

DeSoto relays face test at annual meet

Track powerhouse hasn't lost a step on boys, girls teams

By **RANDY JENNINGS**
Special Contributor

Retooling the DeSoto girls and boys track and field teams, thus far a giant success, undergoes its harshest examination yet this weekend at the 53rd edition of the Jesuit-Sheaner Relays.

DeSoto accomplished the double last May with a girls-boys sweep of the Class 6A championships at the UIL state meet.

Even after numerous contributors graduated, girls coach June Villers and boys coach Donald Miller have dipped into a seemingly bottomless talent pool to restock.

The meet's namesake, Herb Sheaner, said he is impressed with DeSoto's ability to rebuild.

"Coach Villers comes up with top freshmen to replace top seniors," said Sheaner, organizer of the initial Jesuit Relay in 1964 and still active as a member of the meet's games committee.

"Coach Miller, in my way of thinking, takes boys that sat on the bench last year to replace graduated seniors, and they are now running better times than last year."

Villers' Lady Eagles have three state crowns and a runner-up finish in the last four state meets.

DeSoto graduated all four members of the 2016 girls state champion 4x100 relay, yet is ranked in the top five nationally

Athletes to watch

Athlete	School	Cl.	Notable
Reed Brown	SL Carroll	Sr.	Won 6A 3,200 state title a year ago in state-record 8:50.43.
Morgan Burks-McGee	Rockwall-Heath	Sr.	Ranked No. 5 nationally in the 400.
Alyssa Duhart	Frisco Heritage	So.	Captured the 5A state title in the 800 (2:13.85) as a freshman.
Faith Ette	Mans. Lake Ridge	Jr.	State 5A shot put runner-up last season.
Kaylor Harris	Mes. Horn	Sr.	Texas Tech signee is nationally No. 3 in the 100 and 100 hurdles.
Jackson Gleeson	Mansfield	Jr.	6A runner-up in the 200 last year is ranked No. 7 nationally.
Alyssa Gridiron	Frisco Heritage	Sr.	Returns this season to defend her 5A 100-meter state title.
Jasmine Moore	Mans. L. Ridge	So.	Won 2016 5A long jump state title when she was All-America.
Darius Prescott	DeSoto	Sr.	Ranked No. 4 nationally in triple jump (48-7).
Peyton Weissman	Grapevine	Sr.	5A state champ pole vaulter, Ole Miss signee is No. 6 nationally.
Fredrick Williams	DeSoto	Sr.	UTEP signee long-jumped 24-8.5 and is No. 1 nationally.
Justin Young	Wylie East	Sr.	West Point signee leads area in 110 hurdles (13.93).

53rd Jesuit-Sheaner Relays

When: Friday 3,200 meter run at 6:30 p.m.; Saturday field events begin at 8 a.m., morning running session begins at 8:30 a.m., running finals begin at 2:15 p.m.

Where: Jesuit Prep, 12345 Inwood Rd., Dallas

Admission: \$5 adults, \$3 students

Information: jsrelays.org

KEY DATES

March 29-April 1: 90th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays
April 15: UIL district certification
April 22: UIL area certification
April 28-29: UIL regional meets
May 5-6: TAPPS state meet, Waco
May 11-13: UIL state meet, Austin

in all three relays. Among area teams, DeSoto is No. 1 in the 4x200 and 4x400 and second to Mesquite Horn in the 4x100.

The DeSoto boys' 4x400 relay is ranked No. 1 nationally by MileSplit.com, having already posted a time of 3 minutes, 11.52 seconds. The Eagles are ranked third nationally in the 4x100 and seventh in the 4x200.

In 2012, DeSoto established Jesuit-Sheaner boys record times that still stand in the 4x100 and 4x200. The meet's 4x400 relay record time of 3:14.81, set by Paris in 1991, appears at risk.

Waxahachie owns the area's

Boys teams to watch

DeSoto: Defending Class 6A state champion is strong again in all three relays, including a national No. 1-ranked 4x400.

