

A&M track team blows competition away

Home field advantage gives Aggs the edge

By NADJA SABAWALA
Of The Battalion Staff

It was a cold and blustery day, and with the wind at their heels and a home field advantage at its backs, the Texas A&M track and field team blew the competition away.

Despite the loss of some top performers, A&M's men's team received four first, five second and four third place finishes in the 21st Annual College Station Relays held Friday and Saturday at A&M's Frank G. Anderson Track and Field Complex.

Senior hurdler Richard Bucknor qualified for the NCAA Outdoor Championship with a time of 13.69 seconds in the 110-meter hurdles. Bucknor's winning time tied the school and meet record.

Junior Greg Williams placed second after Bucknor, just .21 seconds off.

A&M sprint and relay coach Ted Nelson said he was pleased with the way Bucknor ran.

The 400-meter relay team placed first with a time of 39.67 — only .02 short of NCAA qualifying time.

Head coach Charlie Thomas was wary of the relay team's performance after Howard Davis had broken his foot in the NCAA Indoor Championship two weeks ago and was unable to compete.



Photo by Jay Janner

A&M's Vernell Dunn won the shot put competition Saturday, and the Aggies won the meet.

Bucknor, senior Derrick Florence and juniors Andre Cason and Steve Lofton pulled together despite a poor exchange of the baton from

Bucknor to Florence. Junior distance runner Ralph Meyer pulled in a couple of first place wins in the 1,500 (3:57.62) and

800 meter (1:55.27) runs. In the high jump, junior Wally Reid took first place with a jump of 6-9 3/4 while junior Mike Howell

and senior David Koenig placed third and fourth.

A&M proved strong in the both discus and shot put despite the absence of junior Mike Stulce. Ranked fifth in the world by Track & Field News magazine, Stulce missed competition because of an injury suffered in the NCAA Indoor Championships.

Henrik Ramstad, a freshman from Oslo, Norway, received second place in the discus with a throw of 187-4 3/4 while junior Steve Collier placed second in the shotput, throwing 56-6 1/2. Collier was a JUCO All-American and finished second at the national meet last spring.

In the pole vault, senior Greg West, who set an A&M record in 1988 with a height of 18-3 1/4, placed second with a vault of 17-4 3/4 followed by sophomore Danny Signorelli at 16-7.

Defending NCAA champion Louisiana State, predicted to compete with A&M for top honors, reportedly left its top competitors out to rest for their home meet next week. This was reflected by their poor showing, only receiving a first place in the long jump.

The A&M women won a share of prizes at the relays, receiving three first, seven second and three third place marks.

Senior Vernell Dunn took first place in the shot put and second in discus, throwing 46-6 3/4 and 137-9 3/4, respectively.

Junior Connie Hand ran a hand-timed 18:09.3 5,000-meter run to take first.

Sophomore Kasandra McDaniel and junior Rosalynn Hunt took first and second in the 200-meter dash with times of 24.6 and 24.8.

Mavs squeak past Pistons in overtime

DALLAS (AP) — Herb Williams stole the ball from Detroit's Thomas and fed Derek Harper's layup with eight seconds remaining in overtime, capping a rally that gave the Mavericks an 98-96 victory over the Pistons on Sunday night.

The setback was the third straight for the defending NBA champion, matching their longest losing streak of the season. The Pistons had previously won 25 of 26 games.

The Houston Rockets beat the last Thursday.

Dallas trailed by six points in overtime but Harper hit a 3-point shot with 16 seconds left to tie the score. Williams stole the ball from Thomas on Detroit's next possession and passed to a wide-open Harper.

Thomas' desperation shot at the buzzer fell short and Dallas stretched its winning streak to 11 straight.

Rolando Blackman led Dallas with 23 points and Harper added 22. Thomas scored 22 points for Detroit.

Bill Laimbeer's two free throws got the Pistons off to an 84-82 lead in the overtime period. Laimbeer added an 18-foot jumper and Thomas hit a 15-footer to give the Pistons a 92-86 lead with 2:02 to play.

The Mavericks charged back on Brad Davis' 3-pointer with 30 seconds remaining and, after another free throw by Bill Laimbeer, Harper's 3-pointer tied the game.

Harper's basket with 24 seconds left in regulation pulled Dallas into an 82-82 tie. Thomas' shot from 15 feet fell short at the buzzer.

Detroit led by nine points early in the fourth quarter before Dallas went on an 11-2 run capped by Harper's 3-pointer with 3:30 to go for a 76-76 tie. The Pistons led 80-77 on Thomas' jumper and Laimbeer's two free throws but Dallas tied again on Harper's free throw and Blackman's layup with 1:07 remaining.

