

## 2 MUCH IS NOT ENOUGH

*As an acrobatic power forward in the winter and a high-flying long jumper in the spring, junior Gary Nottingham leads a quintet of Aggie athletes who compete in two sports*

By Lisa Nance  
THE BATTALION

For most students at Texas A&M, time management means being able to juggle a full course load with an active social life. However, for junior Gary Nottingham, time management means exactly that: efficient management of his time.

What little time he has, that is. With a full course load of sociology classes, Nottingham has mastered the art of juggling academics with athletics. But it's still not that easy, for not only does Nottingham represent A&M as a forward on the Aggie Basketball Team, he also represents the maroon and white on the track.

Despite his lack of free time, Nottingham said he does not really have a hard time juggling the two sports.

"It's not difficult," he said. "Because there are certain times when I practice basketball and certain times when I'm at the track."

It's split. Basketball practice is at night and track is during the day.

While most students find that something usually suffers when trying to juggle more than one activity at a time, Head Track Coach Ted Nelson said that he has not seen that problem with Nottingham.

"He doesn't have a problem juggling the two," Nelson said. "He's been through with basketball for a while. It's not like the football players, where they have spring training, so we really haven't seen a lapse."

Nelson said that although Nottingham's joining practices late — after the end of basketball season — has put

him behind a little bit, he still expects Nottingham to put some points on the board for the team.

"His coming in after basketball puts him a little behind, but we expect that he'll have no problem showing up for us," Nelson said. "He did come out late so as far as him bringing his work ethic to the track team; we haven't had him long enough to see that but I'm sure we will. He has the potential to score in the high jump and the triple jump in the Southwest Conference Championships. Those will be needed points that we might get."

Taking a look at his track results makes it obvious why Nottingham has indeed shown up for the Aggies.

In fact, he is doing quite well for the team. He posted his best high jump of the year April 13 at the Texas A&M Invitational, with a jump of 6 feet 3/4 inches to finish fifth in the meet.

He also posted a second place finish jump of 6 feet 4 inches at the Texas A&M-University of Texas dual meet on March 30.

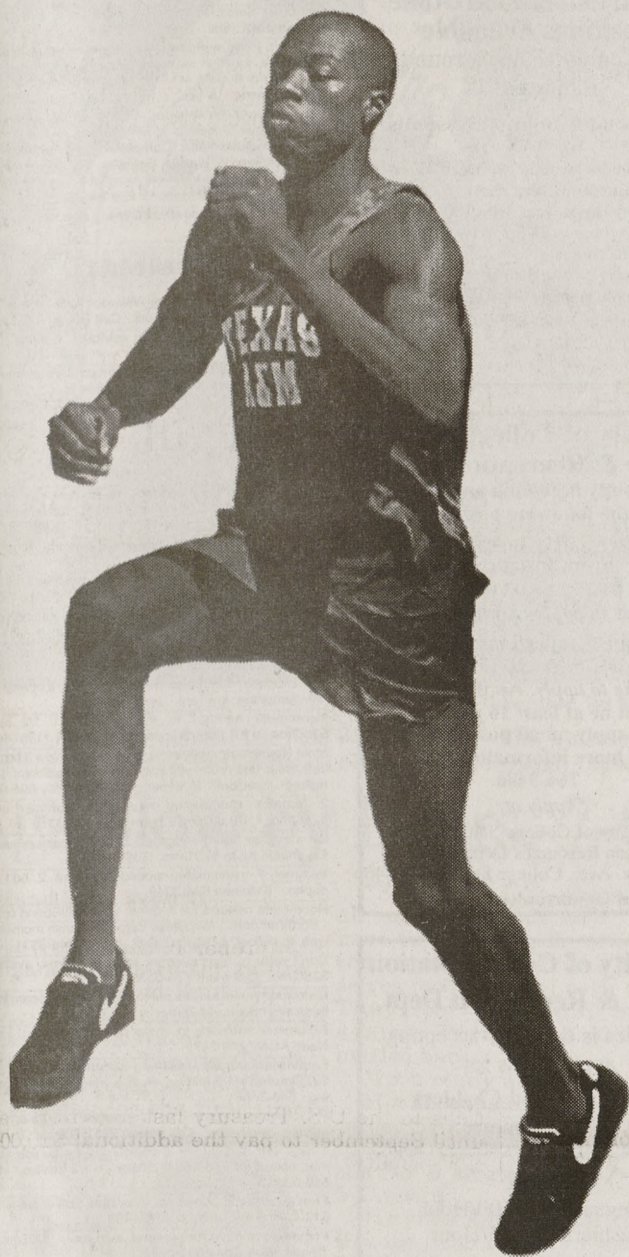
Nottingham fared just as well for the basketball team.