Lancaster: Tied for second at 5A state meet last year and return two from victorious 4x400 relay that ranks second in the area.

Waxahachie: Building on its tie for second at 2016 5A state, Waxahachie owns the area's best times in the 4x100 and 4x200 relays.

Girls teams to watch

DeSoto: A powerhouse program that is once again built around three relays that are ranked among the top five nationally.

McKinney North: Second-best area times in the 4x100 and 4x400 relays and No. 3 in the 4x200.

Mesquite Horn: Sixth at 6A state last year, the Lady Jaguars have an individual star in Kaylor Harris and feature a 4x100 relay that is ranked No. 1 nationally.

best times in the boys 4x100 and 4x200, with DeSoto a close second in both followed by Lancaster. In the 4x400, Lancaster is second to DeSoto.

Nicknamed by some coaches "Texas Relays North," the Jesuit-Sheaner Relays is again loaded with highly pedigreed athletes. This year's entrants include 28 state gold-medal winners and eight All-American selections.

Over 150 schools from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas will be represented. That's just the way Sheaner, track coach at Jesuit for two decades, likes it.

Other intriguing confrontations:

■ The longest-standing record in the meet belongs to one of Jesuit's own. In 1964 Mike Madigan won the long jump with a mark of 24 feet, 5 inches. That record could be in jeopardy. DeSoto's Fredrick Williams has already gone 24-8½ this season. Marquis Goodwin, who went on to set the national high school record in 2009 while competing for Rowlett, came up an inch and a quarter short in his try at Madigan's meet record.

■ Nicholas Alexander of Sachse heads a blistering group of 100-meter sprinters with a best time this spring of 10.39. Roman Turner, a senior at

Other boys

Name	School	Cl.	Event
Nicholas Alexander	Sachse	Sr.	100/200
Dorian Andrews	Skyline	Sr.	110 hurdles
Sergio Armendariz	Adamson	Jr.	1,600/3,200
Cade Bethmann	Arl. Martin	Sr.	800/1,600
Charles Brockman	Plano	Sr.	300 hurdles
Austin Carbone	Rich. Berkner	Sr.	Sprints
London Dunn	DeSoto	Sr.	Relays
QuiVell Jordan	DeSoto	Sr.	300 hurdles
Alex Maier	Flower Mound	So.	3,200
James Manders	Frisco Heritage	Sr.	Pole vault
Caden McDonald	Justin Northwest	Sr.	Discus
Gunnar Murphy	Melissa	Sr.	Shot put
Isaiah Palmer	Frisco Liberty	Sr.	400
Jalen Seals	Boswell	Sr.	Sprints, jumps
Joseph Sheffield	Rowlett	Sr.	100

Other girls

Name	School	Cl.	Event
Antoinette Bradley	DeSoto	Jr.	100 hurdles
London Culbreath	McKinney North	Fr.	1,600/3,200
Ester Ekeanyanwu	Allen	Jr.	400
Ja'Leesa Giles	Mansfield Legacy	Sr.	100/200
Sarah Graves	Rockwall	Sr.	Pole vault
Daja Gordon	Hampton Prep	Sr.	Sprints
Jordan Hollis	Lancaster	Sr.	400
Mackenzie Hayward	FM Marcus	So.	Pole vault
Sharone' Johnson	Plano West	Sr.	300 hurdles
Jania Martin	McKinney North	Jr.	200
Kyndal McKnight	FM Marcus	Sr.	Triple jump
Oghale Omakor	Cedar Hill	Jr.	Triple jump
Quinn Owen	FM Marcus	Jr.	800
Falyn Reaugh	Highland Park	Sr.	High jump
Sha'Carri Richardson	Carter	Jr.	100

Wichita Falls Hirschi, ran a 10.43 last weekend. The meet record is 10.26 set by DaBryan Blanton of Forney in 2002.

■ The girls 100 contains three entrants ranked in the top eight nationally: No. 3 Kaylor Harris of Mesquite Horn, No. 5 Cecily Edwards of Plano West and No. 8 Ja'Leesa Giles of Mansfield Legacy. Harris, No. 3 in the 100 hurdles, will go against a field that includes No. 10 Antoinette Bradley of DeSoto.

