

# Successful athletes in different fields

Senior Anjanette Kirkland has returned from a hamstring injury with blazing speed.

By MATT MITCHELL  
THE BATTALION

Anjanette Kirkland has some unfinished business to take care of. Known as A.J. to her teammates on the Texas A&M Track and Field Team the senior hurdler is preparing to compete in the 100-meter hurdles for the NCAA Championships.

Kirkland's performance last weekend at the Texas Relays, where she placed second in the 100-meter hurdles, signaled her return from a hamstring injury suffered a year ago. The six-time All-American seems up to full speed after missing the 1996 outdoor season.

"I woke up," Kirkland said of her performance. "I got back to where I was before I got hurt last year. Speed-wise, I feel I'm back to where I was, but all the little things it takes to run the hurdles I'm still working on."

It is these little things the speedster from San Antonio is concerned with most in her preparation for the NCAAs. "I feel like A.J. understands she's coming off a very high performance, and that tells her she's back fully and ready to compete for an NCAA championship," Hurdles Coach Abe Brown said.

"She can start well and she can finish well," he said. "Those are things that you just have to continue to do over and over again. We're just going to continue to do the things that are conducive to high-level hurdling."

While Kirkland continues to fine-tune her mechanics, she has left little doubt in the minds of coaches and competitors that, come meet time, she is a force to be reckoned with. She has run a wind-aided 12.89 in the 100-meter hurdles, the fastest ever run under any conditions in Southwest Conference history.

In addition, Kirkland has posted a blistering time of 7.61 seconds in the 55-meter hurdles and holds meet records in both the 55- and 100-meter hurdles.

Kirkland's sprinting speed has always been her strongest asset, and nowhere was this more evident than Saturday's 100-meter final, when she fell behind



Rogge Heflin, THE BATTALION

Senior hurdler **Anjanette Kirkland** is looking for redemption in the 100-meter hurdles at NCAAs.

by nearly five meters to defending NCAA champion Tiffany Lott after a poor start. Kirkland recovered to pull even and force a photofinish, taking second by just .01 seconds.

"The one thing I can say that I'm real confident about [is] that I've got the spring speed between the hurdles," Kirkland said. "Most people think if you run fast enough, you'll win your races. But to me, it comes down to all the little things."

And once those little things fall into place, Brown says, Kirkland's times could reach world-class status.

"When you can put the whole race together and run the so-called 'perfect race', that's when you're going to run the very elite times," Brown said. "But we're still just focusing on doing the proper things that are conducive to good hurdling and that will all come out in the end."

Kirkland says she has not thought seriously about her track career beyond her impending graduation. Her focus at present is solely on running her best when the NCAAs roll around.

"I'm just concentrating on running and running fast, and I think if I do that, the rest will take care of itself," Kirkland said. "I just need to keep healthy, keep my eye on the goal, and keep praising God. I'm going to get there."

Heptathlete Hudson finds niche in multi-events

By JAMIE BURCH  
THE BATTALION

The majority of track and field athletes elect to focus on one specific event while some compete in several related events. Others, however, are not satisfied with competing in just two or three. Texas A&M junior Ceci Hudson is one of the few, the proud, the heptathletes.

Hudson said she enjoys competing in the heptathlon because of the variety it offers.

"We practice for about three hours a day," Hudson said. "Sprinters and others practice for less time but concentrate solely on one event. In the heptathlon you get to do many different things."

Three hours in the grueling Texas sun alone would discourage most athletes from the heptathlon. But that's what makes Hudson special.

Head Coach Ted Nelson said Hudson's hard work leads to her success.

"She's an inspiration to our team because of her work ethic," Nelson said. "Everyone sees her out in practice busting it and trying hard. That's Ceci's big asset. She's a talent but not overly talented."

"Her work ethic makes her better than ladies on other teams." That very approach has led to tangible results for Hudson. She finished third in the heptathlon at the Southwest Conference meet her freshman year. As a sophomore last season, the heptathlete finished second to teammate Stacy Sykora posting her career-best total of 5,142 points.

Hudson said although she exceeded her previous high point total, she was dissatisfied with the second-place finish.

"(Training with Sykora) during the season was good for me," Hudson said. "But the finish was disappointing, having led until the SWC meet. I cost myself because I threw terrible in the javelin. That was hard to take."

"I knew if I would have thrown what I was capable of doing, I probably would have won. It was my own fault."

Hudson is using last year's shortcomings as motivation for this season. The heptathlete posted the second-best score in the Big 12 at the College Station Relays March 14 and provisionally qualified for the NCAAs, which will be held May 28-31 in Bloomington, Ind.

She also won the javelin throw at the Red Raider Invitational Jan. 25, scoring nearly 500 more points than the second-place finisher.

See HUDSON, Page 10



Tim Moog, THE BATTALION

Junior heptathlete **Ceci Hudson** practices the javelin.

# Aggies look to relax by hosting Aggie Invitational this weekend

By JEREMY FURTICK  
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Track & Field Teams are experiencing the calm after the storm of last weekend's Texas Relays. In the words of Head Coach Ted Nelson, the only meet to top the Texas Relays' competition level is the NCAA Outdoor Championships.

So this weekend's Texas A&M Invitational, with a field of Prairie View A&M, Lamar, Stephen F. Austin, Sam Houston State, Rice, UT-Pan American and Texas Southern will not be as competitive a meet.