It was Mark Aguirre's first appearance in Dallas with the Pistons. Aguirre, the Mavericks' all-time leading scorer who was traded to the Pistons on Feb. 15, 1989, for Adrian Dantley, scored 14 points.

Aguirre was booed heavily when the Pistons were introduced before the game. Each time Aguirre touched the ball he was booed and the fans cheered every foul and turnover he committed.

Reliever House settles in perfect home with Rangers

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. (AP) — Jeff Russell has just what Texas Rangers pitching coach Tom House looks for in a stopper — a short memory and a mean disposition.

"My whole objective last year was to stay aggressive," Russell said. "You go in there with a don't give-a-damn attitude. You're the man in control and it's those hitters in trouble and not you."

Russell's approach in his first year as the Rangers' stopper paid off. He led the American League with 38 saves and was second in the major

leagues to San Diego's Mark Davis.

Even after a rare failure, Russell wasn't bothered his next time out.

"I've got a good short memory," Russell said. "I just go back and try to throw strikes and stay aggressive. If you do that, nine times out of 10 you'll be successful."

Russell, an All-Star the past two seasons, filled a gap in the Rangers' starting rotation in May, 1988 and went 6-0 with a 2.17 earned run average in his first seven starts. When the 1989 season began, the Rangers had a need for a stopper and Russell

got the call.

In his first eight appearances he pitched 10 2-3 scoreless innings. He had an 0.47 ERA and one earned run over his first 18 games.

Russell finished the season with a 1.98 ERA, second best in club history and held opposing batters to a .182 average, second lowest in the league to Oakland's Dennis Eckersley.

"He's a special pitcher, he's been an All-Star as a starter and reliever, back to back," House said. "It's nice to know you've got him and that 95

miles per hour fast ball to put in there when you need it."

The conversion from starter to reliever was no problem for Russell.

"He's been a closet reliever his whole life even though he was a starting pitcher," House said. "Some guys have a mindset that they are starters. He had a mindset that he was a pitcher. 'I'll pitch where you want me' is the attitude he has."

Russell led the AL with a save percentage of 86.4. Eckersley was second with 84.6 percent. After one season as a reliever, Russell thinks he

already compares favorably with the A's reliever.

"I throw probably harder than he does and I've got a better breaking ball but my control isn't as good as his," Russell said.

Russell never expected to be sitting at spring training, talking about leading the league in saves.

"In my wildest dreams, I'd have been happy with 20 or 25 saves," Russell said. "I won't be setting any goals for this year though. My only goal is to stay aggressive and keep throwing strikes."

AggieCon XXI

March 29-April 1, 1990

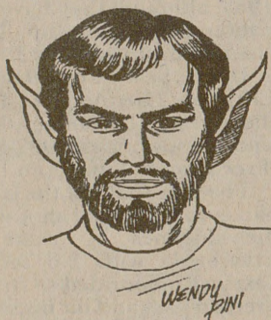


Walter Koenig
"Chekov" of *Star Trek*
author of *Chekov's Enterprise*
and *Buck Alice and the Actor Robot*

Spider and Jeanne Robinson
authors of *Stardance*



Richard Pini
editor and co-author of *Elfquest*



At the door
Student \$13.00
Non-Student \$16.00
Children \$6.00

Ticket Information
One Day Passes
\$7.00
\$9.00
\$3.00
Special Events
LazerTag \$1.00/game
Quest \$5.00
Movies \$2.00/show

Under 4 yrs. free!
Available at the MSC Box Office

Workers' Meetings: March 27 8:30 PM Rudder 510



For more information contact:
AggieCon XXI
TAMU
Box J-1 MSC
College Station, TX. 77844
(409) 845-1515

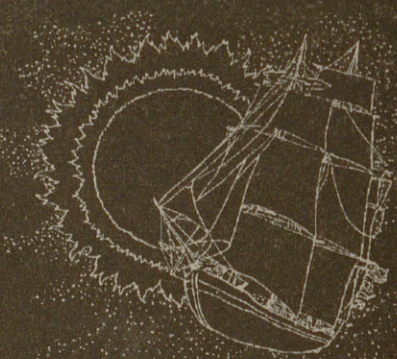


This is precisely the sort of thing no one ever believes.

—Baron Munchausen



Robocop



Masquerade Ball

Gaming

LazerTag



Buckaroo Banzai

Party Room



Rocky Horror

Video Room

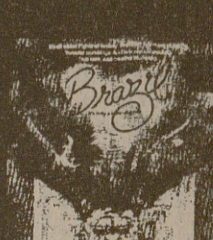
AD&D

Elvis Sightings



Clockwork Orange

Quest



Brazil