■ Pole vaulter Christian Patterson of Shawnee, Okla., has cleared 16 feet, 2 inches this

spring. Peyton Weissman of Grapevine went 16-6 to win the Class 5A state championship in 2016 and leads the area this season with a vault of 16-0. The 11-year-old meet record is 16-8, set by Midlothian's Nick Frawley.

■ Gabe Oladipo of Fort Bend Hightower is chasing the state record in the discus. The Texas A&M signee recently hit the 207-foot mark. The state record is 215 feet, 2 inches. The meet record is 196-10. Area leader Caden McDonald of Justin Northwest will also compete.

Randy Jennings is a freelance writer based in Grand Prairie.

Weather

5-day forecast from the NBC 5 Weather Experts (from left) Grant Johnston, Samantha Davies, Brian James, David Finrock, Rick Mitchell



nbcdfw.com/weather

dallasnews.com

The Dallas Morning News

TODAY
 Wind SW 20-30
 UV Index: 6. On a 15-point scale, 6 is high
 Pollen forecast: High Trees
 Heat Index: 78
 Ozone: Green, good

Hour-by-hour forecast
 5 a.m. 64 7 p.m. 75
 9 a.m. 62 9 p.m. 70
 11 a.m. 64 11 p.m. 56
 1 p.m. 72 1 a.m. 60
 3 p.m. 78 3 a.m. 57
 5 p.m. 80 5 a.m. 54

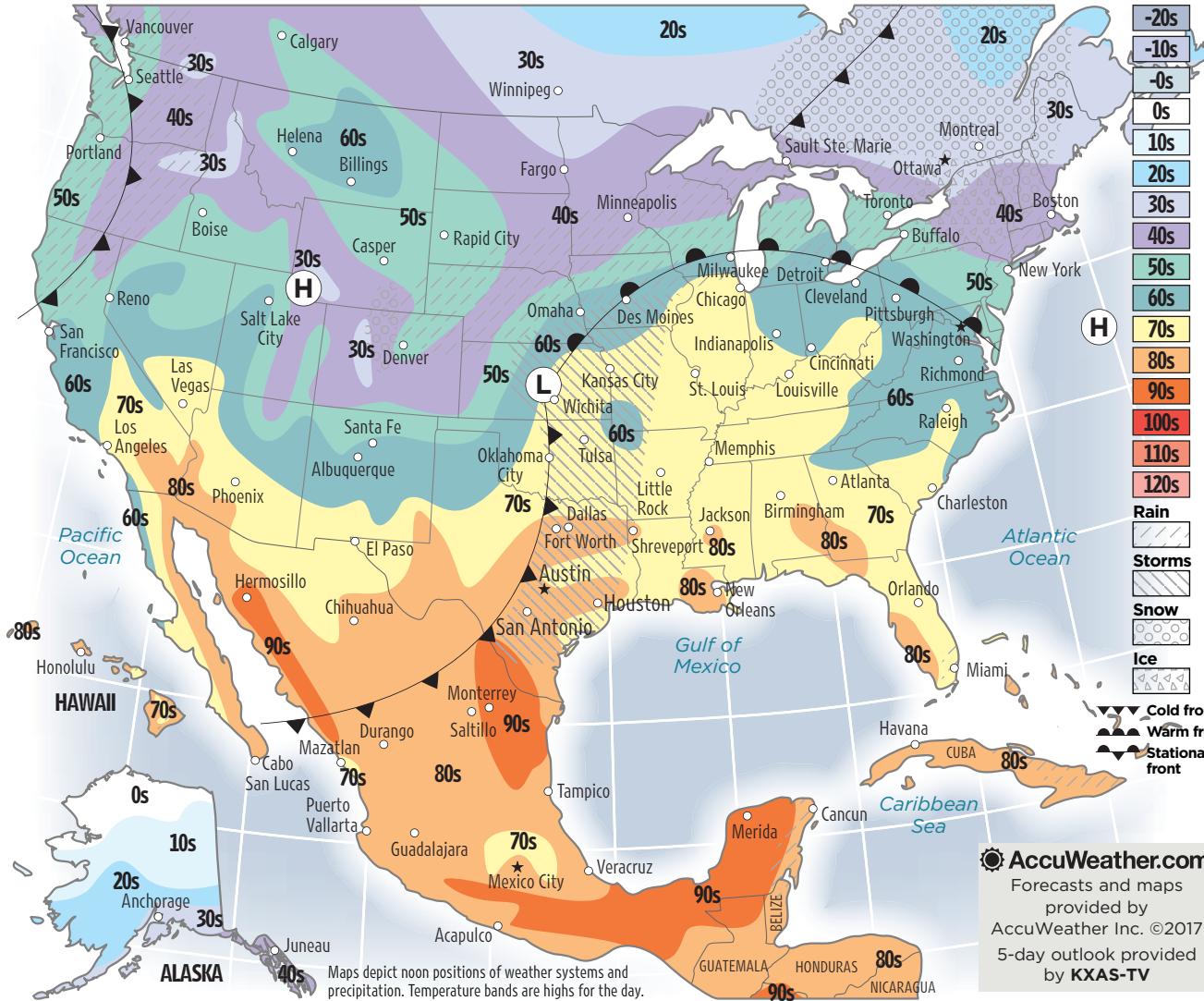
SATURDAY
 Sunny and pleasant
 High 76
 Low 52
 Wind NW 5-10

