

Absent coach fails to brake TSU title run

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By EDWIN HENRY
Post Sports Writer

A trip to St. Louis, Mo. this weekend prevented Texas Southern University track coach Dave Bethany from being present at Dyer Stadium Saturday to watch his team defend its NAIA District 8 championship.

Bethany turned the reins over to his capable assistant, Porter Robinson, and left with a few simple instructions.

"He just told me to go out and tell the guys to do their best," Robinson said. "He just told me to go out and take care of the business."

THE TIGERS DID JUST that. They took care of the business in championship fashion with a 207-174 victory over second-place Wayland Baptist while wrapping up their fifth district championship in the last six years (they didn't compete in 1975).

As expected, the Tigers dominated the sprints, dashes and 440 relay, but an exceptionally strong showing in the field events enabled TSU to stay a step ahead of the Pioneers' potent long-distance field.

TSU placed second, third, fourth and sixth in the hammer throw; first, fifth and sixth in the discus; second and third in the high jump; second in the triple jump and first and third in the long jump while taking the top two spots in the shot put.

Big Leander Walker tossed the discus 176-5 to win and then threw the shot 54-5½ to place second behind teammate Mark Lundy's 55-7½.

Lundy also placed second in the hammer throw (124-2) and fifth in the discus (146-9½).

"I was very, very pleased with our performance in the field events," Robinson said. "That was one area we really needed to improve in."

THE SEVEN-TEAM MEET served as a warmup for both TSU and Prairie View, which finished third with 90 points, in preparation for next week's Southwestern Athletic Conference championships in Baton Rouge, La.

Consequently, Robinson attempted to get all he could out of his athletes Saturday with the conference meet approaching.

Max Tolen, the Tigers' versatile sprinter and quarter-miler, was slated to run six races Saturday — prelims and finals in both the quarter and 220, the 440 relay and the mile relay.

Tolen won the quarter in 47.5, just a shade ahead of Prairie View's James Hunt (47.73) and placed third in the 220 behind teammates Sam Baldwin and Cal Causey. He also led the sprint relay to victory in a time of 41.18, but was spared the grueling task of running another quarter when TSU withdrew from the mile-relay field.

Wayland's iron-man distance runner Kevin Shaw wowed the scattered, sun-scorched onlookers with his victory in the three-mile in 14:47.6 after winning the six-mile (31:15.9) Friday night. In each race, he lapped more than half the field.

NAIA District
Saturday
May 7, 1977
Houston

Track

NAIA championships

Results of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics District 8 track and field championships Saturday at Dyer Stadium:

Mens division

Discus: 1. Walker, TSU, 176; 2. Patridge, Wayland Baptist, 154-9½; 3. Glanton Bishop, 13-4.
Shot put: 1. Lundy, TSU, 55-7½; 2. Walker, TSU, 54-5½; 3. Patridge, Wayland Baptist, 48-6½.
Long jump: 1. Rickett, TSU, 23-4; 2. Spryll, Wayland Baptist, 22-8; 3. Causey, TSU, 21-10.
High jump: 1. Pool, Wayland Baptist, 6-7½; 2. Graves, TSU, 6-6; 3. Edwards, TSU, 6-2.
Triple jump: 1. Jones, Wiley, 46-3; 2. Rickett, TSU, 44-6; only two participants.
220: 1. Causey, TSU, 21.81; 2. Baldwin, TSU, 21.98; 3. Tolen, TSU, 21.99.
440: 1. Tolen, TSU, 47.50; 2. Hunt, PV, 47.73; 3. Boyd, Wiley, 48.24.

120 high hurdles: 1. Lightfoot, WB, 13.48; 2. Hill, TSU, 14.03; 3. Wright, TSU, 14.22.

880: 1. Howard, Wiley, 1:54.75; 2. Wilkovich, WB, 1:56.40; 3. Winzer, PV, 1:56.53.

440 hurdles: 1. Baldwin, TSU, 53.82; 2. Marshall, TSU, 54.46; 3. Johnson, TSU, 55.00.

440 relay: 1. TSU (Mike Hill, Terron Wright, Max Tolen, Darnell Baldaire), 44.18; 2. Prairie View, 42.59; 3. Wayland Baptist, 43.49.

Mile: 1. Shaw, WB, 4:16.57; 2. Robinson, WB, 4:20.61; 3. Hickey, TSU, 4:20.39.

Mile relay: 1. Prairie View (Joe Johnson, Robert Jones, James Hunt, John Derrick), 3:15.65; 2. Wiley, 3:16.35; 3. Wayland Baptist, 3:18.31.

Team totals: 1. TSU, 207; 2. Wayland Baptist, 174; 3. Prairie View, 90; 4. Wiley, 52; 5. Bishop, 23; 6. Austin College, 4.

Women's division

Long jump: 1. Smith, TSU, 18-5; 2. Robinson, TSU, 17-9; 3. Norman, Wiley, 16-11.

100: 1. Hawkins, TSU, 10.59; 2. Williams, TSU, 11:01; 3. Wallace, TSU, 11:01.

220: 1. V. Williams, TSU, 24.70; 2. Hawkins, TSU, 25.70; 3. E. Williams, TSU, 26.00.

440: 1. Wallace, TSU, 59.24; 2. Smith, TSU, 59.26; 3. Williamson, TSU, 59.31.

440 relay: 1. TSU, 47.92; 2. Wiley, 54.48.

880: 1. Morman Wiley, 2:38.65; 2. Houston, TSU, 2:44.06; 3. Wilson, Wiley, 2:49.82.

Mile relay: 1. TSU (V. Williams, G. Smith, D. Williamson, T. Wallace), 4:11.52.