In his first year wearing the maroon and white, he averaged 9.2 points and 5.8 rebounds per game. He led the team in field goal percentage at 61.2 percent and was second on the team with 25 blocked shots.

He posted his best game against Texas Christian University with 20 points and 11 rebounds, establishing his career bests in both categories.

Nottingham said that playing two sports helps him in each of the sports.

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### Freshman defensive back and sprinter Michael Price is proof that speed kills

By Philip Leone  
THE BATTALION

Speed: Some people have it, some people want it and some people have more of it than they know what to do with. Texas A&M freshman Michael Price belongs in the last category because the young man can flat out fly.

Loaded with more speed and athletic ability than the law should allow, Price has already blazed a reputation for himself not only as a bona fide track star for the Aggies, but as a potential gridiron standout as well.

At Tyler John Tyler High School, Price was an all-district running back and defensive

back on the football field and a record-breaking sprinter on the track. Recruiters from across the nation came calling for Price's services — including representatives from Georgia Tech, UCLA and every school in the Southwest Conference. Price said Texas A&M finally won the shootout in the end for two major reasons.

"First of all, A&M was close to home, and that was one thing that I was important to me," Price said. "And most of the other schools just wanted me mainly for track, but they told me here that I could play football too. I knew this was the place I needed to be."

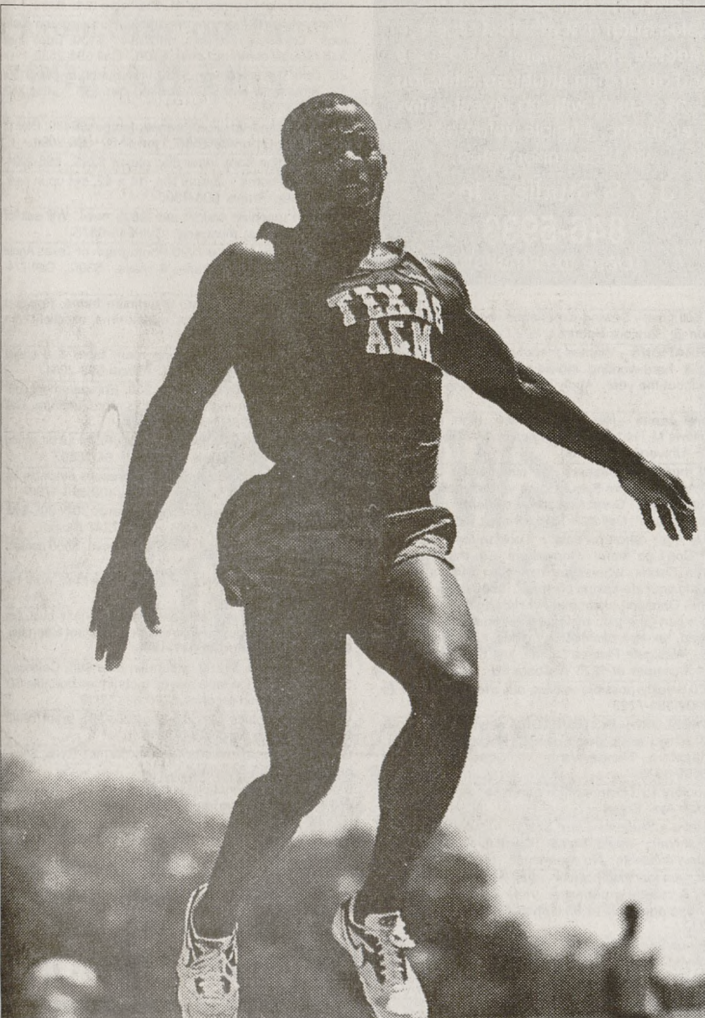
After a fall spent running down kickoffs and punts for the Aggie special teams, Price has proven he was worth all the attention by making an impact on A&M Head Track Coach Bob Nelson's squad this spring. With a time of 20.74 seconds in the 200-meter dash at last weekend's Texas A&M Invitational, Price posted the squad's best time this season and qualified for the NCAA Championships.