SUNDAY
 Mostly sunny, chance storm
 High 83
 Low 56
 Wind S 10-20

MONDAY
 Mostly sunny
 High 80
 Low 60
 Wind N 5-10

TUESDAY
 Mostly sunny
 High 80
 Low 58
 Wind SE 10-15

TODAY'S WEATHER MAP



NATIONAL HIGHS, LOWS & FORECAST

City	Yesterday			Today			Tomorrow		
	HI	LO	P	HI	LO	F	HI	LO	F
Albany, N.Y.	37	13	-	43	41	sn	45	30	r
Albuquerque, N.M.	69	44	t	67	40	s	72	43	s
Anchorage, Alaska	30	8	-	33	13	s	33	17	s
Atlanta	66	51	-	71	56	pc	73	59	pc
Baltimore	48	25	-	62	51	pc	73	49	pc
Bangor, Maine	27	10	-	38	28	sn	44	13	pc
Birmingham, Ala.	77	50	-	74	61	pc	72	60	ts
Bismarck, N.D.	42	31	.20	45	29	pc	56	35	pc
Boise, Idaho	55	37	-	55	39	sh	56	36	c
Boston	38	17	-	43	40	sh	48	35	r
Buffalo, N.Y.	40	17	-	53	41	r	42	36	r
Burlington, Vt.	33	3	-	40	32	c	40	17	sf
Casper, Wyo.	50	34	.02	55	36	c	59	31	r
Charleston, S.C.	65	47	-	73	53	pc	75	57	pc
Charleston, W.Va.	65	25	-	71	50	c	73	54	pc
Chicago	51	28	.02	72	48	c	58	52	r
Cincinnati	60	28	-	68	54	pc	71	55	pc
Cleveland	51	19	-	68	54	c	64	53	r
Colorado Spgs, Colo.	73	37	-	49	27	sn	58	34	pc
Columbia, S.C.	64	43	-	75	52	pc	76	57	pc
Columbus, Ohio	56	24	-	70	55	pc	72	56	c
Concord, N.H.	35	15	-	41	35	c	45	26	r
Denver	77	45	-	52	32	sf	62	35	pc
Des Moines, Iowa	58	41	-	67	44	ts	52	40	r
Detroit	44	24	-	67	48	c	54	44	r
Fairbanks, Alaska	13	-15	.03	18	-9	s	19	-6	s
Fargo, N.D.	43	34	.23	44	26	pc	50	32	pc
Flagstaff, Ariz.	36	30	.76	57	26	c	49	19	pc
Grand Rapids, Mich.	48	23	-	64	41	c	48	42	r
Hartford, Conn.	38	16	t	45	40	c	51	35	r
Helena, Mont.	55	39	-	62	38	pc	53	31	r
Honolulu	84	72	.05	85	72	pc	84	73	s
Indianapolis	57	29	.01	66	55	c	65	54	r
Jackson, Miss.	85	56	-	80	64	sh	77	57	ts
Juneau, Alaska	38	27	.13	41	32	c	41	31	sf
Kansas City, Mo.	80	50	-	70	47	ts	59	42	sh
Knoxville, Tenn.	68	40	-	71	53	pc	73	57	c
Las Vegas, Nev.	72	53	.01	78	60	pc	72	54	pc
