

# Aggies take second-, third-place finishes

By MICHAEL FERGUSON  
Staff writer

The Texas A&M Track and Field Teams competed in the Houston Invitational at the University of Houston Saturday. At the meet, a talented trio of Aggies not only conquered their opponents, but also conquered history. Senior Larry Wade and sophomores Jon Nance and Ann Dwyer each set records in their respective events and helped the Aggies complete the meet with solid performances.

As a whole, the men's and women's teams fared well against the stiff competition provided by seven other schools. The women finished in third place, coming from behind to edge Rice by three points in the final events. The men finished in second place, trailing only a deep University of Texas team. On this particular day though, the spotlight belonged to three individuals.

Wade streaked to glory by capturing the 60-meter hurdles title with a Houston Invitational record time of 7.85 seconds, breaking the old record of 7.93. Wade, who was held out of the hurdles at the Sooner Invitational, mentioned some of his inhibitions going into the race.

"I really didn't know what to expect because it was my first race, and because of the weather conditions, we haven't had much practice in the hurdles," Wade said. "I just sat, focused and tried to do my best in the race."

Wade was quick to give credit to various people for his success.

"I do have a great support staff—my family, my girlfriend, my coaches and, of course, God. I just know without them, I couldn't have done what I did today," he said.

After finishing the Sooner Invitational with a first-place finish in the pole vault, Nance was expected to have an exciting sequel in his second meet of this young season. He did so appropriately by once again bringing home the gold in the pole vault with a jump of 17 feet, 1.5 inches, tying a Houston Invitational meet record.

"Oddly enough, I didn't feel very good at all the whole time. I've changed a lot of stuff and backed my run up from 14 to 16 steps," Nance said. "Everything kept falling pretty good and once I got to 17, everything started clicking."

Dwyer obtained her place in the record books in the 800-meter run. On her way to a second-place finish, Dwyer ran the event in 2 minutes, 15.62 seconds, breaking the Texas A&M school record of 2:16.27, set in 1990.

"I took the first two laps at the pace I wanted to and then I just tried to hold on to it," Dwyer said. "I felt really strong at the end."

Dwyer attributed her success to the work ethic of the team.

"We've been training hard for the past three weeks, doing track workouts four times a week and then we did the last two workouts kind of easy, so we'd feel fresh

for today," she said.

There were also many other strong performances on both sides. Junior Derrick Woods blazed to a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash with a brisk time of 48.88 seconds. Sophomore Desmond Powell finished third in the 60-meter hurdles and senior Billy Fobbs finished third in the 60-meter dash with a remarkable time of 6.70 seconds.

Junior Kelli Schrader and freshman Meshell Trotter finished 2-3 in the women's weight throw, as did sophomores Jason Jacob and Travis Grasha in the men's. Freshman Megan Koonce also contributed with a third-place finish in the women's shot put. Senior Christian Henriksen added a third-place finish in the men's 5,000-meter run, while senior Milli Ondras finished third in the women's 3,000-meter. The women also received key performances in the high jump from seniors Paula Greenfield and Laura Keahey.

Following the meet, coach Ted Nelson said his team did not have as good of performances as it did in the Aggies' last meet.

"We really kind of had an off meet for us. We had some bright spots, but overall I think we're sort of feeling a down side," Nelson said. "Two weeks ago in Oklahoma we had a good meet, and I think we were feeling the effects of working through this meet."

The Aggies will continue competition this weekend as they travel to Reno, Nev., to compete in the Bill Cosby Invitational.



RYAN ROGERS/THE BATTALION

Senior Billy Fobbs finished third in the 60-meter dash.

# Women beat Missouri, 76-61, for second Big 12 win

By PHILIP W. PETER  
Staff writer

When the two teams with the worst records in conference meet, the burden of victory lies on the shoulders of the competitors. And when the weight behind those shoulders is pure emotion, victory tastes sweeter than ever.

Saturday, Coach Candi Harvey and an emotional Texas A&M Women's Basketball Team (6-11, 2-5) added the flavor of a 76-61 victory over the Missouri Tigers (10-8, 2-6) in front of 1,328 fans at G. Rolfe Coliseum.

"We got excited about the game today, and that's huge," Harvey said. "There is nothing wrong with playing this game with emotion. Of course, it is a time to turn it off and have poise."

Poise is exactly what Texas A&M showed down stretch. With the game tied at 60, the Texas defense stepped up and held the Tigers to one point in the final 4:15 of the game.

Missouri Coach Joann Rutherford gave the credit for playing a good game.

"They came out and took care of the basketball game we didn't," Rutherford said. "They just wanted to win the basketball game more than we did."

There was no individual who shouldered the burden for A&M. They won by a total team effort, with their bench outscoring the Tigers' by 17.

"We played as a team," A&M sophomore forward Kera Alexander said. "No one person really took the game over. As a team, we came together and made the plays when we had to. For the first time, we had more intensity than the other team down the stretch. We had the goal that we wanted to come in and finish and that is what we did today. We played hard for 40 minutes."