At the same meet, Price also qualified for the NCAAs in the 100, finishing just behind teammate Billy Fobbs with a time of 10.44. Price, along with Fobbs, Toya Jones, and Thaddeus Shannon, ranks among the conference's top relay teams in the 400.

Nelson said he is pleased with his freshman sensation's work habits and believes Price has the potential to develop into a greater long jumper.

"Michael has really progressed well and realizes that he needs to work harder than he had to in high school where things are a bit looser," Nelson said. "He hasn't even tapped his potential in the long jump. He's a powerful athlete, and when he gets more of a focus on the long jump and corrects

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Cory Willis THE BATTALION

Freshman track runner and defensive back Michael Price flies through the air with the greatest of ease during practice.

### Sykora garners rare opportunities in first year

By Nicole Smith  
THE BATTALION

When her two coaches were asked to describe Stacy Sykora, "unbelievable," "outstanding," "hard-worker" and "gifted" were some of the words that consistently came up.

A 5-foot-10-inch freshman from Burleson, Sykora not only serves as an outside hitter for the Texas A&M Women's Volleyball Team, but she also is a heptathlete and high jumper for the Texas A&M Track Team.

In addition, she is one of the few athletes who has the prestigious honor of displaying her talents in dual sports during her first season.

"In general, one's freshman year is extremely hectic," Head Women's Volleyball Coach Laurie Corbelli said. "In my opinion, however, Stacy has handled the stress beautifully, and as far as I know has never missed a day of school since she has been here."

One would think that maintaining sports and academics would be a tough task, but Sykora posted above a 3.0 grade-point ratio and was recently honored at the Academic Athletic banquet.

During her first volleyball season at A&M, Sykora posted the top two single-match hitting percentages in the Southwest Conference, became an immediate starter for the outside-hitting position, and contended for Southwest Conference Freshman of the Year accolades.

"She has some God-given talent I have never seen before, and she is quick and competitive," Corbelli said. "Not only does she impress the crowd with her abilities, but she also has a unique style about her that will probably earn her the title of All-American when she is a senior."

As far as track goes, she is a naturally gifted athlete who could probably run and jump in her sleep.

Due to the fact that volleyball is her scholarship sport, Sykora has not had much time to compete for the track team.

However, in the little time



Evan Zimmerman, THE BATTALION

Texas A&M freshman outside hitter Stacy Sykora goes up high to tap one over the net last fall. Sykora is also on the A&M track team.

she has been able to practice and compete, she captured first in high jump in the Sooner Invitational with a career-best high jump of 5 feet 9 inches, which was the best mark by a Lady Aggie all season.

Her coaches and teammates are impressed with Sykora's potential and talent, despite the fact that she has had to put

track second to volleyball.

"She is a multi-talented athlete who will contribute in several events," Assistant Track Coach Juan De La Garza said. "Although all we have been able to work on are fundamentals, conditioning and technical drills, Stacy has tremendous raw talent that will help us in all areas. If

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