

Wednesday, September 20, 1989

# Aggie cross country teams run strong in opening meets

By Richard Tijerina

The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M men's and women's cross country teams placed second and third respectively in separate meets Monday, but the biggest news may have been the performance of sophomore Melissa Weaver.

"I was particularly pleased with the whole team effort. We came in as a very untested bunch and performed well."

— Ed Marcinkiewicz,  
Women's cross country coach

The 5000 meter race with a time of 28:00, but more importantly, it was the first time that an A&M woman has beaten all of the Texas runners in a major cross country competition. Included in Monday's field was

last year's junior college champion in cross country, Texas' Tina Hall. She placed third in the event with a time of 18:13.

"I was particularly pleased with the whole team's effort," A&M women's coach Ed Marcinkiewicz said. "We came in as a very untested bunch and performed well. Melissa's finish was a big boost to our program."

The A&M women posted a team score of 63 in the Baylor Invitational.

nal. Texas (28 points) and Baylor (40) finished ahead of them. The individual winner of the Baylor meet was All-American Lisa Stone of Baylor, who ran a time of 17:42. The A&M women placed three

competitors in the top 12. Joining Weaver, who finished second, were sophomore Connie Hand, who finished 10th with a time of 20:06, and freshman Wren Eversberg, who finished 12th with a time of 20:14.

Six teams competed in the event. A&M finished ahead of Southwest Conference schools Texas Christian, Southern Methodist and the Baylor B team.

The Aggie men finished second in the Sam Houston State Invitational meet. Blinn Junior College won the meet with a score of 29. A&M had 60 points.

The A&M men were led by Ralph Meyer, who finished third with a time of 25:07. The individual champion was Blinn's Micah Boinett, who finished with a time of 24:44.

Other A&M finishers in the top 12 included Scott Garver, who came in 11th with a time of 25:51 and Ross Stooksberry, who came in 12th with a time of 26:00.

The A&M men's next meet is Sept. 30 at the SMU Invitational.

# 'Cool Hand' Romo skirts danger SMU quarterback guides team to surprise win

DALLAS (AP) — Mike Romo triggered the chaos then retreated to the sidelines to enjoy history.

The first thing the poised freshman quarterback from San Antonio did was to look around for flags after he flipped the game-winning five-yard touch-down pass to Mike Bowen on Saturday night with 0:00 on the clock.

The second thing he did was get the heck out of the way.

"I didn't want to get trampled," said cool-hand Romo. "I saw everybody pouring out of the stands and I thought I'd get to the sidelines and watch. I figured I could hug people and shake hands later. I just wanted to watch. Poor Bowen. He said he thought he died."

Bowen was caught at the bottom of a massive pile-up of players and fans celebrating Southern Methodist's return from the football dead with a 31-30 victory over Connecticut.

Romo's performance earned him The Associated Press Southwest Conference Offensive Player of the Week award. Of course, it was the first for SMU in three years because the Mustangs missed two seasons due to NCAA probation ills.

The defensive award went to Texas Tech's Charles Perry, a senior defensive tackle from Iowa Park who was instrumental in preserving the Red Raiders' 27-20 victory over New Mexico.

Perry tackled Dion Morrow for a three-yard loss

on fourth down at the Raiders' goal late in the game. Besides the game-saving tackle, Perry caused a fumble, had two quarterback sacks, and made seven other tackles.

"Perry is really causing havoc in the interior," said defensive line coach Dean Slayton. "He played great against Arizona and came right back with another good game. He's consistent."

Romo was a highly sought quarterback at San Antonio Roosevelt until he tore a knee the sixth game of his senior season.

"It's ironic, I already had my dorm reservations at Texas," Romo said. "They had been real high on me then they backed off. Rice and North Texas were interested. That was about it until SMU called."

"My brother, Adam, and my sister-in-law went to Texas. I had deep roots there. That will all change." Like on Saturday.

Romo plays against the team that dropped him when the Longhorns come calling in a noon game at Ownby Stadium.

Romo hit 34 of 64 passes for 371 yards and two touchdowns against Connecticut. He was 14 of 26 for 160 yards in the final period when SMU rallied from a 30-14 deficit.

"Mike showed a lot of poise on that final drive," said SMU coach Forrest Gregg. "He got people lined up and made 'em get back to the line of scrimmage. I was holding my breath."

# NFL should try playing the drafting game, not the greed game

Oakland Raid. . . I mean Los Angeles Raiders' owner Al Davis must have been one of those spoiled, only children.

You know the type. "It's my football," he'd probably say, "and if I can't be Bart Starr then I'm taking it and going home!"

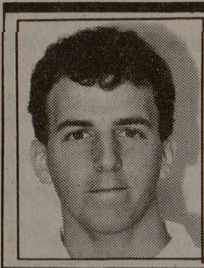
That same kind of childish attitude exists today, not only in Davis' character but throughout the NFL.

It seems that greed is the word of the decade in the NFL. Every day, sports fans are bombarded with stories of holdouts, quarterbacks screaming for more money and threats by owners to move their team.

Rookies are holding out for salaries in the millions.

Troy Aikman and Steve Walsh, both Dallas Cowboys quarterbacks, signed multi-million dollar contracts resting only on the laurels of their collegiate play.

This in turn sparks veterans to scream



**Clay Rassmussen**  
Sports Writer

Even NFL team owners are guilty of avarice.

Jerry Bidwell, owner of the Phoenix Cardinals made good on his threat to the people of St. Louis a few years back.

Bidwell, tired of poor attendance from the St. Louis fans, told Busch Stadium owners that if he didn't receive more money, he would move his team when his lease was up.

And who can forget Al Davis' plight to move the Oakland Raiders to Los Angeles?

Week after week, Davis and NFL Commissioner Pete Roselle threatened each other and lobbied for support from other NFL owners.

The whole issue finally ended up in court. You know how that story ended.

Well, Davis still isn't happy.

The Raiders have had a tough time in the 1980s. Like the Dallas Cowboys, Miami Dolphins and Pittsburgh Steelers, the Raiders are victims of the NFL draft.

Enjoying years as the dominant force in the AFC West, the Raiders were forced to draft low. The lack of top draft picks finally caught up with them as their performance throughout the late 1980s has been less than that of the Raiders the Oakland fans knew and loved during the 1970s.

Who wants to pay \$25 to see their team be humiliated week after week? The Los Angeles fans don't.

So what's the next logical step for an owner of a struggling team?

Davis seems to think that next step is to move the team again. Two possibilities are Sacramento or Oakland.

The Oakland Raiders? That sounds familiar.

Both cities are lobbying the Raiders organization and throwing around figures that would make Donald Trump blush.

Is Davis setting a dangerous precedent? NFL team owners must be prevented

from moving their team from city to city just to try and boost ticket sales. A team will soon lose its identity after one or two moves.

How long did it take you to stop calling the LA Raiders the Oakland Raiders? I'm still doing it today.

The only remedy for boosting ticket sales of teams that are doing poorly is to do what the Chicago Bears did and what the Dallas Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers are doing now.

Be patient and use the draft to your advantage. Build your team into a powerhouse and wait.

If you use the Al Davis method of ticket boosting, your team will soon lose its identity. . . just like the Oakland. . . I mean the Sacramento. . . I mean the Los Angeles Raiders.

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