

Running toward nationals

Aggie harriers will compete for national berths at the District VI Championships

By Matt Mitchell
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams will travel to Denton on Saturday to compete at the District VI Championships. The event marks the final meet of the year for the teams, with individual members striving for a berth at the national meet.

"The district championship is how we qualify for our national meet," A&M Head Coach Greg Hinze said. "There are 35 teams that are in the district and all of them are eligible to bring teams and/or individuals to the competition."

Few of the 35 teams invited are likely to have had as interesting a year as the Aggies — who have competed with a young team in its first year of Big 12 competition. Aside from youth, the Aggies have dealt with the suspensions of several runners. But the Aggies' hard work has paid off with a respectable year, and Hinze expects points 4.6 times less of his team this weekend than any other meet of the year.

"What we'd like to do from a team standpoint is obviously finish in the top 10," Hinze said. "That's been a consistent goal for us all year. Right now, the men are ranked No. 10 in district. The women have just fallen out of the top 10, but I think we'll make amends this weekend."

In addition to the team's high expectations, several Aggie harriers have opportunities to advance past the district level of competition to the national meet. They would follow in what has become an A&M tradition of late, as former Aggie cross country standout Matt Priest qualified for nationals the past two years.

"From an individual standpoint, I think Scott Lengefeld has an excellent chance to qualify," Hinze said. "Jerry Snyder and Amy Stanberry have outside shots to qualify, depending on how they run. If we were to get Scott out, it would be the first time we've had someone qualify for nationals three times in a row."

The Aggie harriers are anxious to show that their last performance



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

The Aggies finished fourth in both the men's and women's divisions of the A&M Invitational Meet Oct. 12.

at the Big 12 Championships was an aberration. The Aggie men and women finished a disappointing 10th and 12th, respectively, though they had to battle adverse weather conditions consisting of 20-degree weather and a north wind blowing at 20 mph.

"We did not have a very good conference meet for a lot of rea-

sons," Hinze said. "All the schools from Texas who went up there did not run well. I think the weather had something to do with it, but we weren't ready to compete and that's my job. But I think we'll be ready this weekend, and hopefully we can get back on the right track."

Wilkins leads Spurs to victory

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Dominique Wilkins scored 28 points to lead the injury-depleted San Antonio Spurs to a surprise 95-83 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Wednesday night.

Vernon Maxwell added 22 points, Avery Johnson 16 and first Pades player Sean Elliott 14 for San Antonio, which recorded a season-high 95 points. The Spurs' previous best was 86 points on Nov. 6 against the Washington Bullets.

Shaquille O'Neal had 30 points and Eddie Jones 22 for the Lakers, who were coming off an emotional

double-overtime victory over the Houston Rockets the night before.

Los Angeles forward Cedric Ceballos tore the patella tendon in his right knee when he landed awkwardly after a 2-on-1 drive to the basket late in the fourth quarter. He was taken off the court on a stretcher and the Lakers said he would be examined Thursday in Los Angeles.

The Spurs played without injured regulars David Robinson, Will Perdue, Vinny Del Negro, Charles Smith and Chuck Person.

The victory snapped San Antonio's three-game losing streak.

Williams traded to Indians

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Matt Williams, one of baseball's top sluggers, was traded Wednesday by the San Francisco Giants to the Cleveland Indians for infielders Jeff Kent and Jose Vizcaino and reliever Julian Tavarez.

Williams had 247 homers in 10 years as the Giants' third baseman, including 38 in the strike-shortened 1994 season. But he has missed large portions of the last two seasons with injuries.

In Cleveland, he'll be joining a team that ranked sixth in the majors last season with 218 homers but risks losing top slugger Albert

Belle to free agency.

The Indians have offered a long-term contract to Belle, but Cleveland general manager John Hart said if players and owners agree on a new contract that includes a luxury tax on salaries — a longshot — the Indians might be unable to re-sign Belle.

"At any rate, we're excited to have Matt Williams. We feel he will help us achieve our goal: to keep a championship contending ball club," Hart said.

Williams missed the end of last season, when he hit .302 with 22 homers and 85 RBIs, after having surgery on his right shoulder.



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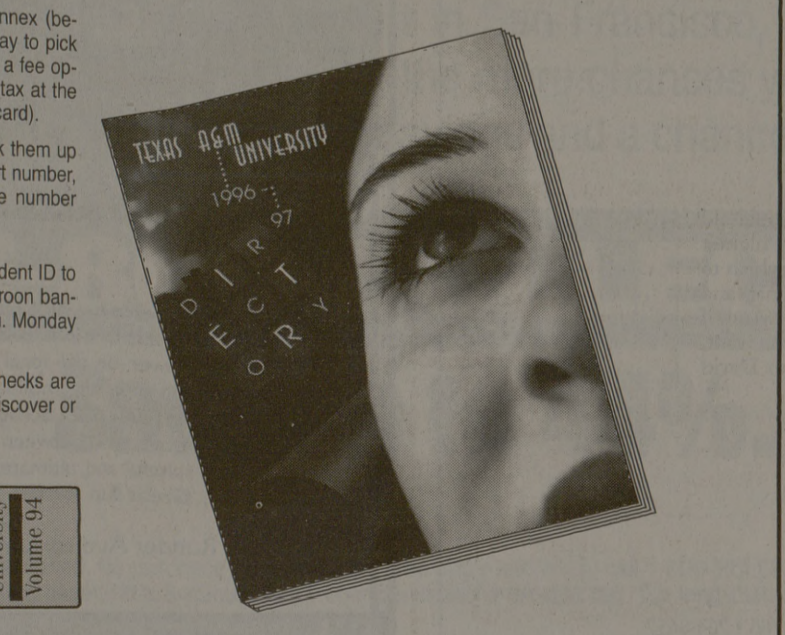
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