"The Texas Relays is a very stressful and tough meet," Nelson

said. "This week's competition will be good, but not good enough for us to bust ourselves. This is the kind of meet we need right now."

Rice will bring the only highly competitive team to the meet, but A&M will be welcoming back some of its best former track & field performers to compete in the open division.

Stacey Ware, the Aggie record holder in the 500- and 10,000-

meter run, Greg Williams, the NCAA's 1991 110-meter hurdle champion, and All-Americans Curt Young and Tim Bryant will attend the Invitational.

This meet is the third outdoor competition held at the Aggies' Frank G. Anderson Complex this season, following the A&M-Texas Dual Meet and the College Station Relays.

Sophomore sprinter Michael Price, whose 400-meter relay team took the national lead with their time in Austin, said the meet should give the teams a chance to relax. However, being at home does add a little pressure, Price said.

"The home crowd will be here and nobody likes to lose in front of their home crowd," Price said.

Sophomore Kelli Schrader, who broke the Texas A&M women's discus record last week, said the Aggies have the advantage of competing at their practice facility.

"We're lucky because we get to compete on the track that we work out on every day," Schrader said.

Nelson said his teams are putting in a hard week of practice after a good showing in Austin.

"You get a good workout at the relays, but going into the meet, you don't work very hard so you can run your best," Nelson said. "Now

we're looking down the road."

Senior Danny McCray will be one of the big stories this week. The A&M record holder in the 400-meter dash, McCray will return to compete in this event for the first time since last year's outdoor season.

This is the first season which McCray will concentrate solely on track. He previously divided his time with football.

Price and Schrader said they do not expect a drop-off in performance this week, even with the easier competition and having a tough week of practice.

"You're always competing against your best times," Price said.

## Men climb up poll

The Texas A&M Men's Track Team climbed to a 19th national ranking in the United States Track Coaches Association Top 25 rankings four days after posting the nation's fastest time in the 400-meter relay.

A&M's improvement in the top 25 can be attributed to the men's sprint relay moving from third to first position in its power ranking. The Aggie foursome of Toya Jones, Mike Price and Danny McCray posted a time of 39.04 in the 400-meter relay en route to a first place finish last weekend at the Texas Relays in Austin. The time was the fastest run by an A&M foursome since 1990, and an NCAA automatic qualifying mark.

## Attention Seniors

Graduating in August or December  
English 210 & 301 (Tech Writing)  
Force Dates

<p><b>Summer I</b></p> <p>Wednesday, April 30 Thursday, May 1 Friday, May 30</p>	<p><b>Summer II</b></p> <p>Wednesday, April 30 Thursday, May 1 Monday, July 7</p>
--	---

**Fall**

Wednesday, April 30  
Thursday, May 1  
Monday, August 25

**Forcing Hours for All Dates**

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

1. Make sure you have the correct prerequisite (English 104 or equivalent).
2. Come to Blocker 224 during the force dates and times listed above.
3. Bring a letter from your academic advisor stating that you are graduating in the semester for which you are registering.

No forces will be done during pre-registration.  
You must come in during these dates to get a seat.

If you can't make these dates, send a representative with your letter and a list of preferred times.

Forcing Information line: 862-7724

Web site:  
<http://engserve.tamu.edu/files/writingprograms/rulesforforcing.html>

PI SIGMA EPSILON  
PRESENTS

SAT. APRIL 12TH  
12:00PM

## CHICKEN BONES II 42 TOURNAMENT

AT THE  
DIXIE CHICKEN  
2 FREE BEER MUGS PER TEAM

\$16/Team OR \$20 at the door  
Registration tables in Wehner and MSC  
April 9th through 11th

SPONSORS:

Garcia's, Cafe Eccell,  
Inspirations, Hollywood Theater,  
La Barronena, Casa Ole, Mazio's,  
Applebee's, Outback Steakhouse,  
Farmers Market Deli, Hasting's,  
Kroger Video, Chili's, Rosalie's  
Pasta, Wolf Pen Creek Car Wash,  
T Bone Jones,  
BCS Bicycles, El Chico,  
Double Daves

For More Info Call  
John Herron  
@ 696-6110  
or Nick Mirgeaux  
@ 775-1802

## CiCi's Pizza

NEW EXTENDED LATE-NITE  
BUFFET HOURS  
FRIDAY & SATURDAY

**\$2.99**  
EVERYDAY

694-2424  
1713 S. TEXAS AVE.

We accept personal checks  
with approved ID

## PAT GREEN

INSTORE PERFORMANCE  
FRI 4/11 5PM

MONDAY MIDNIGHT SALE:  
DEPECHE MODE  
BABOON  
INXS

## BABOON

FREE PIZZA & REFRESHMENTS WITH ID!  
CD RELEASE PARTY/INSTORE PERFORMANCE  
MON APRIL 14TH 11PM

IMPORTS  
T-SHIRTS  
POSTERS  
CD'S  
MUSIC USED CD'S  
PUNK DANCE  
ROCK  
TRIP  
REGGAE/BLUES  
JAZZ COUNTRY CLASSICAL  
SPECIAL ORDERS ALWAYS WELCOME

## marooned

"THE" RECORD STORE IN B/CS  
110 College Main 846-0017