

Monday, June 25, 2001

Aggies compete in outdoor track competition

Seven members of men's and women's team, five former students compete in four day meet

Mark Passwaters
The Battalion

Seven members of the Texas A&M men's and women's track team competed against world-class competition at the 2001 GMC Envoy USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships from June 21 to 24 in Eugene, Ore. Several former A&M track stars were also involved in the competition.

Senior Bashir Ramzy, a five-time, Big 12 champion, competed in the 110-meter hurdles, long jump and triple jump.

Ramzy qualified for the semifinals and placed 16th overall in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.15 seconds, placed 12th in the triple jump with a distance of 15.53 meters and finished 21st in the long jump with a distance of 7.24 meters.

Senior Christina Ohaeri qualified for the semifinals in the women's 100-meter hurdles, finishing 11th with a time of 13.55 seconds.

Redshirt freshman Luke Marrs, the defending Big 12 javelin champion, finished 15th with a distance of 63.46 meters. Junior Melissa Gulli, the NCAA runner-up in the women's 5000-meters, gave the top collegiate performance in the event with a time of 15:52.65. Her time earned her a ninth place finish.

Sophomore Kendra Reimer, the national high school record-holder in the heptathlon, finished in 10th place with a score of 5,504 points. Sophomore Sarah Steadman came in 28th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 10:56.13.

Among the former students competing in the championships was Anjanette Kirkland, who won a bronze medal in the 100-meter hurdles in 13.14 seconds. Kirkland was edged at the tape by Olympic Champion Gail Devers in rainy, windy conditions. Her time was well off of her personal best mark of 12.63 seconds, but still earned her a place on the United States national team.

"I am happy to have come out here and made the team," said Kirkland, who has been hobbled by injuries all year.

When asked about Devers' decision not to retire, Kirkland said, "I'm happy Gail decided to stay in the sport and compete. She is a great competitor and I love competing against her."

Floyd Heard, winner of the 1986 and 1987 NCAA 200-meter dash, competed in both the

100- and 200-meter dashes. His 17th-place finish in the 100-meter dash in a time of 10.28 seconds was not enough to qualify for the semifinals.

However, his time of 20.45 seconds in the 200-meter dash garnered him a spot in the semifinals 9th place finish overall.

Larry Wade, the 1998 NCAA champion in the 110-meter hurdles and now a member of the Nike team, was a finalist and finished 7th overall in the event with a time of 13.83 seconds.

Danny McCray, a member of A&M's 1997 NCAA champion 400-meter relay team and now a teammate of Wade's on the Nike team, finished 19th in the 400-meter dash with a time of 46.31 seconds.

Ricky Barker, the 1991 NCAA runner-up in the decathlon, finished in 10th place in the two day event with a total score of 7043 points.

No tears for the NHL's biggest crybaby

Alexi Yashin has been the poster child for spoiled athletes, gets what he deserves in trade



MARK PASSWATERS

In today's sports arena, it is often difficult to cheer for many professional athletes. People who live from paycheck to paycheck often have little sympathy for spoiled brats who are making millions of dollars for doing something many people consider entertainment. Hearing Patrick Ewing, Ricky Williams, Gary Sheffield and Frank Thomas gripe about how they are underappreciated while making more money than the gross national product of some third-world countries could cause many fans to wish that these athletes would receive a much deserved brow-beating.

In that case, people should applaud the actions of the NHL's Ottawa Senators for their handling of its former superstar, Alexi Yashin. For three years, Yashin has been trying to weasel his way out of a multi-million dollar contract he signed of his own free will. Instead of caving to his demands, the Senators gave Yashin a taste of his own medicine before finally sending him out of town.

In 1999, Yashin decided he wanted to void the remainder of his contract to receive a larger pay day. The Senators refused to budge, and Yashin threatened to sit out the season. Ottawa sent him a guide of quality vacation destinations and froze his paychecks.

Yashin took the Senators to court to try to have the contract voided, and the Senators countersued, claiming a breach of contract.

Yashin not only lost his suit against the Senators — forcing him to play out the remainder of the deal — but also lost a lawsuit filed by Ottawa season ticket holders. Forced to return, Yashin played this season at his usual outstanding level while griping about how he wanted out of the supposedly "backward" capital of Canada.

The Senators' great season collapsed with a sweep in the first round of the playoffs against the rival Toronto Maple Leafs. Yashin played with no emotion or effort during the series while insinuating that he would play better if he had a new contract. The Senators did not tell Yashin to go to hell; they did something better. They sent him to the New York Islanders.

The Ottawa Senators are a team on the rise with great fans and a brand new arena. The Islanders are an awful team with nearly no fans and an arena that has actually been condemned by Nassau County. Since outer Mongolia does not yet have an NHL team, this is about as good a fate as can be wished on Yashin.

Too many professional athletes are out of touch with the real world. Their "problems" often pale in comparison to what 99.9 percent of the American population deals with on a daily basis. Trying to choose which expensive car to drive to practice is not a problem.

Ewing epitomized the selfish arrogance of most athletes during that league's strike with this gem: "We may make a lot, but we spend a lot too." As a result, everyone with a real job should feel pity for them.

There has to be a way to remind a \$6 million dollar moron that the world does not revolve around them. Most owners are afraid to be tough with athletes because they are afraid of angering their fans. Perhaps this will prove to other owners that the fans love for their players is not boundless.

Some athletes have to deal with legitimate problems. Arizona Diamondbacks pitcher Curt Schilling's wife is fighting cancer. Golfer Casey Martin cannot walk because of a circulatory disorder. Those people are deserving of the public's sympathy, but Yashin does not fit into that category.

The Ottawa Senators should be commended for standing up to the demands of Yashin as well as for sending him to the NHL's purgatory. It is pleasant to have an athlete be reminded that they reap what they



RUBEN DELUNA/THE BATTALION

sow. In the aftermath of Yashin's exile, only one question remains:

How can Deion Sanders and Kobe Bryant be traded to the Islanders?

Mark Passwaters is a senior electrical engineering major.

Sports in Brief

Astros win in Redding's debut

Julio Lugo had three hits and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning as the Houston Astros beat the Cincinnati Reds 7-5 Sunday to split their four-game series.

Octavio Dotel (4-4) pitched two scoreless innings for the win, and Billy Wagner pitched a scoreless ninth for his 14th save in 15 tries.

Tim Redding, making his major league debut for Houston, gave up five runs, six hits and two walks in 5 2-3 innings. Redding struck out seven.

Jose Acevedo, making his second career start for the Reds, gave up five runs — four earned — five hits and four walks in four-plus innings.

Rangers beat A's, win series

Rafael Palmeiro and Ruben Sierra hit back-to-back homers in the fourth inning as the Rangers beat the Oakland Athletics 9-5 Sunday to win their third straight series.

Ivan Rodriguez also homered as Texas won with plenty of offense and a good start from Rob Bell (1-0), who allowed five hits and three runs over five innings in his second appearance since joining the Rangers in a trade with Cincinnati on June 15.

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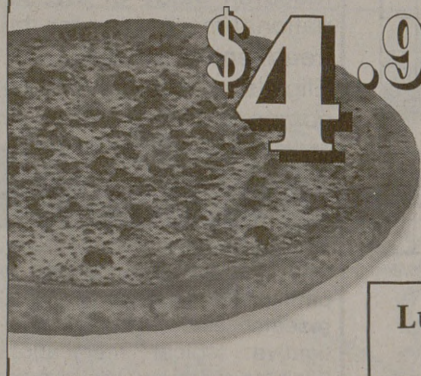


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