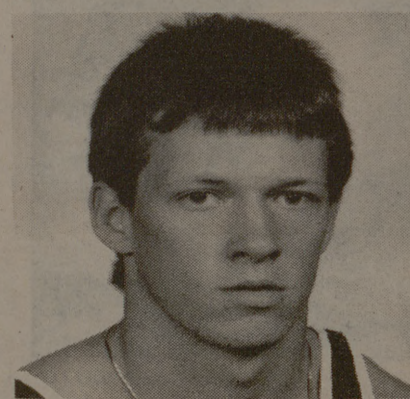


Freshman sprinter collects A&M's only first at LSU meet

By TOM TAGLIABUE
Sports Writer

This past weekend's LSU Invitational indoor track and field meet in Baton Rouge, La. was supposed to be a warm-up competition for Texas A&M. Not much was expected of the freshman-dominated squads, at least, not from Aggie freshman Matt Dunn.



Matt Dunn

Dunn, from Wimberley, won the 880-yard dash with a time of 1:52.31, and was the only Aggie to finish in first-place in the 30-team meet.

The Aggies, who sent more than 30 of their 95 team members to the meet, got second-place finishes from freshman Randy Barnes in the shot put, Kendrick Wesley in the 600 and the mile relay team of Floyd Heard, Wesley, Gary Pervis and Maurice Holt.

Barnes, who won the shot put with a throw of 61 feet, 5 3/4 inches, also qualified for the NCAA indoor nationals meet to be held March 14-15 in Oklahoma City.

A&M Assistant Track Coach Steve Silvey said the overall performance by the Aggies was close to what the coaches had expected from the team.

"They're pretty close to what they were (in the early December meets)," Silvey said. "They're going to be getting much better as the season progresses."

Silvey said the performances of Dunn, Ian James in the long jump and Huey Treat in both the two- and three-mile runs, were the real bright spots of the meet.

James was entered in his first meet in more than a year, Silvey said. He came in fifth-place with a jump of 24 feet, 6 1/2 inches.

Silvey said Treat, who was red-shirted last year, was a surprise because he is not normally a distance runner. Treat came in seventh in the three-mile run (14:26.78) and ninth in the two-mile run (9:14.46).

The Aggie women were not nearly as fortunate as the men. Their best finish was a sixth-place by Brandy Stubblefield in the high jump (5-5 3/4).

The only other women to place were Kathy Craig and Beth Drees, seventh and eighth place respectively in the two-mile run.

Silvey said the women had such a poor showing because the other teams simply out-performed the Aggies.

A&M only sent 10 of its 26 women to the meet. Most of the women who were left at home, were left because the coaches felt they could not perform on a high enough level, Silvey said.

Silvey said the women were expected to perform well in the field events, particularly the shot put, but there were just too many good throwers to compete with at the meet.

Other top performances were: 240-yard shuttle relay (4th) — Ricky Alexander, Lawrence Felton, James Humphrey and Lorenzo Welborn (29.6)

Triple jump (3rd) — Francisco Oliveares (50-10)

Long jump (7th) — Chris Walker (24-2 1/2)

440 (6th) — Holt (48.77)

60-yard dash (6th and 8th) — Stanley Kerr (6.32) and Heard (6.38).

60-yard high hurdles (6th) — Felton (7.41)

High jump (5th) — Ernie Mendez (6-9 3/4)

Majority of NFL players fail to earn degree

Associated Press

DALLAS — Nearly 60 percent of the National Football League's players who attended college failed to earn college degrees, a Dallas newspaper reported in its Sunday editions.

In a copyright story, the *Dallas Times Herald* said it had done a computer analysis of the biographical records of 1,542 veteran professional athletes on the rosters of the NFL's 28 teams at the start of 1985's training camps.

Only 41 percent of those players graduated from the colleges they attended, the *Times Herald* said. And the actual figure may even be lower, said an NFL players' representative and some collegiate officials.

Mark Murphy, a former Washington Redskins and now assistant to the executive director of the NFL Players Association, said figures he's seen actually suggest that only about 33 percent of the players graduated from college.

"I hope your figure is right, but I'm afraid the (graduation) information you're getting is when a player sits down with the team's PR department and fills out a survey," Murphy told the *Times Herald*.

"You probably have a situation where a player doesn't want them to think he hasn't graduated and so he checks off 'Graduated.'"

The newspaper's study also showed that only 33 percent of black players completed degrees, while 50 percent of white players earned degrees.

In Sunday's Super Bowl XX, the Chicago Bears have a graduation rate of about 52 percent — the fifth best in the NFL — while the New England Patriots' graduation rate is about 36 percent.

Tex Schramm, president and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys, said, "It's not real surprising to me. I know that you hear of players who say they are going back to school — and a few do. But a large number don't."

Forty-seven percent of the Cowboys are college graduates, making the Cowboys the eighth highest for graduation rates in the NFL.

The newspaper also analyzed the various college football conferences and found the worst graduation records in the Big Eight and Southeast Conference, where only 34 percent graduated.

The Ivy League had a 100-per-

cent graduation rate from the 19 NFL players it produced.

The Southwestern Athletic Conference had a 51-percent graduation rate; Southwest Conference had 42 percent; Atlantic Coast, 41 percent; and Big Ten and Pacific, both 38 percent.

The best collegiate spawning ground was at the University of Southern California, with 50 percent of its NFL players getting college degrees.

The University of Texas, with 37 former players on NFL rosters, had the third-highest number of alumni in the league with 43 percent holding degrees.

Among other Texas schools providing large numbers of players to the NFL, the percentage of graduates were 37 percent at Texas A&M; 29 percent at Baylor; and 39 percent at Southern Methodist.

Southwest Conference Commissioner Fred Jacoby viewed the NFL graduation figures with a note of caution.

"I think it's extremely difficult to make a statement whether a man is going to make a contribution to society one or two or three years after attending college," he said.

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