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**THE BATTALION**

Beverly Mireles, Editor in Chief

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# SPORTS

THE BATTALION

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Wednesday

Wednesday, July 19

## Aggies running for gold, U.S. Olympic Trials

Current and former A&M track members trying for Olympic medals

**REECE FLOOD**  
*The Battalion*

After an eventful weekend, the 2000 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in Sacramento, Calif., saw more competition on Monday with three Aggies taking part.

Current Texas A&M track and field team members sophomore Katy Doyle and senior Travis Grasha competed in the women's javelin throw and the men's javelin throw, respectively. Joining them on the field was former student Ty Sevin, who also competed in the men's javelin.

Sevin had the third-best throw of Monday's preliminaries with a toss of 255 feet 10 inches, which qualified him for the finals. Grasha was unable to match his fellow Aggie's success — he threw a distance of 210-2, not enough to advance past the preliminaries.

Meanwhile, Doyle was successful on the field when she threw the javelin 179-5 in the women's finals, a personal best. Doyle managed to advance through the first three rounds before competing in the final event.

A&M track and field coach Ted Nelson was impressed by Doyle's performance.

"She was third going into the finals," Nelson said. "To do that at the Olympic Trials is wonderful."

The nation's best track and field athletes are participating in the Olympic Trials, which gives the Ag-

gies a reason to get excited about competing.

"It's an honor just to be able to get the chance to go out there and perform and see what you can do against some of the elite people," said sophomore 200-meter runner Brandon Evans. "I think it's a great opportunity and good experience to get the chance to go up against them at this time. I haven't run against too many professional people."

After taking a two-day break from action Tuesday and Wednesday, the meet will pick up on Thursday when Sevin's javelin finals event is set to take place. He will be joined by nine current and former Aggie athletes that are still scheduled to begin competition at the trials.

Senior Travis McAshen will participate in the men's 400-meter hurdles Thursday and former student Detrich Clariett will compete in the women's triple jump. Also seeing action Thursday will be former student Ricky Barker, who will undergo the grueling two-day decathlon.

On Friday, junior Bashir Ramzy will compete in the men's triple jump. Saturday will see three current Aggie athletes and two former Aggie runners begin their competitions. Junior Kris Allen will run the men's 110-meter hurdles along with former student Larry Wade. Evans will race in the men's 200.

Junior Christina Ohaeri and former Aggie runner Anjenetta Kirkland

will both try to advance past the preliminaries of the 100-meter hurdles.

Nelson is pleased to have so many Aggies taking part in the Olympic Trials.

"It says a lot about A&M to be so well represented," Nelson said.

The athletes are excited about the chance to try out for the U.S. Olympic Team.

"It's a pleasure," Ramzy said. "You always watch it when you're a little kid and now you get your chance. It's a privilege that I get to take advantage of."

Ramzy went on to talk about how helpful it will be to have Nelson, who plans to be present at all his athletes' events, give him advice before he attempts his triple jump.

"He'll be able to inform me on how everything is going — how the runway is and how everything has been functioning already," Ramzy said. "I think it will help me a lot having my coach let me know what I'm about to get into."



Sophomore Brandon Evans will compete in the men's 200-meters at the U.S. Olympic Trials.

## 7 on 7 football hits A&M

High school players from around the state take on each other

**MATTHEW L. THIGPEN AND MARK PASSWATERS**  
*The Battalion*

In Texas, the myth is that the two most sacred days of the week are Sunday and Friday nights. It is no secret that most Texans love high school football. Towns like Odessa close down to watch their kids battle on the gridiron.

Now, these football-starved fans who spend the spring and summer waiting for the teams to suit up again have an outlet to quench their thirst.

FOX Sports Net 7 on 7 Texas football state championship tournament is quickly becoming a substitute for the fans' and players' long wait for the season to begin. The tournament starts Friday at 9 a.m. at Simpson Drill Field. The championship game will be Saturday at 4 p.m. at Kyle Field.

Last year's champion North Mesquite High headlines the 64-team bracket that will compete for this year's title.

The tournament started three years ago to give high school football players something to do in the

off-season.

"Basketball players have AAU leagues, baseball players have American Legion ball," said Bobby Burton, who helped found the tournament with FOX Sports Net. "Football players have the weight room."

Originally a 32-team tournament, 7 on 7 has become so popular that the format expanded to 64 teams this year.

"If we wanted 128 teams," Burton said, "we could have them."

According to Burton, A&M was picked to host because of its location and its facilities, which he described as "world-class."

The organizers wanted to pick one location to come back to each year, instead of rotating the tournament between Dallas and Houston.

This year's teams include College Station A&M Consolidated High, The Woodlands High, Tyler Lee High, Texas City High, Southlake High, and Stephenville High.

Some of the state's elite players are competing. Madisonville High running back David Underwood, a preseason All-American, is competing, as

are five of Dave Cambell's Texas Football "Super Team" athletes.

The rules are simple: one-touch tackles and one is an eligible receiver except the center, downfield blocking, and two continuous minute halves. The field resembles an NFL Bowl field; it is only 45 yards long.

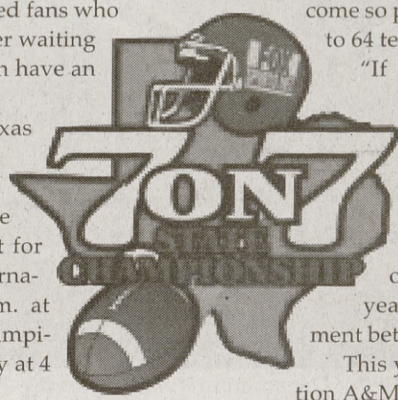
One of the 30 or more players from A&M consolidated is free safety Blake Robertson. A senior at A&M Consolidated, Robertson has competed since his eighth-grade year.

"7 on 7 helps you get a feel for your position on the field," Robertson said. "It helps with what you need to cover and how to cover."

The 7 on 7 league also gives players a chance to see teams that they normally would not get to see.

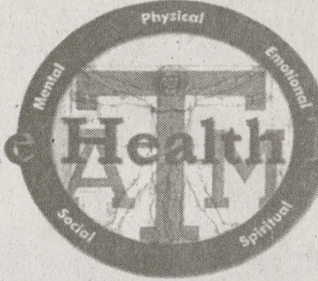
"It gives you an advantage to see the other teams come out at you," Robertson said. "It's fun to see the different challenges outside your district."

The University Interscholastic League prohibits high school football coaches from coaching the players during the off-season in any organized football league. Therefore the players find volunteer coaches or coach themselves.



See 7 ON 7 on page 3

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