

Prezel Hardy, Jr. breaks A&M school record in 60 meters on way to claiming sprint double at Team Invitational

COLLEGE STATION – A school record in the 60 meters by senior Prezel Hardy, Jr. highlighted the Texas A&M 10-Team Invitational on Saturday as the Aggies swept the team titles in front of 2,072 fans at Gilliam Indoor Track Stadium. Texas A&M recorded 14 victories on the day and broke meet records in half of those wins.

With 209.5 points the A&M men topped the field by a wide margin as Baylor finished second with 91.5 points. Texas-Arlington (73) placed third and they were followed by TCU (51), UT-San Antonio (50), Texas State (42), Abilene Christian (30), Louisiana Tech (30) and Rice (25).

A closer contest on the women's side had Texas A&M totaling 167 points better Baylor's 120. SMU placed third with 65 points while Louisiana Tech scored 60 for fourth. The remainder of the field included UT-San Antonio (47), Texas State (42), TCU (37), Rice (34), Texas-Arlington (30) and Abilene Christian (9).

The Aggie sprinting prowess was on display with a set of six fast victories in the 60, 200 and 400 meters. While Hardy swept the 60 and 200 with meet record times of 6.56 and 20.70, Carlyle Roudette claimed the 400 in a personal best of 46.48.

In the women's sprints Kamaria Brown blistered a 22.96 to better a meet record held by Jessica Beard (23.06) while Olivia Ekpone won the 60 in a PR of 7.33 and Janeil Bellille clocked a 54.48 for the 400 win.

Hardy, feeling sick the whole day, sped to a U.S. leading 6.56 victory in the 60 meters to take down the Aggie school record of 6.59 that Gerald Phiri ran on four different occasions from 2009 to 2011. Hardy, who held a previous best of 6.61 from 2011, bypassed a total of six performances by Phiri on the A&M all-time list including the meet record of 6.63 set in 2010.

Later in the meet, Hardy returned to run a personal indoor best of 20.70 over 200 meters, leading an Aggie 1-2-3 sweep of the event. Hardy moved to No. 5 on the A&M all-time list, improving his previous best of 20.78 from last year's meet. He also broke a second meet record held by Phiri, who ran 20.87 in 2010.

In the women's 60 Ekpone and Aaliyah Brown (7.42) went 1-2 while K. Brown led an Aggie 1-2-3 sweep in the 200 with Ashton Purvis (23.57) and Ekpone (23.82). Bellille and Ibukun Mayungbe (55.18) combined for a 1-3 finish in the 400. A&M's depth in the 200 also claimed non-scoring places 5-6-7-9 with Jennifer Madu (23.98), India Daniels (24.15), A. Brown (24.30) and Shamier Little (24.34).

Included in the men's sweep of the 200 were Aldrich Bailey, Jr. (20.89) and Michael Bryan (20.97). Shavez Hart ran 6.73 for third in the 60 with Bryan (6.83) placing sixth.

The Aggies capped of the meet with a pair of world-leading times in the 4x400 relay as the women set a meet record of 3:37.16 and the men broke the meet record with a 3:05.68.

Running on the women's 4x400 unit were Ekpone (54.58), Mayungbe (54.50), Brown (53.19) and Bellille (54.90). They bettered the meet record of 3:40.51 set by A&M in 2012 with Baylor placing second in 3:42.82.

The men's foursome included Hart (47.24), Bailey (45.98), Deon Lendore (45.87) and Roudette(46.61). They broke the previous meet record of 3:06.25 set in 2013 by the Aggies. Finishing behind A&M was TCU in 3:06.89 and Baylor with a 3:08.99.

Outside of the sprints, LaQue Moen-Davis had a stellar day in the triple jump as she produced six outstanding marks, half of which measured over 44 feet. She broke the meet record of 43-10 (13.36) in the process of challenging the school record mark of 44-4.25 (13.52) held by Yasmine Regis from 2009.

Moen-Davis won the meet and broke the previous meet record with her first attempt of 43-10.75 (13.38). She then improved in round two with a personal best of 44-3.25 (13.49), the No. 2 mark on the Aggie all-time list and just half an inch away from the school record.

The remainder of the series for Moen-Davis included a 44-0 (13.41), 44-0.75 (13.43), 42-7 (12.98) and 43-2.5 (13.17).

Jennifer Madu clipped Baylor's Brianna Richardson in the final round of the long jump as her effort of 19-4.25 (5.90) moved her past Richardson's first round leap of 19-1.5 (5.83). In the fifth round of six, Madu came up a quarter of an inch from tying Richardson with a mark of 19-1.25 (5.82).

Casey Strong broke his meet record in the weight throw with a winning toss of 64-11.5 (19.80) while Ben Skrla set a personal best of 61-4.75 (18.71) for third place. Frosh Austin Cook (57-10.5) finished fifth. Strong's mark is the fourth best performance among the 10 marks he holds on the Aggie all-time list while Skrla moves to No. 2 on the A&M all-time list with the No. 11 performance.

Devion Harris won the high jump with a 6-10.25 (2.09) clearance. Having made the height on his first attempt gave Harris the victory over Roland Sales of UT-Arlington, who needed two attempts at the same height. Both jumpers passed at 6-11.5 (2.12) and missed three attempts at 7-0.5 (2.15).

In the triple jump a 1-2 finish for A&M had Olibanji Asekun winning the event with a 49-6 ½ (15.10) as Jeffrey Prothro hit 48-0.75 (14.65) for second place. A time of 1:51.93 secured the win for Hector Hernandez in the 800 meters with Nick Rollo claiming fourth with a 1:53.62.

Other runner-up performances by the Aggies included Isaac Spencer (4:14.39) in the mile and Aliese Hyde (2:11.81) in the 800. Brea Garrett finished second in the weight throw (63-6) and added a third-place effort in the shot put (50-6).

Ryan Miller (8:23.08) and Austin Wells (8:27.80) finished second and third in the 3,000 meters while Karis Jochen ran 9:52.38 for third in the women's 3,000.

Kenneth Minkah ran 8.03 in the prelims of the 60m hurdles to move to No. 9 on the Aggie all-time list and placed third in the final with an 8.07. Clifton Harlin cleared 15-5.75 for third in the pole vault while a clearance of 6-8.75 in the high jump earned third place for Sam McSwain.

Brittany Wooten cleared a personal best in the pole vault, getting over 12-10.75 (3.93) on her third try to place fourth. The clearance for Wooten moves her to No. 4 on the Aggie all-time list. Wooten also had three attempts at 13-2.5 (4.03), which was the winning height for McKenzie Johnson of Rice as well as runner-up Annie Rhodes of Baylor.

Hillary Montgomery set a personal best in the mile, placing fourth with a 4:53.37 that places her No. 5 on the Aggie all-time list as the No. 8 performer.