Alexander came off of the bench, played 35 minutes and scored 16 points on 6-for-8 shooting. She was 4-for-4 from the field in the second half, but it was junior guard Kim Tarkington who led Texas A&M in scoring with 19 points, 11 in the final 10 minutes.

"A go-to player develops herself," Harvey said. "That's not something a coach can develop. I think Kim wanted to be that today, and she was."

Tarkington was not the only go-to player for Texas A&M. Sophomore forward Prissy Sharpe hit all five of her field goals, finishing with 17 points. It was her first 100-percent shooting performance of her career.

As a team, the Aggies shot 54.9 percent of their

field goals, their highest percentage since they hit 55.4 percent against Southwest Texas State University on Nov. 24, 1997.

"Shooting 66 percent in the second half is huge for us," Harvey said. "But we were getting good, easy looks at the basket."

With easy looks and forced shots, Missouri guard Julie Helm, who played the entire 40 minutes of the game, led all players in scoring. Helm, a 5-foot-11-inch sophomore, scored 23 points on 10-for-21 shooting, but had problems with Harvey's defensive scheme.

"We ran a box-and-one (defense) against Julie Helm, who just had a phenomenal game," Harvey said. "I really feel like it took her out of the game, at least for a couple of minutes. But all the credit goes to the kids. They had a game plan, they executed it and they finished."

Although she praised her team, Harvey saw room for improvement.

"We still turned the ball over more times than we would like," Harvey said. "But we didn't hang our heads. We fought through. We picked it back up with steals on defense and that's what we've got to continue to do."

The Aggies host Baylor Wednesday at 7 p.m.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

from staff and wire reports

### Walker injured in skiing accident US bobsledder cleared by IOC

Former SMU star Doak Walker was critically injured Friday after falling on an intermediate ski slope in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

Walker, 71, was airlifted to the Swedish Medical Center in Englewood, Colo., from the mountain. He was in a coma when he arrived at the center. His condition has improved, but he still remains paralyzed from the neck down.

Doctors at the center said they are not certain when or if Walker will regain full use of his limbs.

Walker was the 1948 Heisman Trophy winner, and his name now adorns another annual college football award. The Doak Walker Award is given each season to the most outstanding running back in collegiate football.

Brian Shimer, a four-time Olympian and the driver of the top sleds on the U.S. Olympic bobsledding team, was cleared of violations he used testosterone to enhance his performance in a meet last November, according to sources on the U.S. team.

Shimer failed the first phase of the two-part test following the meet. He was found to have had higher-than-allowed amounts of the hormone in his system. But during the second phase of the test, Shimer was found to have normal levels of testosterone.

It is rare for an athlete to fail the first part of the tests and then show up clean on the second. The tests have been criticized heavily by the U.S. Olympic Committee as being unreliable.

## SPRING '98 SERVICES

### Learning Skills Center Lab Self-Help Materials

The Learning Skills Center lab contains a variety of self-help resources that students may use at their own pace.

Students have the option of addressing academic concerns with learning skills literature, computer programs, VHS and cassette tapes.

Topics covered in the LSC Self-Help Lab include the following:

- Goal Setting
- Test Anxiety
- Academic Stress
- Study Systems
- Time Management
- Procrastination
- Memory Enhancement
- Test Preparation
- Motivation
- Concentration
- Effective Reading
- Note-Taking
- Math Anxiety

### Individual & Group Counseling

Students may schedule an appointment with a staff counselor to discuss academic difficulties they are experiencing. ACE Peer Educators are also available to discuss academic concerns on a walk-in basis.

### Spring 1998 Support Groups:

- Thesis/Dissertation Group
- Academic Survival Group - 4 weeks, starts March 30th, 1998
- Academics Anonymous Group - 9 weeks, starts February 10th, 1998

### Workshops

**Study Survival & Learning Tactics**  
Feb. 6th Fri. 10:15-11:15am  
Mar. 10th Tues. 10-11am

**Time Management & Procrastination**  
Feb. 4th Wed. 1:45-2:45pm  
Feb. 24th Tues. 2:45-3:45pm  
Mar. 27th Fri. 3-4pm  
Apr. 6th Mon. 10:15-11:15am

**Test Preparation & Test Anxiety**  
Feb. 10th Tues. 2:45-3:45pm  
Feb. 25th Wed. 10:15-11:15am  
Mar. 31st Tues. 9:30-10:30am  
Apr. 17th Fri. 10:15-11:15am

**Advanced Note Taking & Reading Textbooks**  
Feb. 16th Mon. 3-4pm  
Apr. 7th Tues. 2:45-3:45pm

**Memory Enhancement**  
Mar. 2nd Mon. 1:45-2:45pm  
Apr. 23rd Thur. 2:45-3:45pm

**Student Stress Management**  
Feb. 13th Fri. 10:15-11:15am  
Mar. 5th Thur. 2:45-3:45pm  
Apr. 30th Thur. 4-5pm

**Conquering Finals**  
May 4th Mon. 5-6pm

**Preregistration for workshops and counseling is requested!!**

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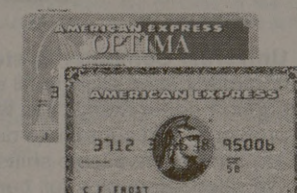
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