

# THE MARKS

## A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Jim Conlin, President ([jconlin@swtfoa.com](mailto:jconlin@swtfoa.com))

I used to always look forward to the arrival of spring knowing track and field season was on its way. Each one of my senses knew the feelings that were coming; pain, exhilaration, exhaustion, joy ...I was stepping from the cold and darkness of winter into the light and warmth of the new year.

These days those feelings are tempered because I have to worry about work, paying the mortgage, my medical maladies; the list goes on and on, but there is still some of that joy. Nowadays there seems to be another cloud that threatens to darken my spring, and the worst part is not being exactly sure about the source of that cloud.

In mid-December I was boarding an airplane in Norfolk, VA headed home to DFW. In the shadows of the lounge I noticed a tall, beautiful, young lady trying to keep hidden from everyone else. I knew who she was and understood why she wanted the privacy. Everyone boarded the airplane. She got on the airplane last and had the first two seats ahead of me in first class reserved for her. It was obvious she wanted privacy - the lady was Marion Jones.

I turned my attention back to my book. I was reading "My Losing Season" by Pat Conroy, the story of his basketball team at The Citadel in the mid sixties. As Marion Jones sat down in front of me I read the following; "The lessons I learned while playing basketball for the Citadel Bulldogs from 1963-1967 have proven priceless to me both as a writer and a man. I have a sense of fair play and sportsmanship...I believe with all my heart that athletics is one of the finest intricacies and darkneses a human life can throw at you. Athletics provide some of the richest fields of both metaphor and cliché to measure our lives against the intrusions and aggressions of other people."

As I read this passage I wondered about this great athlete that was sitting in front of me. Were the accusations true or was she the victim of the jealousies of others?

I respected her privacy but eventually she turned back and we started chatting. I told her that I was a track official and that we had the best officials in the world in our association. We talked about track and the politics but we never talked

about the use of performance enhancing drugs. It was a very pleasant flight for me and I enjoyed seeing that famous smile when we talked and I noticed there was just a trace of sadness to that smile.

I figured out what the cloud is now. Sports have become so driven by power and money that any sense of "fair play and sportsmanship" has been crushed. I don't know if this wonderful young lady is driven to take drugs or if others are so jealous of her success that they will do anything to bring her down. I do know that I wish the world could be simple for Marion so there would be no question about her competing with the tools God has blessed her with. Unfortunately she is experiencing the darknesses of human life. Maybe spring will be light and warm!

January 2005

### **Association Board**

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This newsletter will be that last communication sent to those officials not yet certified for the 2008 Olympiad. See page three for a list of currently scheduled certification/recertification clinics; a current list can always be read at [www.swtfoa.com](http://www.swtfoa.com) and click on the Certification/Recertification page. The SWTFOA is only as strong as its members so recertification is crucial!!!

