aggie men's squad will travel to Lakeway, outside of Austin, for a three-round tourney, April 19-21. Coach Kitty Holley's lady Aggie golfers will stay put in College Station, beginning first-round play Sunday at the Briarcrest Country Club in Bryan and finishing Tuesday.

A&M cowboys get 4th in NIRA rodeo

By PETE HERNDON  
Sports Writer

Rodeo. The word conjures up visions of tall, lean cowboys with decorative chaps and big hats, spurs tightly strapped to fancy boots, and enough courage to place themselves on top of some of the wildest four-legged beasts this side of the Mississippi.

America's oldest native sport was featured at Texas A&M last weekend as the Aggies hosted the Texas A&M-National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association (NIRA) rodeo at Dick Freeman Equestrian Park.

A unique attraction of NIRA sanctioned events is that college students can be awarded cash prizes without affecting their college eligibility.

Cowboys and cowgirls from 11 Texas and Louisiana schools, including local favorites Texas A&M, Prairie View A&M, Sam Houston State and Blinn Junior College competed in the 10 event, three day rodeo.

The timed events included all of the roping events, barrel racing and steer wrestling while the rough-stock riding events consisted of bull riding, bareback riding and the classic saddle bronc riding.

The A&M men finished fourth overall in the team standings while individual standouts for the Aggies included Corey Priest, the winner of the men's tie-down calf roping and Nancy Brown, the winner of the barrel racing competition.

Aggies' Richardson enjoys role as 'man to beat' in SWC sprints

By CINDY GAY  
Sports Writer

At the sound of the starting gun, Rod Richardson is on his own.

One hundred meters of runners on all sides, leaning for top speed, confined by endless white lines. A finish line later, Richardson knows contentment.

Richardson, the fastest member of the Texas A&M track team, looks forward to his sprinting surge this weekend in the Baylor Invitational. The 100-meters, the 400-meter relay and 800-meter relay headline his Waco track program, but it's the days before the races and the days after that make up the primary part of Richardson's life.

"I think the most important thing, day in and day out, is just to go about my business," said Richardson, without worrying over the 10 seconds of the 100-meters, or the class paper due the following week. "I don't think school is the most important thing in my life at 22, and track certainly isn't."

"I'm strictly a short term planner," said Richardson, whose sights are set on grabbing the gold in SWC and NCAA championships in May.

He finished second in the indoor NCAA championship 55-meters behind Sam Grady of Tennessee, but side-by-side competition is Richardson's ultimate fun.

And these upcoming track meets promise plenty of that.

"I don't go into every event thinking I'm going to win it," he said.

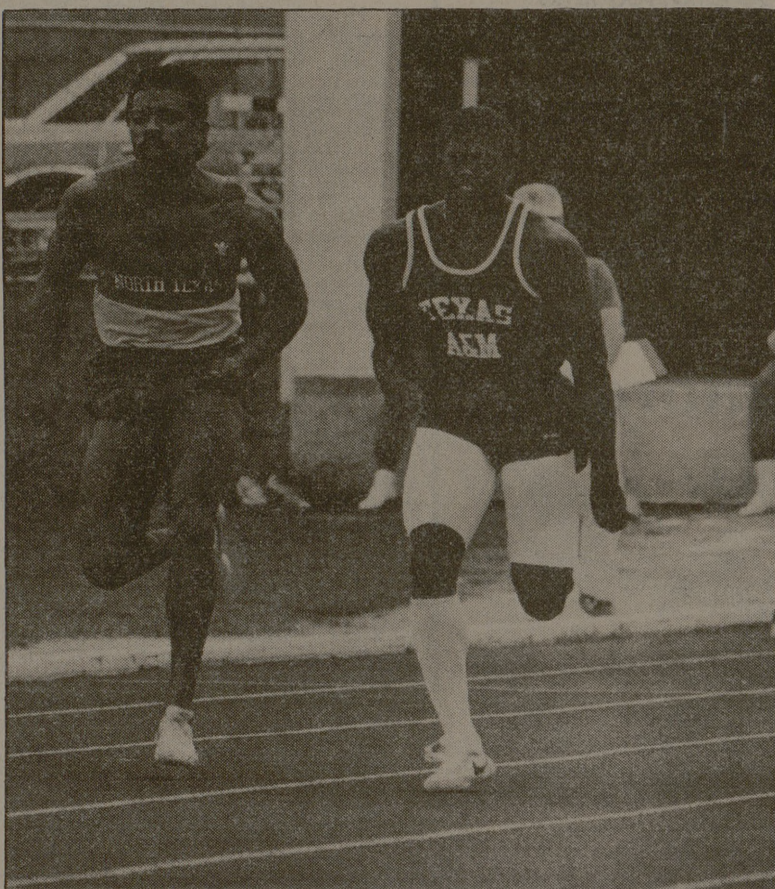
At the Texas Relays 100-meter Invitational, Houston's Kirk Baptiste, an '84 Olympic silver medalist, defeated Richardson.

