Dear Texas A&M Officials Association:

I apologize for the informal greeting but due to the numbers we are trying to reach, this is the best way for us to communicate.

I really never thought this day would ever come. A day where I have to ask you to make a monetary commitment to our program. A contribution so we can be successful. The world of college athletics isn't changing, it HAS changed!

In my 50 years of coaching, athletics has changed more in the last two years than I could have ever imagined. Today's athletics has turned into a business - a big business. I considered this a profession to teach, not only in the classroom, but on the track. Now the transfer portal and "NIL" (Name, Image, and Likeness) dollars has made a change in athletics that is subjecting us to adapt.

All that said, if you are going to play the game, or run the track meet, you have to play the game. I believe there are ways to provide additional assistance, NIL dollars, to athletes. But it is my belief that reward should be earned. You earn something by doing something great while here at Texas A&M. Prove yourself as a great athlete, as a contributor to our institution and sport, and be a good citizen of our community. Go to class, make your grades and be on a path to graduate from Texas A&M. Develop a love for Texas A&M and look forward to one day wearing the ring that separates you from graduates of other institutions of higher education.

So that bring me to the point of this note, I need your assistance. Across the country many, almost all SEC schools, have invested a lot of dollars to their track and field program in hopes of helping them to win. Like I said we have to play the game. If you are in a position to help and if you give dollars to Texas A&M Track and Field those dollars will go to athletes who are on their way to being great Aggies or to an athlete that we just don't have the scholarship dollars to help come to school. Those of you who follow this entire situation understand that many schools in our conference have tuition waivers. Most all have a lot more academic dollars that athletes qualify for than we do here at A&M.

I want to keep this note short. I hope you will understand the need. If you would like to hear a longer version of this issue, please feel welcome to call me at 979-571-1453.

Today, Wednesday, February 15th, the 12th Man Foundation will announce that they will manage NIL dollars for Texas A&M. Once again, Texas A&M is in front of the rest of the country by beginning the management of NIL contributions.

To donate to what they are going to call 12th Man+ (**12th Man Plus**) all you have to do is call the 12th Man Foundation – be specific that you want your contribution going to **Track and Field.**

All Tax incentives and athletic Points, like all other donations to 12th Man are part of this contribution program. For more information or to support 12th Man+, visit www.12thmanplus.com or contact the 12th Man Foundation at 888-99-AGGIE.

Thanks, and Gig 'em!

Pat Henry

Coach Pat Henry
Head Track and Field Coach
Texas A&M University