DATE	INDOOR		
1/29	Houston Indoor Invitational Houston	Houston (UH)	Theresa Fuqua (713) 743-9465, <a href="mailto:theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu">theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu</a>
2/5	Houston Indoor Classic Houston	Houston (UH)	Theresa Fuqua (713) 743-9465, <a href="mailto:theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu">theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu</a>
2/12	UH/Runsport All-Comers Meet Houston	Houston (UH)	Theresa Fuqua (713) 743-9465, <a href="mailto:theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu">theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu</a>
2/18-19	Southland Conference Indoor Track & Field Championships	Houston (UH)	
2/25-26	Conference USA Indoor Championships	Houston (UH)	Theresa Fuqua (713) 743-9465, <a href="mailto:theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu">theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu</a>
2/25-26	Big XII Conference Indoor Championships	Lincoln, NB	
2/25-27	USATF National Indoor Championships	Boston, MA	invitation
3/11-12	NCAA Division I Indoor Championships	Fayetteville, AR	
	<b>OUTDOOR</b>		
2/19	Sam Houston Invitational	Arlington (Sam Houston HS)	Dave Hill (817) 459-8200
2/19	Spruce Invitational Track Meet	Dallas (Sprague Stadium)	Jesse Shanks (214) 212-2543 (cell), (972) 892-5576 (office)
3/11	Tarleton High School Relays	Stephenville (Tarleton)	Natalie Smith (254) 968-9174; Ronny Zoch (254) 968-0552
3/11-12	BVU Invitational	Dallas (St Mark's)	John Turek, (214) 346-8183, <a href="mailto:turek@smtexas.org">turek@smtexas.org</a>
3/25-26	Tom Tellez Invitational	Houston (UH)	Theresa Fuqua (713) 743-9465, <a href="mailto:theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu">theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu</a>
3/26	Dr Pepper Invitational	Waco (Baylor)	Tom Hill (254) 710-1915
3/31	Tarleton College Relays	Stephenville (Tarleton)	Natalie Smith (254) 968-9174; Ronny Zoch (254) 968-0552
4/1	Arlington Invitational - hammer only at SMU	Dallas (SMU)	Kyle White (817) 272-5825, <a href="mailto:ckwhite@uta.edu">ckwhite@uta.edu</a>
4/2	Arlington Invitational	Arlington (UTA)	Kyle White (817) 272-5825, <a href="mailto:ckwhite@uta.edu">ckwhite@uta.edu</a>
4/1-2	Bayou Classic	Houston (Rice)	Darrel Robinson (713) 348-8861, <a href="mailto:drobin@rice.edu">drobin@rice.edu</a>
4/6-9	Texas Relays	Austin (UT)	invitation
4/14-15	ASU David Noble Multi-Events	San Angelo (Angelo State)	James Reid, (325) 942-2091 x223, <a href="mailto:James.Reid@angelo.edu">James.Reid@angelo.edu</a>
4/16	34th Annual ASU David Noble Relays	San Angelo (Angelo State)	James Reid, (325) 942-2091 x223, <a href="mailto:James.Reid@angelo.edu">James.Reid@angelo.edu</a>
4/22-23	Lone Star Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships	San Angelo (Angelo State)	James Reid, (325) 942-2091 x223, <a href="mailto:James.Reid@angelo.edu">James.Reid@angelo.edu</a>
4/22-23	St Mark's Middle School Invitational	Dallas (St Mark's)	John Turek, (214) 346-8183, <a href="mailto:turek@smtexas.org">turek@smtexas.org</a>
4/23	TCU Invitational	Ft Worth (TCU)	Darryl Anderson, (817) 257-7893
4/23	Michael Johnson Classic	Waco (Baylor)	Tom Hill (254) 710-1915
4/28	Mean Green Twilight	Denton (UNT)	George Young (940) 898-7166, <a href="mailto:George.Young@TriadHospitals.com">George.Young@TriadHospitals.com</a>
4/29-30	UIL Region II-4A Championships	Denton (UNT)	George Young (940) 898-7166, <a href="mailto:George.Young@TriadHospitals.com">George.Young@TriadHospitals.com</a>
4/29-30	UIL Region II-2A Championships	Stephenville (Tarleton)	Natalie Smith (254) 968-9174; Ronny Zoch (254) 968-0552
4/29-30	UIL Region II-5A Championships	Waco (Baylor)	Tom Hill (254) 710-1915
4/30	Rice/Runsport Twilight	Houston (Rice)	Darrel Robinson (713) 348-8861, <a href="mailto:drobin@rice.edu">drobin@rice.edu</a>
5/6-7	TAPPS State Championships	Waco (Baylor)	Tom Hill (254) 710-1915
5/7	Houston Outdoor Invitational	Houston (UH)	Theresa Fuqua (713) 743-9465, <a href="mailto:theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu">theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu</a>
5/6-7	UTA Open	Arlington (UTA)	Kyle White (817) 272-5825, <a href="mailto:ckwhite@uta.edu">ckwhite@uta.edu</a>
5/12-14	Conference USA Outdoor Championships	Houston (UH)	Theresa Fuqua (713) 743-9465, <a href="mailto:theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu">theresa.dunn@mail.uh.edu</a>
5/13-15	Big XII Conference Outdoor Championships	Manhattan, KS	
5/13-15	Southland Conference Outdoor Track & Field Championships	Huntsville (SHSU)	
5/16-18	NJCAA Outdoor Track & Field	Levelland (S Plains JC)	David Conder, <a href="mailto:dconder@spc.cc.tx.us">dconder@spc.cc.tx.us</a>
5/26-28	NCAA Division II National Championships	Abilene (ACU)	Jon Murray, (325) 674-2711, <a href="mailto:murrayj@acu.edu">murrayj@acu.edu</a>
5/27-28	NCAA Division I Midwest Regional Track & Field Championships	Norman (U of Oklahoma)	
6/4-5	Texas Greatest Athlete	Dallas (St Mark's)	John Turek, (214) 346-8183, <a href="mailto:turek@smtexas.org">turek@smtexas.org</a>
6/8-11	NCAA Division I National Championships	Sacramento	
6/18	SW Association Open & Masters Championships	Coppell HS	Chris Marcellus (972) 266-9096 (hm), <a href="mailto:cmarcellus@swtfoa.com">cmarcellus@swtfoa.com</a>
6/23-26	USATF Outdoor National Championships & USATF Junior Outdoor National Champion-	Carson, CA	invitation
7/21-24	State Games of Texas (TAAF)	Waco (Baylor)	Tom Hill (254) 710-1915 July
7/23	Texas Masters Championships	Coppell HS	Chris Marcellus (972) 266-9096 (hm), <a href="mailto:cmarcellus@swtfoa.com">cmarcellus@swtfoa.com</a>
8/4-7	USATF National Masters Championships	Honolulu (U of Hawaii)	
8/13	National Masters Weight Pentathlon Championships	Arlington (UTA)	Chris Marcellus (972) 266-9096 (hm), <a href="mailto:cmarcellus@swtfoa.com">cmarcellus@swtfoa.com</a>

