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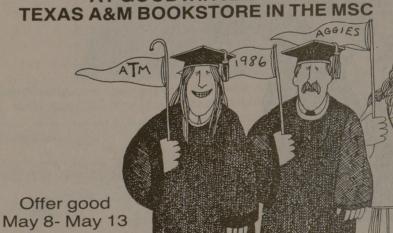
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Sports

A&M readies for SWC title meets

By Homer Jacobs Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M Head Track Coach Charlie Thomas said if all goes well, his team could leave the May 17-18 Southwest Conference Champion-ships at the Rice University track with a championship ring.

Perhaps Thomas can speak to his colleagues in football, basketball and baseball about Track everything

Although and Field Arkansas is favored to win the meet and Texas is picked to finish second, Thomas said it is almost impossible to predict the outcome of such a tal-

"Every point counts in the conference meet," Thomas said. "Five points will separate about five tea-

He added, "One bad day in one event can lose it for you.

While the A&M women's team is still nursing injuries, at least A&M can count on taking a healthy men's squad into the championships, including Randy Barnes, who owns the world's longest shot put this year at 71 feet, 9½ inches. Thomas said a shot put of 67 feet is considered to be a world-class feat.

"Randy Barnes has surpassed everybody's expectations, even his own," he added.

Barnes also has the SWC's longest discus mark in 1986 at 199-9. The West Virginian will anchor

the field events for the Aggies, while sprinters Floyd Heard and Stanley Kerr, coming off impressive performances in the 100 and 200-meter dashes at the Texas Invitational in Austin last weekend, should be the A&M stronghold on the track.

Both are looking for the magic numbers needed to qualify for the



A&M's Stanley Kerr, left, speeds to a first-place finish past teammate Archie Roberts in the 100-

meter dash earlier this year. The Aggies vi travel to the SWC Championships next weekend

NCAA meet in Indianapolis June 4-7. Heard and Kerr's best times in the 100 are off by .02 seconds. In the 200. Heard has already qualified and Kerr was .02 off the mark last

Even though A&M has two of the top five freshmen sprinters in the nation, the other three also matric-

ulate in the SWC, including world-class sprinter Roy Martin of SMU. The Aggies also are represented well in the 400 intermediate hurdles with Craig Calk owning the confer-ence's third-best time of the year at 50.58. Calk will face NCAA champion Sven Nylander of SMU at the

member Thomas expects in solid meet. Thomas said should approach the 7.8 though his top jump this said though his said thoug Thomas said Arkansasistin

See SWC Track, page his sixth

Kenny Burke is anot

Aggies can say 'Thanks Longhorns'

Charean Williams

Sports Viewpoint

'Hello, Texas (Longhorns), sure is good to see

Following Texas' collapse on the last weekend of the Southwest Conference baseball race, at least four Texas A&M teams probably wish to send a great big thank you card (or sympathy flowers) to those 'Horns in Austin.

It was the Longhorns who in some way con

tributed to the Aggies' four SWC titles. Historically, Texas alumni could count on a few Southwest Conference championships. The Longhorns were proven winners.

But times have changed.

The Texas exes now have to be scratching their heads wondering what went wrong during the 1985-86 season.

Although UT did win the volleyball and women's basketball crowns outright and shared the men's basketball and baseball titles, it was the near misses and the scandals that left the 'Horns with more than a slight case of indigestion.

The SWC football championship came down

The 'Horns owned a 63-23 series advantage over the Aggies. And since A&M hadn't been to the Cotton Bowl since 1968, the index and pinky finger seemed to be pointed in the direction of

But the Aggies broke tradition and drilled the Longhorns 42-10 for the title

Then basketball followed.

Texas appeared to be wearing the crown atop its head as the season drew to a close. But the Horns fell to TCU 55-54. Then in last game of the conference schedule, the Longhorns were upset by then-lightly regarded Texas Tech 63-62.

So instead of being king of the mountain, Texas had to split its "lion's share" with A&M

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In women's tennis, the 'Horns had a one-match lead over A&M (50-49) going into the SWC Tennis Championships in Corpus Christi two weeks ago.

But the Longhorns choked again, losing six

second-round matches in the tourney which helped put the ring to Bobby Kleinecke's Aggies. Baseball presented almost the same scenario as basketball. The nationally ranked Longhorns won three straight from the Aggies on the next-

to-last series to climb the ladder to the top. But last weekend, UT fell to fifth-place Hous-

ton in the last two games of their three-game series to fall a rung and tie with A&M.

Somewhere, Bevo is tucking his head under his tail. The 'Horns just aren't used to sharing

But times have changed and so have tradi-

The Philadelphia Experiment

Philadelphia has become A&M's home away

The NFL's Eagles, who reside in Philly, have

begun a tradition of drafting Aggies. Similar to the Pittsburgh Steeler-Baylor Bear connection, the Aggie-Eagle version began when Philadelphia selected A&M's All-America kicker Eric Franklin in the '79 draft.

Although Franklin was traded to New England before the start of the '84 season, the Ea-gles added center Mark Dennard to their roster. Dennard, who starred for the Ags from '75-77, started for the Eagles for two seasons after

arriving from Miami. Before the recent NFL draft, Philadelphia cut Dennard, and he resigned with the Dolphins. In the '85 draft, the Eagles took A&M offensive lineman Ken Reeves who not only made the

team, but made the starting lineup. After last season was already underway, the

Apparently liking the Aggie athlete Philly draft was shaded even more man New Eagle Coach Buddy Ryan call Anthony Toney "his personal choice lected the running back in the second

Chargers.

Eagles traded to get running back Earns (son from San Diego.

Jackson played for the Aggies from 7 fore going on to earn All-AFC honors.

the draft. Surprising, since their choice was Ohio State running back K The Eagles followed in the fourt taking Aggie center Matt Darwin, w his college career in '84 and was draf

las but never signed.

Thanks for the mem

doesn't seem like this could be the end. But this will be my last story dip in before I graduate and take my show on the Unfortunately, there are so many porthank that it is impossible to thank even

e rad

Mille

But thanks are in order to all the All Greg M ers, coaches and media people I worked "I ca interviewed while with the paper friendships and memories made along hand o

will last forever Thanks for always having somethin night in even following the tough losses (which NHLS) and far between this year). You made

But most of all, thanks to everyone the

read something I wrote.
Without readers, it would be like with

ary to myself. I can only hope my future them bo

will be as great as you have been.

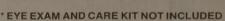
With the winning tradition having by year, it makes it even harder to leave. By at the teams and future Batt staffs, look at the teams are the teams and future Batt staffs, look at the teams are the teams at the teams at the teams are the teams at the tea best of luck to you. I will be watching!

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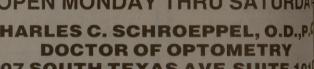
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