

Ags head to Austin once more

By JEREMY FURTICK
THE BATTALION

The Texas A&M Men's and Women's Track and Field teams will make their second trip to Austin in the past three weeks and compete against the University of Texas for the third time in four weeks as they join Houston, Rice, and Oklahoma in the Texas Five-Way Saturday.

Head Coach Ted Nelson said his teams started bearing down last week for the Big 12 Conference Championships, which are being held in Waco May 16-18. He said A&M is looking for this meet to provide some stiff competition in each event.

"Last Monday, in our meeting

before practice, I started talking about [the Big 12 Conference Championships] and how we need to start looking in that direction," Nelson said.

After a solid showing at the Texas Relays two weeks ago, the Aggies used last weekend's Texas A&M Invitational to begin their tune-up for Waco.

"Last week we got our teams on the right track, so this meet is big for us in terms of continuing our improvement," Nelson said.

Although the meet serves as a rung in the ladder to the Big 12 Championships, Nelson does not see this meet as pivotal.

"We're past the point of a meet being pivotal for us," Nelson said. "But it will have some tough competition for us to try and improve against."

Nelson points to the 400-meter dash and the 4x400-meter relay as the most competitive events. He said the Aggies would like to win the meet, but they need the preparation

more than the awards. "We've come a long way in events we were supposed to do in," Nelson said. "We've got teams moving in the right direction and need this meet as preparation."

Senior Danny McCray compete for the first time in a season in the 400-meter dash event he won at last year's Southwest Conference Championships and qualified for U.S. Olympic Trials. McCray supposed to open in the 400-meter week, but Nelson said the weather was not cooperative.

Nelson also said the return of McCray to the 400 should bump Aggies up in the national ranking next week.

"We've got both teams moving in the right direction and need this meet as preparation."

Ted Nelson
A&M head coach

MSC Town Hall



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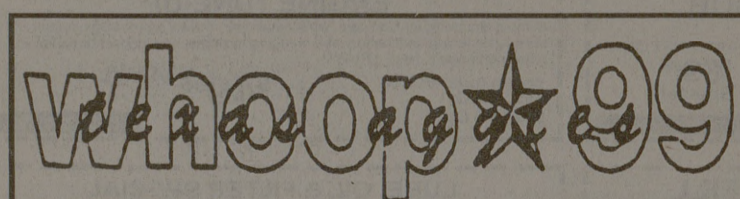
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Jones' Cowboys draft plans a secret

IRVING (AP) — It was Friday of Masters week and Dallas coach Barry Switzer and personnel director Larry Lacey were relaxing.

If they felt any immediate pressure to restock the depleted Cowboys talent roster it wasn't discernible in their faces as they followed Tiger Woods around.

Woods didn't play wide receiver for Stanford so the Cowboys weren't about to get any help in that department.

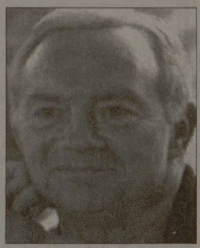
They were all smiles when asked about the upcoming draft. They couldn't say much more because of the strict gag order issued by owner Jerry Jones, who decided he didn't want any secrets finding their way to the ears of NFL enemies.

This will be the first year in Cowboys history that they haven't had a pre-draft press briefing, Jones commissioned himself with the responsibility of talking to the media.

"I can't say anything about it," Jones said. "This could be a critical year for us."

Not until Saturday can the lips of assistants be unsealed.

Pressed about the matter, Lacey coyly drew his finger across his lips like they were zipped close. "One would assume the Cowboys could use a wide receiver, a linebacker, an offensive lineman, help in the secondary and, of course, kickers to replace punter John Jett and placekicker Chris Boniol," a questioner said.



Jones

"You may assume all of the above," Lacey responded.

Indeed, the Cowboys are talented but depth shy. They can use help in just about every area.

They've already signed free agent kickers Richie Cunningham, Danny Kight and Marshall Young seeking a replacement for Boniol.

Dallas scouts took quarterback Troy Aikman on one of their forays to see if he saw any receivers he liked. Aikman threw to some receivers one day in California, then tackled Pebble Beach where he and Lacey won a few bets off unsuspecting opponents.

Did Aikman find anything he liked?

"Yes," was all Lacey would say. The Cowboys, once again, are drafting down in the pecking order at No. 25.

The last two years they traded out of the first round and saved money against the salary cap. They also passed over some talent they could have used.

This year, Jones' plans are something of a mystery. The Cowboys are up against a hard place with the salary cap and don't have that much money to pay draft picks.

Dallas does need a receiver to help take the heat off Michael Irvin. The Cowboys drafted Stepfret Williams last year and he wasn't much help. He wasn't a disciplined route runner and his hands left something to be desired.

Look for the Cowboys to sign a veteran receiver if they can't find one in the draft.

They also will have to sign another linebacker because of the possible losses of Darrin Smith and Jim Schwartz to free agency.

WADE

Continued from Page 7

All Wade did was run a 13.61 in his first race in 15 months, the second-fastest time this season by any athlete in NCAA competition (13.59).

Wade said he was not sure what to expect this season. His first race was supposed to be a measuring tool.

"I wasn't pressuring myself in that race," Wade said. "I just said, 'Hey, I'm going to go out and do the best that I can. If I win, I win, if I lose, I lose.'"

With that race, Wade not only made a sizzling return to the 110-meter hurdles but also gave his teammates an example to follow.

