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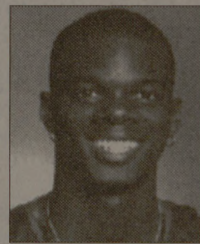
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THE BATTALION  
**SPORTS**

**Aggies set for Penn Relay**

By JEREMY FURTICK  
 THE BATTALION

If the Texas A&M Men's and Women's Track and Field teams need motivation to buckle down and show what they can do, this weekend should provide it. They will compete in the 103rd annual Penn Relays at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.



Wade

This meet is considered the premier collegiate track and field competition in the country, next to the NCAA Championships. Head Coach Ted Nelson agrees.

"It's a prestigious meet, and, next to the NCAAs the most competitive," Nelson said.

Nelson said aside from the competition, what makes the meet so special is the fans.

"You've got 45,000 fans at this meet who really love track and field," he said. "And they are knowledgeable fans. They like to see the competition."

With the Big 12 Championships around the corner, this is a big meet for A&M. The men's 400-meter relay team of sophomores Michael Price and Toya Jones, junior Billy Fobbs and senior anchor man Danny McCray will defend their time of 39.04 against the nation's best teams.

In addition, junior Larry Wade will have the opportunity to run against national competition in the men's 100-meter hurdles crown for the first time this season.

Nelson said the meet is important for his teams because of the level of competition and the timing.

"The way we perform in this

meet will have a lot to do with we will look at the Big 12 (Championships)," Nelson said. "We're ready looking ahead to that."

Another benefit of competing the Penn Relays is national exposure for them and good exposure for A&M.

"Last year, our 400-meter team got really good exposure our guys after our great performance," Nelson said. "It was exposure for them and good exposure for A&M."

The Aggies have two meetings remaining before the May 16-18 Big 12 Conference Championships in Waco after they return home to Philadelphia. On May 3 they travel to Austin one last time for the Run Texas, before hosting Texas A&M All-Comers May 8. The Big 12's will be held by the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Bloomington, Ind. May 28-31.

**FOBBS**

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Nelson said he thinks Fobbs is a better 200-meter sprinter than anything else, even though his best marks in the event are not as strong as his best times in the 400-meter relay and 100-meter dash.

But Fobbs disagrees with history and his coach. He said the 100-meter dash is his best event. He has the fourth-fastest 100-meter time in the history of A&M (10.08) and won the event at last week-

end's meet in Austin with an NCAA provisional-qualifying time of 10.29 seconds.

Fobbs may like the one-on-one competition in track, and he may think the 100-meter is his best race, but he said the team aspect of the 400-meter relay makes it special.

"The 4-by-100 is my favorite event," Fobbs said. "Not only do I win, but so do my teammates. That makes it a different kind of victory."

Fobbs will finish this season by helping A&M to a strong showing in the Big 12 Conference Champi-

onships May 16-18, in Waco, then go on to compete in NCAAs. He has many goals would like to accomplish in his senior season, but one stands out in his mind.

"I had an embarrassing Big indoor [Championship] meet—finished eighth in the 55-meter dash," Fobbs said. "I want to get into the [Big 12] outdoor championships and earn some respect winning the 100-meter dash."

With that goal in mind, the of the Big 12 had better be prepared.

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