

Aggies hope to represent U.S.

Current and former members of the Texas A&M track and field team try out for Olympics

Floyd Heard
100-meter dash • 10.32 sec • 2nd Round

Danny McCray
400-meter • 45.00 sec • Finals

Adrien Sawyer
Long Jump • 21 ft. 6.5 in. • Finals

Robyn Burkhardt
High Jump • No height • 1st Round

Katy Doyle
Javelin • 167 ft. 8 in. • 1st Round

Meshell Trotter
Hammer Throw • 189 ft. 5 in. • 1st Round



Texas A&M junior hammer thrower **Meshell Trotter** is one of three A&M students who have competed in the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials in Sacramento, Calif. The competition began Friday and will continue until Sunday.

CHRISTINA OHAERI
The Battalion

Current and former Texas A&M students competed for spots on the U.S. Olympic track and field team this weekend in Sacramento, Calif.

The Olympic trials are being held July 14-23 at Hornet Stadium at California State University-Sacramento and features, among other qualifying athletes, the three fastest people in the world — Marion Jones, Michael Johnson and Maurice Greene.

Texas A&M juniors Katie Doyle and Robyn Burkhardt and senior Meshell Trotter represented the Aggies this weekend.

Katie Doyle, a Houston native, competed yesterday in the javelin preliminaries. Doyle advanced to the finals with a throw of 167 feet 5 inches, roughly 10 feet less than her best. Doyle, originally a softball player, has only been throwing the javelin for two years, and she recognizes the differences in the dynamics of the two sports.

"In softball I was always able to rely on my teammates," Doyle said. "If one person has a bad day and the rest of the team is on, no one would realize it. With track, all of the pressure is on the individual."

Doyle will compete in the javelin finals Monday. While somewhat nervous, she is excited about the competition.

"I have to focus and not let the pressure get to me," Doyle said. "I've got nothing to lose. I'm just going to do my best."

Trotter was not as successful as Doyle on the field. In the hammer throw, Trotter placed 14th with a toss of 189 feet 9 inches.

The combination of a long season and inexperience led to Burkhardt's failing to clear the opening height in the high jump. She did not excel past the opening round.

"Robin jumped very well but has had a very long season," said A&M track coach Ted Nelson. "This has been a great experience for her and will

"I've got nothing to lose. I'm just going to do my best."

— Katie Doyle
A&M junior javelin thrower

make lining up next year much easier."

Also making the trip to California were former students Adrien Sawyer, Danny McCray and Floyd Heard.

Sawyer placed 7th in the long jump with a leap of 21 feet 6 1/2 inches. While at A&M Sawyer set the current school record of 22 feet 2 1/4 inches. In addition to her success at A&M, Sawyer also was the winner of the long jump at this year's USA Track and Field Indoor Championships.

McCray placed 6th in the finals of the 400 meters, running 45 seconds. McCray was a national champion in both the 400- and 1,600-meter relays during his career at A&M.

Heard ended his competition, running 10:32 in the second round of the 100 meter. Heard's career includes six All-American honors, while at A&M, and two national championship titles and a world record in the 800 meter relay.

UH football adviser accused of seeking agents for players

HOUSTON (AP) — A Harris County deputy constable hired by the University of Houston to provide security services for its football team and shield student-athletes from agents from 1997 to 1999 might have done the opposite.

Tommie L. Craig was encouraging football players from the university and other schools to meet a pair of local attorneys — Charles Kaufmann and his son Josh — trying to establish themselves as agents, *The Houston Chronicle* reported in its Sunday editions.

Craig's relationship with the attorneys has drawn the attention of the NCAA but is unlikely to result in sanctions against UH because his contractual relationship with the school did not make him a member of the athletic staff.

NCAA regulations bar institutional staff members from receiving cash or other benefits for arranging meetings between student-athletes and agents.

A ledger listing expenses for the attorneys' company, Kaufmann Management Group Inc., shows Craig, 44, received at least \$900 from them at the time he was making the introductions to the players.

Company records also noted that three players — Patterson Owens, who played for the Cougars in 1997 and 1998; former Texas A&M running back Dante Hall; and Derrick Fletcher, who attended Baylor — were "referred" by Craig.

The Kaufmanns and Craig said the

payments in the ledger were a series of loans based on family emergencies that Craig experienced.

Charles Kaufmann, 59, said the loans were repaid. His son, Josh Kaufmann, 30, said the portion of his company's records that indicated three players had been referred by Craig had been "forged."

"To me, that's like (being) a pimp. That's not right."

— Tommie L. Craig
Harris County deputy and University of Houston athletic security adviser

The younger Kaufmann said Craig identified certain college players who might be worth contacting but did not introduce the players to the agents. The attorneys sought out Hall and Owens on their own, he said.