Senior Danny McCray said Wade is a fiery competitor who pushes himself to achieve and by doing so serves as a model to the rest of the team.

"When I think of Larry I think of someone who is always going to compete," McCray said. "When other people are down or have their knicks and knacks, they can always

look out to the track and see Larry Wade competing. And they say, 'If Larry can do it, then I better get out there and do it too.'"

Nelson said Wade's work ethic and tenacity not only make the hurdler a better competitor, but serve as motivation for the rest of the team.

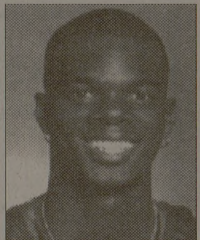
"Any time someone can see another person working hard, particularly when that person is as successful as Larry has been, then his motivation spreads to the rest of the team," Nelson said.

Wade holds as much respect away from the track as he does in competition.

"Good' can mean so many things in Larry's case," McCray said. "He's not only a good athlete, but a good teammate and a good friend."

Wade has traveled the long road to success and the even longer road back from injury. After returning to competition in such grand fashion, expectations are high for the hurdler's future. But Wade has his own opinion on what to expect.

"The only expectations the world, my teammates or I have for me is to do my very best," Wade said. "Every time I line up I'm going to give it everything I have — that's the only thing people should expect from me."



Wade

Nevada Supreme Court hears motion to move trial

NCAA wants to move Tarkanian lawsuit out of Las Vegas.

CARSON CITY (AP) — The NCAA urged the Nevada Supreme Court on Wednesday to move a trial of former UNLV basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian's lawsuit against the organization away from Las Vegas because the city still loves him.

NCAA lawyer Stewart Fitts argued that Tarkanian, now coaching at Fresno State, remains a "hometown hero" in Las Vegas and the NCAA remains "the embodiment of evil."

Tarkanian was known for towel-chewing and other antics as coach at UNLV from 1973 to 1992. He also faced a lengthy NCAA investigation that focused on his recruiting practices.

A survey in February 1996 showed 6-1 support in Las Vegas for Tarkanian over the NCAA even though he has been gone for several years, Fitts said, adding that in Reno — where he wants the trial held — it is 2-1 in Tarkanian's favor.

Dan Polsenberg, lawyer for Tarkanian and his wife, Lois, said he could not buy Fitts' argument of overwhelming prejudice. He said the trial should begin as scheduled, on June 23. It is set to run for six weeks.

Polsenberg was joined by lawyer Kathy Freberg, who said a high court would be hard pressed to find Clark District Judge Lehman exhibited some "manifest abuse of discretion" in refusing to move the trial.

Freberg also rejected as false the NCAA claim that there has been a "pattern of abuse" in Las Vegas for 20 years.

She also said a pollster hired by the Tarkanians discounted

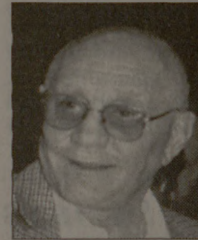
NCAA surveys indicating continued overwhelming support for the coach.

And even "rabid basketball fan" turned up among prospective jurors, Freberg said it is enough to ensure

sure that person does not witness an actual juror.

The high court will issue a ruling at a later date. Given the fact that the trial is set to begin, Polsenberg asked for a swift decision.

In the lawsuit, Tarkanian claims the NCAA for ruining his reputation and causing him to miss out on financial opportunities. His wife alleged emotional distress.



Tarkanian

BURCH

Continued from Page 7

Woods was able to transcend all that has occurred over the past 63 years when he stole the thunder of Augusta. Through his brilliant play on the golf course and his likable personality in the clubhouse, Woods found the spotlight focused solely on himself.

After posting a sensational 30 on the back nine Thursday, Woods quickly grabbed the attention of everyone in the field. All the golfers fighting to make the cut for a chance at donning the green jacket had a persistent worry in the back of their minds. Just how far could this rookie go? Woods spoke softly but carried a big club.

The final round of the 64th Masters began with Woods soaring atop the leader board with a 15-under-par score and a nine-stroke lead over Colin Montgomerie. The doubts of Woods' legitimacy had been erased.

"There is no chance — we're all human beings here — no chance that Tiger Woods is going to lose this tournament," Montgomerie said following Saturday's action. "No way!"

Montgomerie could not have said it any better. Woods ended Sunday by setting the course record at 270 — 18-under-par. He became the youngest to win any major at 21 years of age. To boot, Woods' 12-stroke lead over Tom

Kite (-6) is the largest margin of victory in the history of the Masters.

The Bryan/College Station Eagle's deckhead in Monday's edition read, "What a week for a black man to put on a fabled green jacket! This was a deck for an AP commentary discussing the historical significance of Woods winning an event at a course which until 50 years ago did not allow black members to join. The commentary tied in the fact it occurred two days before the 50th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the color barrier in baseball. The deck fixated on Woods' race."

Is it not significant Woods won the Masters in his first major tournament, at such a young age, and in such dramatic fashion?

Many radio reports and television specials stated in the lead-in to the stories, "Tiger Woods, the first black man or African-American to win the Masters."

Chris Myers, on ESPN's *Up Close*, asked both Reggie Jackson and Hall of Famer Joe Morgan about the importance of Woods becoming the first black to win a major.

Such reports, coming from the same media which condoned racist views and have joined the politically correct movement harping on the fact that Woods is an African-American is completely hypocritical. They need to look past his ethnicity to his accomplishments as a human being. After all, isn't Woods human?

Ask Colin Montgomerie.

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