Little Rock, Ark.	83	45	-	77	57	pc	71	50	pc
Los Angeles	70	54	-	70	54	pc	67	51	pc
Louisville, Ky.	63	33	-	73	58	pc	71	58	c
Memphis, Tenn.	79	49	-	77	62	sh	71	53	pc
Miami	85	66	.02	78	69	sh	80	68	pc
Milwaukee	44	25	-	62	39	c	45	40	r
Mpls/St Paul, Minn.	41	36	.02	46	31	r	48	35	c
Nashville, Tenn.	72	38	.01	74	59	pc	73	57	ts
New Orleans	83	61	-	80	68	sh	78	67	ts
New York	42	23	-	50	48	c	63	42	sh
Oklahoma City	85	56	-	77	47	pc	69	46	pc
Omaha, Neb.	76	45	t	67	42	ts	53	39	c
Orlando, Fla.	81	67	.01	78	60	pc	82	60	pc
Pensacola, Fla.	76	64	-	75	66	pc	77	65	ts
Philadelphia	45	24	-	57	51	pc	72	48	pc
Phoenix, Ariz.	72	54	.13	79	56	s	82	56	s
Pittsburgh	50	18	-	67	54	r	68	55	pc
Portland, Maine	34	13	-	40	33	sn	46	25	sh
Portland, Ore.	58	41	-	54	42	r	54	41	pc
Providence, R.I.	40	18	-	46	41	sh	53	36	r
Rapid City, S.D.	63	39	.02	59	31	pc	67	37	pc
Raleigh, N.C.	56	32	-	70	51	pc	74	55	pc
Reno, Nev.	60	31	-	59	41	r	58	33	pc
Richmond, Va.	51	28	-	66	52	c	76	55	pc
Sacramento, Calif.	62	40	-	56	45	r	65	45	ts
St. Louis	61	40	.11	78	58	pc	69	51	ts
Salt Lake City	43	38	2.07	60	45	pc	51	35	r
San Diego	66	58	-	67	58	pc	66	56	pc
San Francisco	61	50	-	62	51	r	63	50	pc
Santa Fe, N.M.	70	36	.07	64	31	pc	69	35	s
Savannah, Ga.	69	53	-	75	56	pc	77	59	pc
Seattle	58	39	t	54	42	r	52	40	pc
Shreveport, La.	86	60	-	81	60	ts	76	52	pc
Sioux Falls, S.D.	51	37	.02	46	32	r	49	35	c
Spokane, Wash.	47	34	-	44	36	r	48	32	sh
Syracuse, N.Y.	34	12	-	47	36	i	41	32	r
Tallahassee, Fla.	75	62	-	81	57	pc	80	58	pc
Tampa, Fla.	85	66	.01	82	64	s	83	64	s
Tucson, Ariz.	68	57	t	75	48	s	83	50	s
Tulsa, Okla.	82	52	-	74	50	ts	67	46	pc
Washington, D.C.	48	29	-	65	53	pc	75	56	pc
Wichita, Kan.	82	52	-	74	45	ts	63	41	pc

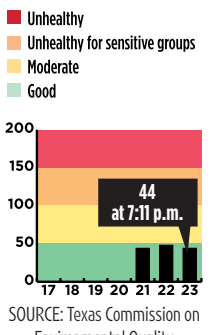
DIARY

Yesterday's temperatures and relative humidity (recorded at D/FW Int'l Airport)