Craig denied referring players to the Kaufmanns, saying, "To me, that's like (being) a pimp. That's not right."

Todd Stansbury, Houston's associate athletic director for student services and compliance, said he and other university officials had no reason to question Craig's activities, particularly in light of the fact that game-day security is standard for most college football programs.

In another case, Chad Ealy, a defensive back at West Texas A&M Uni-

versity, said Craig advised him during a chance meeting at a video store to seek help about his football career from the Kaufmanns. Ealy said they advised him and then asked him for help in contacting another West Texas player, Kareem Larrimore, who had drawn the attention of NFL scouts.

Ealy said he accepted three meals and a ride to Houston from a recruiter working for the Kaufmanns. Ealy must pay back \$200 and sit out one game to regain his eligibility for West Texas A&M during the 2000 season.

Craig said he does not remember the player, he ran into at the video store last summer or whether he suggested that he contact the Kaufmanns.

Josh Kaufmann said he talked to Ealy about helping in the recruitment of Larrimore but had no knowledge of the meals and the ride provided by his company's recruiter.

The Dallas Cowboys drafted Larrimore, a cornerback and kick returner, in the fourth round of this year's NFL draft. He agreed Friday to terms of a contract with the Cowboys, who open training camp Monday in Wichita Falls.

The University of Houston said Craig will not be part of its football security plans for the upcoming season.

"We don't want individuals who are close to the athletic programs to be close to agents, especially if the individuals are there to protect the safety and the welfare of student-athletes," said Bill Saum, the NCAA's director of agent, gambling and amateurism activities.

Necessary roughness



Rugby player **Pete DePom** of the Austin Rugby Football Club breaks out of the scrum against the Rice Rugby Club. Rugby club teams from across the state came to compete at the 24th Annual Texas A&M Summer Hottest Rugby in Texas Tournament at the Polo Fields on Saturday.

Armstrong leads Tour de France

COURCHEVEL, France (AP) — With a week to go, the Tour de France all but belongs to Lance Armstrong.

The defending champion proved imperious in the mountains again, stretching his lead in cycling's showcase event by 50 percent on a day when Italy's Marco Pantani captured the 15th stage.

Armstrong finished 50 seconds behind in fourth place in the tough Alpine terrain, but he extended his advantage over Jan Ullrich from 4 minutes, 55 seconds to 7:26.

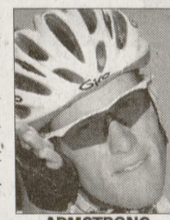
With only one mountain stage left, there is precious little time for any other rider to catch the Texan. When he battled back from cancer to win last year, Armstrong led by 6:19 at this point.

After Monday's rest day, Armstrong has to negotiate only Tuesday's 122-mile course from Courchevel to Morzine before the final stages to Paris.

His only realistic challenger is Ullrich, whose conditioning has been far from strong this year. The German struggled again Sunday and finished 15th, 3:21 behind the winner.

Pantani won a stage for the second time, this one a 108-mile run from Briancon to Courchevel. He was magnificent on the climbs, just as he was two years ago when he won the Tour de France.

Pantani nearly quit cycling this year.



ARMSTRONG

"It was very difficult last year," he said. "The Italian press and media have made it tough for me and my family. I really thought of finishing but after reflection, and some pain I decided I had the strength to come back and show that I can still have great moments. Today was a victory for determination."

Pantani has barely raced at the top level since being thrown out of the 1999 Giro D'Italia for failing a drug test. In the fallout of the scandal, Pantani did not defend his Tour de France title and seemed to be drifting out of the sport until a surprise appearance at last month's Giro d'Italia.

On Sunday, he powered past longtime leader Jose Maria Jimenez in the final 1.8 miles to win by 41 seconds and move from ninth to sixth place in the standings.

"This sort of victory tastes better than normal," Pantani said.

The 15th leg, which came before the second rest day of the race, was the fourth mountain stage and the second in the Alps. Riders faced chilly wind and sporadic showers, but for most of the way enjoyed sun and comfortable temperatures of 59 degrees.

Of the 180 riders that began the race two weeks ago, only 141 began this latest stage.

They had only 15 miles before tackling the hairpin bends of Col de Lautaret. Then came the two hardest ascents at Col de Galibier and Col de la Madeleine before the final ascent.

Biot Savant

After eight hours of sleep, I'm a student. After eight beers and two hours of sleep, I'm a realist.

ORIOUS L.I.B.

who: ve foot six...C or cup size...dirty ...size four...beautiful ...smart...looks good bikini...likes to hunt... me go out with other ...doesn't mind if I don't call...cooks & cleans...worships my body...

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