Texas Relays Poorly Run; Badly Managed

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Saturday marked the 33rd and worst running of the annual Texas Relays. Hampered by fifty degree temperatures, a howling north wind, intermittent rain, and vivid recollections of Bobby Morrow charging off the curve to nip the University of Texas in world record breaking relay times, the meet proved to be a bitter disappointment for the vast majority of the 10,000 spectators, most of whom had driven from as far off as Abilene.

Meet Has Deteriorated

After missing the meet for the past two years, we

were shocked at the manner in which 'Texas' oldest and most famous track and field meet has deteriorated. Obviously sacrificing entertainment value for dollar value, the Longhorns have rescheduled the meet so as to split the more attractive events evenly between Friday night and Saturday afternoon.

The result being that the Saturday spectators must set through a 17½ minute four-mile relay, four consecutive two-mile relays (one each for high schools, junior colleges and freshmen, colleges, and universities), and four consecutive sprint relays (substituting junior high schools for high schools in this case). Needless to say this is a little too much for any track fan, especially when one considers that at least half of the crowd is traveling over 50 miles to see the meet.

Bad Starter

To make things even more boring, the Texans continue to use a fat and eighth starter known affectionately as "Mule" Frazier. Frazier's usual starting procedure is as follows, "Go to your marks... "Get set"... (count to 50 slowly) ... Bang! And finally the cramped and fatigued athletes are away and walking. The results of Frazier's antics are innumerable false starts and the last event being run anywhere from thirty minutes to an hour late.

Last but not least in our assaults on Texas' oldest track institution is the Longhorns' warped sense of values. We only regret that the example we are going to give involves athletes from both Rice and Texas. But our opinion would remain the same even if their roles were interchanged.

Ties Walcott Record

Saturday, with a twenty mile an hour wind at his back, Longhorn Ray Cunningham won the high hurdles with a time of 13.9. The 13.9 clocking was identical to the meet record established by Rice star Fred Walcott in 1939. Thus Cunningham will go down in the record books as co-holder of the meet record along with Walcott.

The only thing that we can say for the Longhorns' method of recognizing records without regard as to how they were made, is that at least they have been impartial in that Texas athletes are no more exempt from the practice than any others.

Replaced As Best

With such mal-practices as those mentioned above and the impending decline of the University as a track power along with the continued improvement of Baylor and the University of Houston, Longhorn supporters are going to be staggered in a few years by the fact that Houston's Meet of Champions has replaced the Texas Relays as the Southwest's foremost track and field carnival.