Midnight	69	81%
1 a.m.	68	78%
2 a.m.	70	70%
3 a.m.	70	73%
4 a.m.	69	75%
5 a.m.	66	87%
6 a.m.	66	87%
7 a.m.	66	87%
8 a.m.	67	84%
9 a.m.	69	75%
10 a.m.	71	70%
11 a.m.	74	59%
Noon	78	48%
1 p.m.	80	43%
2 p.m.	84	34%
3 p.m.	85	30%
4 p.m.	87	29%
5 p.m.	85	26%
6 p.m.	84	29%
7 p.m.	82	33%
8 p.m.	79	37%
9 p.m.	76	43%
10 p.m.	74	44%
11 p.m.	72	52%

DAILY HIGH
 87 at 2:59 p.m.

AIR QUALITY



HIGHS & LOWS

U.S. HIGH	U.S. LOW
Presidio, Texas	98
Saranac Lake, N.Y.	-20

TEXAS HIGH	TEXAS LOW
Presidio	98
Muleshoe	38

ALLERGENS

Grains per cubic meter measured in North Dallas

Various Trees	3556	vh
Grass	46	h
Fungus	3023	l
Total	6625	

KEY: l=low, m=medium, h=high, vh=very high

INTERNATIONAL FORECAST & HIGHS AND LOWS

MEXICO					CANADA					ASIA-PACIFIC										
City	Yest	Today	HI	LO	P	City	Yest	Today	HI	LO	P	City	Yest	Today	HI	LO	P			
Acapulco	89	73	-	86	74	pc	Calgary	52	27	-	54	29	pc	Bangkok	99	81	.04	93	80	c
Cancun	82	61	-	84	70	s	Edmonton	34	22	.02	43	26	pc	Beijing	52	45	.28	43	32	r
Chihuahua	90	59	-	82	43	s	Halifax	23	17	.01	33	30	pc	H.C. Minh City	91	79	-	95	79	pc
Durango	86	56	-	84	39	s	Montreal	32	12	-	37	28	sn	Hong Kong	76	69	.06	75	67	pc
Guadalajara	88	57	-	89	50	pc	Ottawa	36	9	-	37	26	sn	Jakarta	86	75	.50	87	75	ts
Guanajuato	86	48	-	84	53	pc	Quebec	27	3	-	32	21	sn	Manila	95	79	-	94	77	s
Hermosillo	81	61	-	90	55	s	Toronto	36	18	-	54	36	r	New Delhi	100	66	-	96	66	pc
Mazatlan	82	66	-	79	63	s	Vancouver	59	39	.02	52	41	c	Seoul	57	37	-	56	37	pc
Merida	92	68	-	95	66	s	Winnipeg	34	30	-	36	28	pc	Shanghai	52	44	.03	54	44	sh
Mexico City	80	49	-	82	53	pc	Amsterdam	55	36	-	55	37	s	Singapore	91	79	-	90	79	pc
Monterrey	83	63	-	91	57	s	Athens	72	57	-	71	51	s	Sydney	75	68	.73	73	66	sh
Pto. Vallarta	82	62	-	82	62	pc	Belgrade	74	51	-	78	46	pc	Taipei	72	61	.19	74	62	pc
Saltillo	88	52	-	83	47	s	Berlin	46	41	.16	54	32	pc	Tokyo	56	44	.06	53	40	pc
Veracruz	84	71	-	89	71	s	Brussels	59	36	-	55	40	pc	Baghdad	74	58	.58	68	51	sh
Belize City	84	65	.01	85	70	pc	Budapest	72	50	.02	72	41	pc	Beirut	67	59	-	67	55	s
Bogota	66	52	.08	65	52	ts	Copenhagen	50	30	-	49	37	pc	Dubai	83	66	-	79	72	pc
Buenos Aires	81	61	t	79	62	pc	Dublin	46	39	.16	49	37	s	Jerusalem	62	52	.03	60	44	ts
Caracas	87	78	.08	86	76	ts	Frankfurt	59	41	-	60	40	pc	Kabul	65	37	-	64	45	c
Havana	82	52	-	81	59	s	Geneva	58	41	.06	59	43	c	Riyadh	81	67	.12	87	67	s
Kingston	86	75	-	85	73	sh	Helsinki	43	30	-	39	30	pc	Tehran	55	50	.96	51	43	r
Lima	85	73	-	83	72	pc	Istanbul	58	45	-	59	43	pc	Tel Aviv	70	55	.02	69	52	pc
Managua	95	67	-	95	70	pc	Lisbon	52	43	.35	56	47	ts	Addis Ababa	79	57	.22	80	56	pc
Nassau	84	60	.05	82	67	sh	London	52	41	.32	56	41	s	Cairo	77	61	-	75	54	s
Panama City	93	70	-	93	69	pc	Madrid	43	30	.28	52	31	ts	Casablanca	59	45	.19	58	40	sh
Quito	64	48	.64	64	49	ts	Moscow	48	32	.21	46	25	sh	Dakar	73	66	-	74	65	s
Rio de Jan.																				

