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Individual performances outshine fifth-place finish for A&M's women's track team at SWC tournament

By Stewart Doreen
 The Battalion

HOUSTON — The Texas A&M women's track and field teams came into the Southwest Conference Championship meet a young team and looking to rebuild for the future.

Their quality performances overshadowed the fifth-place finish behind the champion University of Texas and leaves the team looking good for future years.

All-American Anjanette Kirkland led the Aggies with her slim victory in the women's 100-hurdles. The sophomore's provisionally qualifying time of 13.44, a SWC meet record, was identical to Dawn Burrell of the University of Houston, but a photo-finish proved Kirkland the champion.

"Anjanette Kirkland is a champion," Assistant Coach Abe Brown said. "Elite athletes find a way to win. She's got a nose for the finish line."

Kirkland, who won the indoor title in the 55-meter hurdles this spring, said she only ran an average race, but she is looking forward to the NCAA Championships

to be held in Boise, Idaho on June 1 through 4.

"I didn't run my best race," Kirkland said. "As I relaxed at the beginning, they came up beside me, and I kicked it in."

Senior Rosa Baker, who qualified for the 1992 Olympic trials and holder of the SWC record with a time of 13.28, is coming back after sitting out a year and ran 13.57 which provisionally qualifies her for the NCAA meet.

In the women's javelin, sophomore Michelle Stirrett automatically qualified for the NCAA's with a toss 171 feet.

Stirrett set another A&M record in the javelin while placing second in the meet behind Rice's Valerie Tulloch.

Stirrett's throw places her second behind Tulloch in the national

standings.

Senior Amy Davis finished third in the javelin with a toss of 155-04. The former record holder provisionally qualified for the NCAA meet.

"Elite athletes find a way to win. She (Anjanette Kirkland) got a nose for the finish line."

— Abe Brown
 assistant track coach

Juan De La Garza said. "They were excited and ready to qualify and they did."

The Aggies continued their long tradition of dominance in the women's high jump when they took six of the top seven spots in the event.

Junior Jackie Newberry captured her SWC crown jumping 5'-7" to beat out SWC Indoor Champion, Katrina Harris.

Junior Debbie Beirman, senior

Stacy Stuart, freshman Teri Ford, freshman Laura Keahey, and freshman Keisha Leatherman finished third through seventh respectively.

"We've always been strong in the high jump," said Kalleen Madala, former A&M heptathlon star who serves as an assistant. "I was very proud of how they performed as a whole."

Other notable performances turned in by the lady Aggies included:

*Dana Cunningham's fourth place finish in the women's 400 meters.

*Donyale Canada, another All-two-sport star who you can also find on the Lady Aggies basketball team, placed fifth in the women's long jump with a leap of 18-1 and 1/2.

*Tamara Coburn placed fifth in the women's triple jump with a mark of 37-10 and 3/4.

*Keisha Leatherman and Laura Keahey finished fifth and sixth in the women's heptathlon.

A&M's Charlotta Randle, one of the SWC's top heptathletes, had a pull out of the competition on Sunday.

Aggies hope to clean up against Sam Houston St.



Paul Barber slides safely into second during the second game of A&M's series against the University of Tulsa.

By Jose de Jesus Ortiz
 The Battalion

After dropping a game against Baylor over the weekend, Texas A&M baseball saw post-season chances disappear, but do not expect the Aggies to begin preparing for next year.

While many teams simply try to finish out the season by starting to prepare for next season, the Aggies will follow a different route when they face Sam Houston State at Olsen Field tonight at 7.

"We are not looking to put in all the freshman to give them experience," head coach Mark Johnson said. "We are going to play to win the ballgame."

"We always want to win and represent the school well."

The Aggies (30-19) and the Bearkats (25-12) split their last two games this season, both teams winning at home.

Johnson said, however, that he expects to have four or five pitchers see action because of the non-conference game. The Aggies will have their normal lineup on the field, Johnson said.

Moreover, the Bearkats are still in the running for the Southland Conference title, and Johnson said he expects them to give the Aggies a good contest.

"I expect them to be very good against us," Johnson said. "They are a very good team."

Astros pound Pirates, 7-3 Rangers' game rained out

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Andy Stankiewicz hit a three-run homer and Craig Biggio connected for a two-run shot Monday night, leading Pete Harnisch and Houston past Pittsburgh, 7-3.

Harnisch (1-2) gave up six hits in his first complete game of the season.

He struck out eight and walked three in the 15th complete game of his career.

Denny Neagle (1-3) struck out a career-high eight in six innings. He allowed four earned runs on four hits.

Stankiewicz hit his first home run since June 27, 1992, while with the New York Yankees. His home run capped a four-run second inning.

The Astros scored three times in the eighth. Biggio homered and Ken Caminiti had an RBI double.

ARLINGTON — The game between the Detroit Tigers and Texas Rangers scheduled for Monday night was postponed because of rain.

The game never got started because of the bad weather.

The game will be made up on Friday as part of a two-night doubleheader starting at 6:35 p.m.

The rainout postponed the return of Rangers right fielder Ozzie McDowell, listed in the starting lineup after being recalled from Triple-A Oklahoma City earlier in the day.

McDowell was to make his major league appearance since Oct. 2, 1990, for the Atlanta Braves. He hit .266 for the Rangers in 1986 with 33 stolen bases. McDowell was the No. 1 pick of the Rangers in the 1984 draft.

The Rangers waived outfielder Rob Ducey and optioned left fielder James Hurst.

Tennis
 Continued from Page 9

in Saturday's semifinals.

The Aggies swept the doubles and followed with a 4-1 trouncing in the singles.

Senior Mark Weaver led the Aggies on Saturday with a convincing 6-4, 6-2 victory over Tech's Juan Gutierrez and also had a 8-2 doubles victory with his partner Bernardo Martinez.

The team finished the season with a 22-3 record, the best season in school history.

"I'm so proud of the way things have gone for this team," Kent said. "We're 22-3 and the season isn't over yet. We're still in a good position to make the NCAA's. Now we have to start focusing on the regional tournament."

NCAA Southwest Regional Championships will begin May 13 where the Aggies can win an automatic berth.

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