

## Track finishes big at NCAAs

### Men have best showing since 1980; Women's team finishes in 28th place

By Mark Passwaters  
The Battalion

Following up their fine performances in the Big 12 Championships, the Texas A&M men's and women's track teams put forth another exceptional effort in the NCAA Championships held in Eugene, Oregon on May 30-June 2. The Big 12 Champion men's team finished in 10th place, their highest finish since 1990, while the women finished 28th.

The men's team was able to claim several notable individual performances, led by senior Tolga Koseoglu's victory in the discus. Koseoglu stunned defending champion Gabor Mate of Auburn in winning A&M's first individual track title in three years.

"It feels really good," Koseoglu said. "I think this is the best victory of my career and I've been throwing for almost 10 years."

Senior Bashir Ramzy followed his outstanding Big 12 meet with a second-place finish

in the 110 meter hurdles. Ramzy's silver medal, along with a seventh-place finish in the long jump, gives him six All-American citations in his career. Ramzy had previously earned All-American honors for top-eight finishes in the 1600 meter relay and the indoor triple jump.

"I think Bashir got a boost from the (cool) weather," said A&M assistant coach for hurdles Abe Brown. "He was able to focus really well before the race."

"I really wanted to come in here and win it, but I'm very happy with second place because nobody expected me to be here," Ramzy said.

Senior Jon Nance shook off a leg injury to follow up his Big 12 gold medal with a NCAA bronze by clearing 17 feet, 10 and 3/4 inches.

"On Monday, I didn't think he'd be able to jump," head coach Ted Nelson said. "Today, it didn't bother him at all. That shows what kind of character and desire he has."

For several prominent members of the A&M track team, the

NCAA championships was their last meet. Nelson praised his seniors, saying "We are really going to really miss Bashir Ramzy, Jon Nance, Tolga, Kris Allen and all the seniors. They have been one of the best groups to coach over the years."

The women were paced by junior Melissa Gulli's second-place finish in the 5,000 meters with a time of 15:55.64, topping her own school record by two seconds.

"Mentally, I was on today," Gulli said. "I wanted to finish in the top five going in, so getting second is great."

Senior Christina Ohaeri finished eighth in the 100 meters with a time of 13.25 seconds, and sophomore Kendra Reimer finished ninth in the heptathlon.

"Melissa Gulli's race was one of the all-time time highlights for A&M women at this meet," said associate head coach Ed Marcinkiewicz. "I was pleased with (Christina) Ohaeri. That was great for her to end her career like that."



Senior Christina Ohaeri finished her Texas A&M track career with an eighth place finish in the 100 meters at the NCAA Championships, held in Eugene, Ore.

FILE PHOTO/THE BATTALION

## Allen Iverson, the NBA's savior? Foul!

### Sixers guard's play, attitude make him poor choice for league's role model



MATTHEW THIGPEN

Sunday night, the Milwaukee Bucks will take the floor against the Philadelphia 76ers in the most important game the Bucks have played in nearly thirty years. As if playing in Philadelphia was not hard enough, the league informed Bucks' forward Scott Williams that he is suspended from game seven of the Eastern Conference Finals because he committed a flagrant foul against NBA's newest and most interesting sweetheart, Sixers guard Allen Iverson.

During game six in Milwaukee, Iverson cut into the lane trying to get a layup. As Iverson drove to the basket at breakneck speed, Williams threw his elbow into Iverson's collarbone. Iverson immediately hit the floor.

After the "agonizing pain" immobilized the star for a few seconds, Iverson stood up and shot his free throws.

At the time, the referees thought that Williams' action was justification for a flagrant foul one, meaning Iverson got his free throws and the Sixers retained possession of the ball.

After reviewing the play, NBA Vice President for Discipline Stu Jackson arbitrarily decided the foul was a flagrant foul two, which meant that Williams should have been automatically ejected. Williams now had accumulated too many penalty points in the playoffs and would be suspended for a game — game seven. How convenient for the 76ers.

This is just another example of the NBA shoving Iverson down the fans' throats, hoping that the NBA's lost fans will return.

Since the NBA lost Michael Jordan, it has searched for a player to market as the messiah of basketball. Players like Jordan and Larry Bird are popular for more reasons than their ability. Jordan, Bird and those like them were role models on and off the court.

Allen Iverson is the last player that should be a role model. His first rap CD

was full of obscene language demeaning women, homosexuals and just about anything else breathing. His body has more graffiti than the Berlin Wall and he has a tendency to yell at the referees when he misses a shot. It is possible that the last time Iverson threw anything at someone, it was a chair in a bowling alley. That incident precipitated a brawl and left Iverson with a criminal record and prison time.

Ever since Iverson was awarded the league MVP, referees have seem to have decided Iverson is more delicate than crystal and now the NBA has done everything it can to make sure Iverson is in the NBA finals. The Bucks have already accused the NBA of this, and maybe they are right.

Remember the Dallas vs. San Antonio series where Juwan Howard annihilated Derrick Anderson as Anderson went for a lay up?

Howard's hack job on Anderson was ruled a flagrant foul one by the NBA. That cheap shot — far worse than Williams' hit on Iverson — shattered Anderson's collarbone. Anderson missed the remainder of the Dallas series and was only able to return for game four of the Western Conference Finals, a loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. As a "victim" of a flagrant foul two, Iverson did not miss a minute.

After discovering his suspension, Williams issued a statement saying he was disappointed and that he did not try to injure Iverson.

Iverson said, "I see a lot of their big guys take hits at me. In situations like that, some of our big guys have to handle the situation. It's Scott Williams. I'll feel real bad if I let Scott Williams hurt me."

Such respect for a fellow player. Is

this the kind of player who is worthy of the league's MVP trophy? Is this the player the NBA really wants to use as their new poster child?

If so, then future NBA hopefuls need to remember this: Forget practicing your jump shot and learn to dunk. Do not bother to learn passing skills and perfect your rap skills. Most importantly, make sure you can blame everyone else in the league for your mistakes.

If you can master these skills, then you can be the next Allen Iverson.

Now, with Williams out of the Bucks' lineup, the

NBA has essentially ensured that Iverson and the 76ers can fulfill the league dream and pit "The Answer" against another no-class player like Kobe Bryant for the NBA championship.

Between those two, who needs role models like Jordan and Bird?

Matthew Thigpen is a junior journalism major.



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

### Sports in Brief

#### Astros Wagner Injured in loss

Closer Billy Wagner left the Astros' game against the Dodgers with a strained left elbow after facing just two batters in the ninth inning Sunday, 1/8. The left-hander, fourth in the National League with 13 saves, had what he described as a "micro-pull" while giving up a double to Shawn Green in the ninth inning. The Dodgers won 9-8 in 10 innings.

Wagner will have an MRI exam Monday.

"It wasn't a pop," he said. "It was more like a pull. Without really knowing the MRI results, I don't know what to think."

#### Rangers drop another to Twins

Jason Maxwell had the third three-hit game of his career — all against Texas — and drove in two runs as the Minnesota Twins beat the Rangers 6-3 Sunday.

Eric Milton (6-3) allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings to win for the first time in four starts. He struck out seven and walked none.

After Texas took the lead on Gabe Kapler's RBI double in the first, the Twins went ahead in the second on RBI singles by Maxwell, Tom Prince and Cristian Guzman off Rick Helling (3-7).

#### Woods crushes field at Memorial

Tiger Woods won his third straight Memorial title in his final tuneup for the U.S. Open. Woods' six-under-par 66 on Sunday allowed him to cruise to a seven-stroke victory over Paul Azinger, the leader coming into the day, and Spain's Sergio Garcia.

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