Let Baylor, UCLA star earn their moment

Headlines out of Waco, Bruin's overbearing dad shouldn't mar drama

Cheering for UCLA's Lonzo Ball in Memphis or Baylor in Madison Square Garden should not come with a price. But it sure feels like it does.

As for the Bears, they are the top seed remaining in the East Region, thanks to the disappearance of Villanova and Duke. Yet it's still going to be quite an upset if Baylor works its way to the Final Four after



TIM COWLISHAW
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staging a disappearance in the second half of the season.

After reaching the No. 1 ranking for the first time in school history, the Bears went 10-7. It seemed a bad reaction to the pressure, a slightly different form of what Scott Drew's teams

See **BAYLOR** Page 7C

Journey difficult for Baylor's Alexis Jones

She has excelled after surviving a car accident that paralyzed her father. **1A**

NCAA Women's Oklahoma City Region:
1. Baylor vs. 4. Louisville,
8 p.m. today (ESPN2)

New trial: Ex-Baylor player Sam Ukwuachu has his conviction overturned. **1B**

New arrest: An ex-Baylor player is arrested in a 2013 sexual assault case. **5B**

No. 1 Gonzaga continues march



The Associated Press

A go-ahead 3-pointer from Jordan Mathews (right) helped top-seeded Gonzaga edge West Virginia in the Sweet 16. No. 11 seed Xavier, Kansas and Oregon also advanced. **8C**

Baylor will rely on its D

Chuck Carlton: The Bears are banking on their efficient defense to keep their NCAA roll going. **6C**

NCAA Men's East Region:
3. Baylor vs. 7. South Carolina,
6:29 p.m. today (TBS)

UT ready to launch away

The Lady Longhorns will look to find the range in a matchup of top 3-point-shooting teams. **8C**

NCAA Women's Lexington Region:
3. Texas vs. 2. Stanford,
8 p.m. today (ESPN)

RANGERS

WBC effort gives bullpen a boost

Evan Grant: Sam Dyson and Alex Claudio return to spring camp Friday after posting 0.00 ERAs in the World Baseball Classic. **2C**

■ A.J. Griffin making rotation push. **3C**

■ U.S. savors WBC championship. **2C**

STARS

Dallas falls despite dominating play

Mike Heika: The Stars outshot the hottest team in the league 46-26, but goalie Corey Crawford bailed out Chicago for a 3-2 shootout victory. **12C**

HIGH SCHOOLS

DeSoto relay teams to face stern test

DeSoto, the defending state 6A track champs for boys and girls, has retooled with strong relay teams but will face stiff competition at this weekend's Jesuit-Shearer Relays. **9C**

ALSO INSIDE

■ Debbie Fetterman's running column. **3C**

■ The U.S. men's soccer team needs a win tonight in World Cup qualifying. **5C**

TODAY'S ONLINE CHAT

Cowboys insider Jon Machota, 9 a.m.

