

A&M track faces new challenge

Aggies head to USA Championships

STAFF AND WIRE REPORT

After winning national championships, setting personal and school records last weekend at the NCAA Outdoor Championships in Bloomington, Ind., the Texas A&M Track and Field team is off and running again.

The team travels to Indianapolis, Ind., to compete in the USA Track and Field Championships this weekend. Competing for the Aggies will be senior hurdler Anjanette Kirkland, who placed second in the 100-meter hurdles last weekend and junior hurdler Larry Wade, who placed third in the 110-meter hurdles.

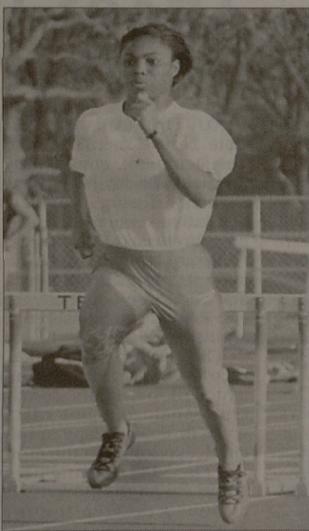
Senior Danny McCray, sophomore Michael Price, junior Billy Fobbs, all

members of the national champion 4x100-meter relay team, senior Russell Nuti and junior Adrien Sawyer will also compete.

At the Outdoor Championships, the men finished 16th overall and the women finished 22nd overall.

"I'm extremely happy with top 25 finishes for both the men and women's teams," A&M Head Coach Ted Nelson said. "It was a team effort, and something we stated as a goal when the season started."

Eight Aggies earned Outdoor All-American honors last weekend as well. The eight include, Fobbs, Jones, Kirkland, McCray, Nuti in the discus, Sawyer in the long and triple jump and Wade.



PHOTOGRAPH: Tim Moog
Senior hurdler **Anjanette Kirkland** practices earlier this semester.

Jazz have brought back rowdiness to Salt Lake

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The NBA Finals have allowed Utah to reveal a boisterous soul that belies its image.

Outside the Delta Center, rowdy crowds were cheering the Jazz and jeering the Bulls. Cars, pickups and freight trucks paraded past for hours, blaring their horns.

And on a Sunday, for heaven's sake.

"For Mormons, if they are Mormons, they were acting very un-Christian out there," Chicago coach Phil Jackson said.

The meek, these fans know, do not inherit the NBA title.

On Wednesday night, just a few blocks from the Mormon Tabernacle, the Utah Jazz play

Game 5 of the NBA Finals against the Chicago Bulls. A victory would put the Jazz up 3-2 and send the best-of-7 series back to Chicago for Game 6 Friday night and, maybe, Game 7 on Sunday.

Utah fans certainly expect a victory. The Jazz have won 23 in a row at the noisy Delta Center, boosting their home record this season to 48-3. They are 10-0 at home in the playoffs.

"It's a time now for the whole state," Utah's Karl Malone said. "We've taken our knocks over the years. I'm from Louisiana, but I consider Utah my home now. We've taken a lot of bad raps. Now for the spotlight to be on us

here, I think, it's great to get rid of some of those myths you guys think about Salt Lake."

Much of the giddy enthusiasm comes from years of frustration. The Jazz were always good, but not good enough to make it to the finals. Just pulling even with the mighty Bulls 2-2 was cause for jubilation.

"It's been a long time coming," Malone said. "These guys have waited 12 or 13 years for something to celebrate."

When Malone rode his Harley home after Sunday night's come-from-behind 78-73 thriller, he found a crowd around his house.

"Most of them were neighbors," he said. "I've been here for 10 years and I didn't even know half of them live up there."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Women's basketball schedule released

The tentative 1997-98 Texas A&M women's basketball schedule was released Tuesday and includes a possible matchup with the defending back-to-back national champion Tennessee. Also highlighting the list of opponents for the Lady Aggies is Vanderbilt University. The Commodores will visit G. Rollie White Gymnasium in the Lady Ags opening game Nov. 18. Vanderbilt finished 17 this past season and had a 21-12 record.

The second season of the Big 12 will have the Lady Ags hosting Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Iowa State, Kansas State, Texas Tech, Oklahoma and Baylor.