"I expect to see Baptiste at the SWC championships, and we'll find out (who's faster)," he said.

But the struggle to meet others' expectations and his own has taught Richardson how to breathe a little easier about his "life in the fast lane."

"Sometimes you have to just sit back and forget (the pressure)," he said. "I've had a tendency to take track too seriously. This isn't life or death."

The threat of injuries, a coach's headache and an athlete's bad



Battalion File Photo

A&M sprinter Rod Richardson (right) — "Sometimes you have to just sit back and forget (the pressure). I've had a tendency to take track too seriously. I think the most important thing, day in and day out, is just to go about my business."

dream, has been no silent stranger in his past two years at A&M. An ankle injury that dragged on for an uncertain six months had Richardson not knowing if he'd run, or even walk again.

That caused him to reevaluate his priorities.

A few days ago, while shooting pool, Richardson celebrated a successful shot with a sudden jump from the floor, and he said it felt

even better when he remembered that not too long ago his ankle was his most fragile joint.

"I just wanted to run down the hall," he said with a smile.

Richardson's first "first" at the finish line came his way at the age of 10.

"I ran the 50-yard dash and I beat the fastest guy in fifth grade," he said. That summer the youngster was tying his track shoes at an AAU meet in New Orleans. Back home in

Shreveport, Richardson's grandmother was protesting this newfound stardom that pushed him out into the race of life.

But Richardson said he was right where he wanted to be.

"I was on my own," Richardson said.

And he's been traveling the same road ever since.

"I keep to myself," added the nationally acclaimed sprinter, who had his choice of colleges as a teenager.

A&M has been no pie in the sky for Richardson. He played football in 1982-83 and has run track four years. There were times when he needed help, and "no one was listening."

"I guess I had rainbow shades on," he said. "Being at A&M has taught me a lot about being independent."

Aggieland, however, was a bit unexpected.

"I probably went through a little culture shock," he said, adding that he came from a high school that had 80 percent black students.

Richardson said he figured he would one day work in a predominantly white atmosphere.

"I felt like, 'Will I know how to relate?'" he said. "At the time I didn't think I could."

Richardson said he switched from a business major to journalism because he decided that doing something he truly enjoyed was more important than making money.

As a high school runner, Richardson was state championship material all three years, winning first in the Louisiana AAAA state finals his senior year. Richardson became well acquainted with the back-of-the-head sensation that fingers were pointed at him from the stands and the sidelines as he warmed up for every race.

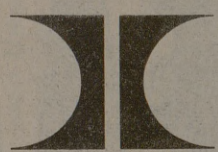
He's always been the man to beat and he likes it that way.

"I want to be able to go to the top, see what's there and see the sights," Richardson said.

So who does he run for? "As much as I hate to say it, I'm a diehard Aggie."

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The Texas Aggie Credit Union is being organized for the benefit of full time students and former students of Texas A&M University. Application has been approved by the Credit Union Department of The State of Texas for the Texas Aggie Credit Union which will have offices at 2405 Texas Avenue, Suite 100, College Station.

Graduating senior you are encouraged to become a charter member of the Texas Aggie Credit Union before they leave the Texas A&M University campus. The Texas Aggie Credit Union will be in a positive position to offer support to full time students through the Guaranteed Student Loan Program, small loans for their short term needs, and longer term loans for those seniors preparing to begin their careers. Loan applications will be available May 1, 1985.

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P.O. Box 10091  
College Station, Texas 77840-8191

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Employer or Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone A/C \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone A/C \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make application for membership in the Texas Aggie Credit Union and agree to conform to its rules, regulations, by-laws and policies as amended or adopted hereafter and subscribe for one membership share for \$20.00 which will receive no dividends and will not be insured under Share Guaranty Insurance. Enclosed is my check for \$25.00 which includes the membership share and the membership fee of \$5.00.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Deadline for Charter Membership is May 1, 1985)