SportsDayDFW.com

SCORES

NBA, 4C

at Dallas.....97	at San Antonio.....97
LA Clippers.....95	Memphis.....90
at Brooklyn.....126	at Portland.....110
Phoenix.....98	New York.....95
Toronto.....101	
at Miami.....84	

NHL, 11C

at Chicago.....3	at Florida.....3
Dallas.....2 (SO)	Arizona.....1
Tampa Bay.....6	at St. Louis.....4
at Boston.....3	Vancouver.....1
at Toronto.....4	at Nashville.....3
New Jersey.....2	Calgary.....1
at Washington.....2	Philadelphia.....3
Columbus.....1 (SO)	at Minnesota.....1
Carolina.....4	Edmonton.....7
at Montreal.....1	at Colorado.....4
at Ottawa.....2	Winnipeg.....9
Pittsburgh.....1 (SO)	at Los Angeles.....2

For late scores, log on to SportsDayDFW.com

INSIDE

Baseball.....2-3	NBA.....4-5
Classified.....11	NFL.....4-5
Colleges.....6-8	Running.....3
High schools.....9, 12	Scoreboard.....9
Hockey.....2, 11-12	Soccer.....5, 9
Golf.....8	Tennis.....2, 9

MAVERICKS 97, CLIPPERS 95



Tom Fox/Staff Photographer

The Mavericks' Nerlens Noel and Clippers forward Blake Griffin (right) battle for a rebound at AAC. Noel, one of the Mavs' prized building blocks, made his second start with Dallas and had eight points and 12 rebounds.

No time to lose

Mavs must deal with a rare sub-.500 season, keep on building

The last time the Mavericks had a losing season was in 1999-2000, when they went 40-42.

But Mark Cuban doesn't count that, because he didn't officially buy the team until more than a third of that season had elapsed.

"We were 31-19 [after] I owned it," he said.

This year is different. The Mavericks are headed to a losing season, Thursday's 97-95 win over the Los Angeles Clippers notwithstanding.

MAVERICKS INSIDER



EDDIE SEFKO
esefko@dallasnews.com

Two more defeats will clinch it. And this is a feeling Cuban and everybody else in the organization would rather not have.

"It doesn't make me happy," Cuban said. "It's my first

Mavs turn back Clippers as playoff drive alive, **4C**

losing season since grade school. It is what it is. There's not a whole lot I can do. I guess I could go to Russia and ask them to hack the NBA [season] and put out some fake news."

Jokes won't help, either.

The Mavericks still have 11 more games left, and the

See **LOSING** Page 5C

Race for eighth

The Mavericks are running out of time to make a playoff push. With 11 games remaining, they trail the Denver Nuggets by three games. Here's a look at the contenders for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Western Conference:

Team	W-L	GB
8. Denver	34-37	—
9. Portland	33-38	1
10. Dallas	31-40	3
11. New Orleans	30-41	4

COWBOYS INSIDER



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Romo's now odd man out

Distance between QB, coach widened well before the offseason

Jason Garrett was at American Airlines Center this week as the Mavericks lost to the Golden State Warriors.

Tony Romo wasn't sitting next to him.

The relationship between the two has become a source of fascination for Cowboys fans.

NFL clarifies rule that hurt Dallas in playoffs. **4C**

With Romo's fate in limbo, it's become evident he and Garrett haven't been sighted in public the way they have in previous offseasons.

Surprising? Not really. The split, delayed as the Cowboys seek a trade partner, remains inevitable. Human nature dictates that Romo and Garrett put some emotional distance between themselves before the quarterback is out the door.

But the distance between Romo and the Cowboys head coach began to grow well before the offseason was underway.

Romo and Garrett share a bond few can claim. Both have played quarterback in the NFL. Both possess an analytical eye for the position, a love of competition and an appreciation for sports that extends beyond football.

But it's a relationship born of their employment by the Cowboys. It's a friendship that's become frayed by circumstance the way it would in any workplace where one party reports to the other.

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