Former softball player selected for USA team

Brittney McFalls, former assistant softball coach and All-American standout at Texas A&M, has been named to the USA Women's National Team that will present the 1997 World Cup in Columbus, Ga.

McFalls, who was one of five athletes on the USA Olympic gold medal softball team, was the starting shortstop at A&M from 1991-94 and led the team in batting average, total bases and slugging percentage every season.



McFalls

Over time, change is almost imminent, expected



TRAVIS DABNEY
Sportswriter,
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Expansion of Kyle Field is necessary

in the country. The effects of this expansion will include better recruiting, year in and year out, and a top notch facility that will allow all the fans to view the game in complete comfort. The improvements go all the way from improved seating to more restrooms.

This is the best thing to happen to Kyle Field since the days of Kevin Murray, Rod Bernstine and John Roper.

Kyle Field has fallen off in terms of other college football stadiums as many universities begin renovation of their facilities. The schools that have already begun this process include the University of Texas, the University of Tennessee, and Notre Dame. It is not a surprise that all of those schools will all likely begin the 1997 football season in the Top 10. As the 1997 season begins, Kyle Field will be the 23rd-largest on-campus stadium in the country, behind the likes of Iowa University and the University of California-Berkeley. To keep up with the

fast expansion of college football, the A&M Athletic Department must meet the expectations of top-notch recruits, and to do this we must have top quality facilities.

As this project moves forward, one has to wonder how this project will be paid for? The answer to this question is the 12th Man Foundation. This association will finance the entire project over the next 30 years. This means that all the funds used to build this facility will come from the sale of bonds as well as private donations. As to how much this expansion will mean to the A&M football team in overall success can only be determined over the next several years on the field, but one has to feel the effects can only be positive.

The Aggies have fallen on some hard times in the last two years starting with the loss to Colorado in 1995, the expansion along with apparent positive spring training could be the first of many positive steps

“ Kyle Field has fallen off in terms of other college football stadiums as many universities begin renovation of their facilities.”

Plans announced for Hall of Fame

DALLAS (AP) — Southwestern Bell and the Cotton Bowl Athletic Association announced plans Tuesday to create a Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame, honoring players, coaches and others associated with the postseason bowl game.

"We believe the Southwestern Bell Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame will provide future generations with a greater appreciation for the rich history of college football on New Year's Day here in Texas," said W. Mike Baggett, chair of the Cotton

Bowl Classic.

Tentative plans call for selecting and inducting the inaugural class by June 1998. The selection process and criteria will be announced later this year, but Baggett said media representatives, former coaches and athletic administrators are likely to be involved.

Southwestern Bell became the title sponsor of the annual Jan. 1 football matchup last September. Its sponsorship runs through the 2000 game.

Jake 'the Snake' charged with sexual abuse

PHOENIX (AP) — Former Arizona State quarterback Jake Plummer pleaded innocent today to felony sex abuse charges alleging that he groped four women at a nightclub.

Plummer, now a rookie with the Arizona Cardinals, was released on his own recognizance by Judge Gregory Martin of Maricopa County Superior Court. The judge will decide at a preliminary hearing June 27 whether there is enough evidence for trial.

Plummer, 22, faces four felony counts of sexual abuse and one of misdemeanor assault. He could receive up to eight years in prison if convicted.

Plummer hopes to leave for his first NFL training camp on July 18, and the judge granted a defense mo-

tion that he be allowed to travel. Four women claim Plummer fondled them on the dance floor of a Tempe nightclub where Plummer and friends had gone for a bachelor party on March 22.

One also complained that Plummer kicked her in the leg after she argued with him in the parking lot, leading to the assault charge.

Mike Langridge, a defensive end at Arizona State when Plummer was an underclassman, told police there was no kick but that he had to restrain Plummer to keep him from punching the woman after she jabbed her finger into his cheek.

Plummer has reached a civil settlement with his first three accusers,

who later said they did not want to press charges.

County Attorney Rick Romley filed criminal charges May 28, saying he would subpoena them as witnesses regardless of any out-of-court developments.

The Cardinals and officials at Arizona State, where Plummer capped his record-breaking career by leading the Sun Devils to the Rose Bowl, have declined to discuss the case. Relatives and people who knew him in his native Idaho also are cautious about discussing it.

"I would rather not get into any speculation about what may or may not happen," Cardinals coach Vince Tobin said of his second-round draft pick.

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