Complete calendar located at [www.swtfoa.com](http://www.swtfoa.com) and clicking on "Officiating Calendar"

# OFFICIALS TRAINING 2005

by George Young, Training Director ([g.young@charter.net](mailto:g.young@charter.net))

Now that we are well into certification and recertification for this Olympiad, training of officials is important. The number of officials in the Southwestern Association and the large area included in the Southwestern Association makes training a challenge. We are looking at several different means of getting our officials the training they need and want. We will again be doing training meets. A tentative list of those meets is listed below. However, I need feedback from you as to what areas of track and field officiating that you the members want training for. Please e-mail me at [g.young@charter.net](mailto:g.young@charter.net) and let me know your wishes and we will arrange those opportunities at the selected meets.

One new way of receiving training is now available on our website. Chris

has added a section on the Membership Services page devoted to officials training. I prepared a training article on officiating the high jump that is now posted on this site. Now an official can go and download the information at their convenience. Again, we need feedback from you the membership to see if you find this helpful. If you do, please let us know and we will have further articles prepared by master officials in our association.

Finally, we are planning to do a workshop-type training seminar in conjunction with one of the association's sponsored summer meets. The workshop will consist of 30 to 45 minutes classroom seminars by master officials. A person would have an opportunity to choose 2 to 3 seminars to go to during

the workshop. Areas to be covered will include horizontal jumps, vertical jumps, the throws, starting, umpiring, and clerking.

## Tentative List of Training Meets

Dr. Pepper Invitational – March 26, 2005 – Waco

Arlington Invitational Meet – April 1 & 2, 2005 – Arlington

34<sup>th</sup> Annual David Noble Relays – April 16, 2005 – San Angelo

TCU Invitational – April 23, 2005 – Fort Worth

Mean Green Twilight Meet – April 28, 2005 - Denton

## CERTIFICATION NEWS

by Mica Barton, SWTFOA Certification Chair ([mbarton@swtfoa.com](mailto:mbarton@swtfoa.com))

The USATF National Convention was held in Portland, Oregon in December 2004. The Southwestern Association still leads the nation in total number or certified officials with 463 for the 2004 Olympiad. We've grown from 165 officials in 1996, and 394 officials in 2000.

We are currently conducting clinics for new certifications and re-certifications. Please visit the web site frequently for an updated an updated schedule.

### Upgrades

For those officials wanting to upgrade skills from Association to National or National to Master, there are several factors that are considered:

- Officiate Association meets - Youth, Masters, LDR, Cross Country
- Willingness to or have traveled outside the immediate area to officiate
- Demonstrates expertise or leader-

ship in officiating

Passing the required examination for the desired level

If you plan to request an upgrade, complete the **upgrade resume** form available on our association's web site. Please contact Mica Barton at 214.824.3245 or [micabarton@yahoo.com](mailto:micabarton@yahoo.com) with questions. Upgrade requests are generally taken in July.

