

# 1991 College Station Relays

## Aggies reload with youth

By Chris Whitley  
The Battalion

Texas A&M mens' track and field coach Ted Nelson does not like to refer to this season as a rebuilding year.

He prefers to call it a "reloading" year.

"We don't have many seniors, but we have a lot of freshmen who are good athletes," Nelson said. "We're reloading with good, young athletes."

"It's just going to take them a while to get the experience and the confidence they need to compete with the really good athletes around the nation."

Accompanying this new wave of athletes is a new man at the helm.

Nelson, after 24 years as an assistant, was named head coach in September replacing Charlie Thomas, who amassed five Southwest Conference team championships in his 32-year tenure.

Nelson will take over a team that has lost five All-Americans who combined for nine national championships. Two of them, Howard Davis and Richard Bucknor, even made Jamaica's Olympic team.

Still, Nelson thinks his newcomers have the potential to match that.

"They can't replace the seniors we lost that were national-caliber



KYLE IVY/The Battalion

Ricky Barker makes one of his jumps during the long jump portion of the decathlon during the first day of the College Station Relays. Barker, who finished third at last year's NCAA decathlon, is the favorite to win the event.

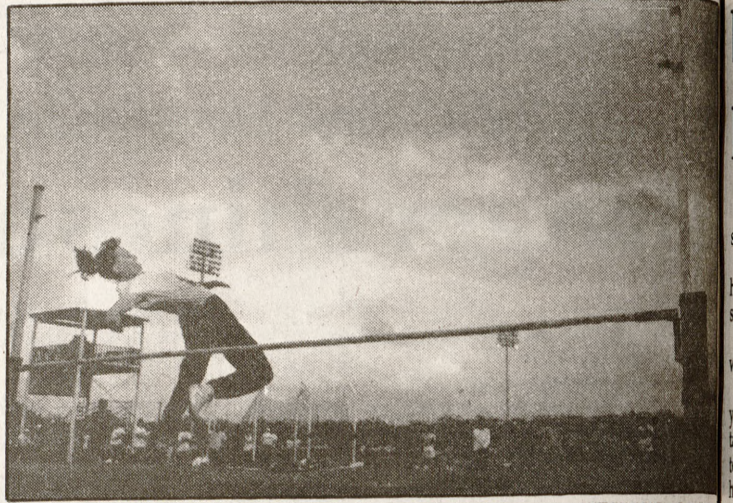
people," Nelson said, "but we think in a couple of years, they'll be on the same level as those athletes were."

Nelson's first test at home will come Saturday as the Aggies host the 18th annual College Station Relays at the Anderson Track and Field Complex.

There, in front of many of the state's top track programs, he will show off his crew of young talent.

Ricky Barker, a junior All-American, returns this season after finishing third in the decathlon at the NCAA Championship

See Field/Page 9



KEVIN IVY/The Battalion

Kalleen Madden practices her high jump Thursday afternoon in preparation for that portion of the heptathlon during the first day of the College Station Relays.

## Lady Aggie track team poised for greatness

By Michelle Bergeron  
The Battalion

Despite a line-up of young athletes, the Texas A&M women's track program is on the verge of producing its best team ever this year.

The Lady Aggies are in position to move into the upper division of the Southwest Conference, with strength in returning jumpers and recruiting success in the field events.

"We're probably going to have the best national women's team here at A&M this year that we've ever had," Head Coach Ted Nelson said.

"We have a lot of inexperience, but we also have some athletes with excellent ability. If they develop the way they should, we will have our strongest team ever."

The women's roster is ready for this weekend's 18th annual College Station Relays, which will be held at Anderson Track and Field Complex.

Texas, Arkansas and defending SWC champion Houston are

favored to win the SWC championship, but Nelson feels the Lady Aggies could surprise everyone.

This is a far cry from where the Lady Aggie track team stood five years ago. The men and women tracksters consolidated under one coach in 1986, as a result of the resignation of the women's coach that year.

Coach Nelson said he has seen tremendous improvement in the women's program since that merger. At the time it was made he was first assistant under previous head coach Charlie Thomas.

"They were last place in the conference for two years in a row when we took over," Nelson said.

During those two years, the Lady Aggies scored zero points in the conference meet.

"The first year we had the program, they scored 37 points in the conference meet," he said. "Then we scored 58 the second year, and 97 the third."

Nelson added that he has been pleased with the gradual,

See Lady Ags/Page 9

## Razorbacks dominate Alabama, make second straight Elite Eight

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Lee Touchberry found his shooting touch in the second half, scoring 15 of his 16 points as top-seeded Arkansas broke open a close game and routed Alabama 93-70 Thursday night in the semifinals of the NCAA Southeast Regional.

Arkansas (34-3) will play the Indiana-Kansas winner on Saturday, with the winner going to the Final Four at Indianapolis.

The loss continued Alabama's frustration in the regional semifinals. The Crimson Tide (23-10) has reached the final 16 five times in the last six years, and lost every time.

Mayberry, who was 0-for-4 from the field in the first half, scored seven of Arkansas' first nine points in the second half as the Razorbacks increased their three-point halftime lead to 49-43.

Alabama closed to 49-47 on two free throws by Robert Horry after the Arkansas bench was hit with a technical foul, but that was as close as the Tide would get.



A 7-1 Arkansas run that took only 43 seconds opened up a 56-48 lead. A basket by Horry made it 57-52, but Arkansas then scored nine straight points, including a 3-pointer by Mayberry and a steal and dunk by Ron Hurey. Arkansas led 66-52 with 11:09 remaining, and the Tide was finished.

Todd Day led Arkansas with 31 points. Oliver Miller, played by foul trouble in the first half, finished with 15 points.

Arkansas' pressure defense forced the Crimson Tide into mistakes that opened the way for the Razorbacks' decisive run. Things got so bad that Horry, trying to play despite a pulled groin, missed a follow-up dunk late in the second half.

The 23-point loss matched Alabama's worst defeat of the season.

James Robinson, whose practice time was limited by a bad left knee, scored 21 points for Alabama. Horry had 18 and Melvin Cheatum 13 for the Tide.

Arkansas, a long-time member of the Southwest Conference, will join the Southeastern Conference next season, where the Razorbacks will compete regularly against Alabama.

## Spurs upset by Orlando

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Orlando's lineup put Orlando ahead for good and Jerry Reynolds added two free throws and blocked Sean Elliott's 3-point shot in the final 10 seconds Thursday night to help the Magic hold off the San Antonio Spurs for a 105-103 victory.

The win stopped a four-game losing streak for Orlando, which led by 11 points before San Antonio made up the deficit with a 19-8 spurt in the last five minutes of the third quarter. The loss was the third in four games for the Spurs, who are challenging Utah for first place in the Midwest Division despite losing nine of their last 12 road games.

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