

Sports

Aggies look to qualify more for NCAAs at Baylor meet

By Ken Sury
Assistant Sports Editor

The track season may be starting to wind down, but Texas A&M is winding up for today's Baylor Invitational in hopes of qualifying more Aggies for the NCAA Championships in June.

A&M Head Track Coach Charlie Thomas said he's looking for solid, and hopefully NCAA-qualifying, performances from the mile (1,600-meter) relay team, Matt Dunn in the 800-meter dash and Randy Barnes in the discus.

All A&M's men's relay teams, except the mile group, have qualified for the NCAAs, and Thomas said he thinks trying to keep pace with Baylor's relay squad should be added incentive to crack the qualifying mark of 3 minutes, 5.72 seconds. Baylor owns the Southwest Conference's fastest time this season at 3:01.45.

Thomas also is changing the lineup a bit in order to help the team qualify. Kendrick Wesley will start from the blocks and Gary Pervis will run on the second leg. Thomas will also insert Floyd Heard in place of Maurice Holt, who has a sore leg. Matt Washington will anchor the team.

"With Heard's speed, I think he can outrun anyone they can put on the third leg, so we should be going into the anchor leg with Baylor even," Thomas said.

Thomas said he expects a "hot" 800-meter dash, in which Dunn has a good chance to break the qualifying mark of 1:48.11. His current best time is 1:49.33.

Randy Barnes, A&M's shot put sensation, has already qualified for the NCAAs in the shot, but will try to do the same in the discus.

Barnes owns the conference's top put this season at 69 feet, 2 1/4 inches, and Saturday at the A&M Relays threw the discus 185 feet,



Photo by Greg Bailey

A&M's Dean Stone leads the pack during the 800-meter dash at the A&M Relays Saturday. The

men's and women's track and field teams are in Waco today to compete in the Baylor Invitational.

1 1/2 inches for the SWC's current top toss.

Thomas said Barnes has been throwing the discus about 200 feet in practice this week, and if

he can remain in that range he should qualify for the NCAAs. The discus qualifying mark is 190-1 1/4.

In addition to Holt, only long

jumper Ian James will not compete in the meet. James slightly re-injured his heel as he leaped to an NCAA-qualifying 26-3 3/4 at the A&M Relays.

A&M 'pepped' up for duel with Rice

Schow: Ags can't look past Owls

By Tom Tagliabue
Sports Writer

Some people like salt, Texas A&M's Jeff Schow likes "pepper." Not pepper the seasoning, but pepper as in the game baseball players play.

Schow said he and his A&M teammates play pepper to help loosen up before a game.

"I have a tendency (before a game) to get a little bit nervous, so what we have been doing is to play a little pepper to kind of loosen ourselves up . . . kind of get a little competitive atmosphere, yet still have fun while you relax and get ready for the game," Schow said.

In pepper, one hitter stands in front of several players lined up across from him. A player flips the ball to the hitter, who taps the ball on the ground to the players, who then flip the ball around to each other to see how long they can keep it going without allowing the ball to hit the ground.

After warming up with pepper tonight, the senior left fielder and the rest of the Aggies will try to salt the tails of the Rice Owls as the teams start their Southwest Conference series at 7:30 with a single game at Olsen Field.

The No. 12 Aggies, 33-18 and in first place in the SWC at 10-2, will complete the three-game series against the last-place Owls, 28-22 and 3-12, with a double-header Saturday night at 5:30.

Schow, who is hitting .322 for the season and .333 in the SWC, said A&M shouldn't look past the Owls to next weekend's series against the second-place Texas Longhorns.

"I don't think we're feeling pressure that much," said Schow, the Aggies' left fielder. "That's one of the better things we've been doing. We've been playing the conference

games one at a time. We haven't looked forward (to our next opponent) at all. I'm personally not going to look over Rice."

Schow, a 5-foot-9 Idaho native, is one of A&M's top hitters. As the Aggies' leadoff hitter, Schow leads A&M in runs scored (50) and walks (34); and is second in batting aver-

Baseball

age, doubles (10), home runs (8) and stolen bases (11).

"I'm not a natural leadoff hitter," he admitted. "I have a tendency to strike out more than a leadoff hitter does because I have a lot more power . . ."

Statistics back up Schow's assessment.

He is second on the team with 33 strikeouts, but is also second in home runs with eight. Half of Schow's round-trippers have led off innings for the Aggies.

And in all of those games, A&M has won.

Schow said he is a shy, quiet person off the field, but at game time he becomes more outgoing and aggressive.

"I guess I'm a real competitive-type athlete," he said. "I like to be aggressive on the base paths. I like to steal bases. I'm not a guess hitter. I just look for fastballs and adjust from there."

Schow said the Aggies need no adjustments defensively, since A&M leads the SWC in fielding percentage with a .980 mark ahead of Texas Christian at .968.

The Aggies have also allowed the second fewest runs in the conference.

"I think we are a very solid defensive club," Schow said. "I don't even know if we have any weaknesses defensively — our whole infield, up the middle and everything. We've filled the question marks."

MEN'S ARROW SHIRTS

give us the shirt off your back . . . and we'll give you \$5 off any Arrow® shirt in our stock!



We'll take any old-but-clean shirt as a trade-in worth \$5 on any dress or sport shirt in our Arrow® collection. Select from our entire stock of full fit or fitted long or short sleeve styles. Sizes 14 1/2-17 1/2; 32"-35" sleeves. s-m-l-xl. Reg. \$16 to \$24. . . \$5 off with trade-in shirt now through Saturday, April 26.

Treat yourself to Arrow quality at nice savings. . . and help someone else help themselves! All shirts traded in will be donated to Goodwill Industries.