### Certification Calendar *(check latest calendar & directions at [www.swtfoa.com](http://www.swtfoa.com), clicking on Certification/Recertification page)*

Monday, 1/24/05	7 pm	Arlington	Chris Marcellus, (972) 266-9096, <a href="mailto:cmarcellus@swtfoa.com">cmarcellus@swtfoa.com</a>	Upper School Commons at The Oakridge School, 5900 W. Pioneer Pkwy, 76013
Tuesday, 1/25/05	7 pm	Dallas (SMU)	Chester Bradley, (214) 361-6087	Letterman's Lounge in Moody Coliseum, SMU
Thursday, 1/27/05	7 pm	Fort Worth (TCU)	Dick Stinson, <a href="mailto:txrstinson@prodigy.net">txrstinson@prodigy.net</a>	Letterman's Lounge in Daniel-Meyers Coliseum, TCU
Thursday, 2/3/05	7 pm	Tyler	Robert Hahn, (903) 561-9511	clinic address: 3334 SSW Loop 323 #125
Thursday, 2/10/05	7 pm	Allen	Patrick McKay, (972) 727-6732	Allen Activity Complex, 301 Rivercrest, Allen, 75002
Thursday, 2/10/05	7 pm	Wichita Falls (MSU)	Phil Wilson, (214) 317-1336	Kiowa/Clark Room in Clark Student Center, Midwestern State
Tuesday, 2/15/05	7 pm	Arlington (UTA)	Dennis Van Order, <a href="mailto:dennis.k.vanorder@lmco.com">dennis.k.vanorder@lmco.com</a>	UTA Maverick Stadium, room TBA
Sunday, 2/27/05	1 pm	Abilene (ACU)	Danny Kittley, (325) 668-9526	Hilton Room in ACU Campus Center, Abilene Christian

# WEBSITE NEWS

By Chris Marcellus, Webmaster & Member Services ([cmarcellus@swtfoa.com](mailto:cmarcellus@swtfoa.com))

The SWTFOA website is now a year-and-a-half old and looks to be a resounding success judging by the number of hits it has received. Our association is well thought of nationally, and the website only enhances that viewpoint—I have had several requests from people out of state and out of our association about how to get certified, and have even had a few track questions, also out of state and our association, sent to [askanofficial@swtfoa.com](mailto:askanofficial@swtfoa.com). The site was and is intended to be an information center for our association to disseminate information, schedules, etc..., and to offer continuing training for our officials. If there are any improvements that I can make to the website to better serve you please pass them along to me.

This will be the last communication sent to all of the officials not yet certified for the 2008 Olympiad—the Certification/Recertification Calendar will still be accessible on the Certification/Recertification page on our website ([www.swtfoa.com](http://www.swtfoa.com)).

A few new additions to the website since our last newsletter:

- The Certification/Recertification page was created to provide information for recertifying, how to become a newly certified official, and information on how to upgrade.
- The Certification/Recertification Calendar will maintain a dynamic database of scheduled clinics, contacts for them, and directions (and maps where possible) on how to get to them.
- On the Member Services page, we will post comments officials send to me concerning specific meets and the schools/organizations that host them. This will be a sounding board for how we are treated, and will serve notice to those schools/organizations who need to look at their treatment of officials and how to improve it. Positive comments will also be posted, so

as to let our membership know which meets are desirable, and for the schools/organizations that suffer from a lack of officials to see how they can increase the number of certified officials attending. Comments should be e-mailed to me at [cmarcellus@swtfoa.com](mailto:cmarcellus@swtfoa.com); if a meet/school/organization is not listed, e-mail me with the appropriate info and comment and I will create it.

- By February, I am hoping to have a link on the Newsletter page to sign up/change your e-mail address for receiving the newsletter. This e-mail database will also be used to send important announcements from the SWTFOA.

Please be sure to send along any comments/suggestions to me, and look forward to seeing you all this Spring & Summer.

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHWESTERN TRACK & FIELD OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

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Official SWTFOA  
Website !!!  
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