

Dent happy to be working

United Press International
NEW YORK — Bucky Dent gets up off his laurels and goes back to work today and you never saw anyone happier in your life.

He's headed for Fort Lauderdale, Fla., to prepare for a new season with the world champion Yankees and he says you have no idea how good it'll feel to put on the uniform again.

When you talk to Bucky Dent about the past four months, he doesn't try to describe them, he merely shakes his head.

For starters, there was that three-run home run of his off Mike Torrez that brought the Yankees from behind and broke the backs of the Red Sox in the Eastern Division playoff. That was followed by his being voted the World Series MVP after he helped do in the Dodgers with a .417 batting average. And then came Bucky-in-Wonderland, the off-season to cap all off-seasons, when the dark-haired 27-year-old Yankee shortstop discovered he was one of the most marketable commodities in America commercially.

Without so much as lifting a bat or folding a ground ball, Bucky Dent made himself probably somewhere between \$150,000 to \$200,000,

which isn't exactly cheese dip for a guy who batted .243 and hit only five homers during the regular season and a sixth one in the playoff. Dent wasn't looking to grab all he possibly could, either. When he went to Knoxville, Tenn., last Saturday where he had played earlier in his career, he turned back the \$2,400 he was paid and asked that it be used to buy tickets to the local games for the underprivileged kids in the city.

Everywhere Bucky Dent went this winter, people flocked around him. Particularly the ladies, who obviously were attracted to him by his softstyle, down-home manner and evenly chiseled good looks. Over the weekend, Dent participated in a sports forum at the Concord Hotel where he answered questions from guests of all ages.

One 12-year-old girl in the audience raised her hand and asked Dent whether she could kiss him. "Sure," he said, laughing. "Why not?"

The little girl marched herself to the stage and the Yankee shortstop delivered just as he promised. The crowd gave him a big hand.

Dent is especially anxious to get to the Yankees' camp so he can

spend time with Charlie Lau, the club's new batting coach who did so much for several of Kansas City's hitters. Lau specializes in teaching hitters to go to the opposite field.

"I'm really excited about that," Dent said. "I've never had a good hitting instructor."

When the right-handed hitting Dent first came up with the White Sox six seasons ago, he was a dead pull hitter. Lately, he has been trying to hit more to the opposite field.

People have bombarded Dent with all kinds of questions since last

October. The one he has been asked most often, he said, was whether he feels what he did against the Dodgers was strictly a one-shot proposition or whether he thinks he can ever duplicate such a performance.

"Nobody ever goes into a World Series expecting to be a hero," said Dent. "You play the game and see what happens. I think I have the ability to play as well as I did last year. I really feel I'm a better hitter than I was last season. That doesn't mean I'm gonna shoot for home runs, though. I'm not a home run hitter."

Mardi Gras race run across Pontchartrain

United Press International
METAIRIE, La. — Because of the New Orleans police strike, the world's longest running track for the 16th annual Mardi Gras Marathon.

A wheelchair-bound marathoner rolled himself across the finish line ahead of 1,400 runners Sunday to "win" the marathon in just more than two hours. But the first runner over the line was John Dimick of Brattleboro, Vt., who finished in 2:11:54.

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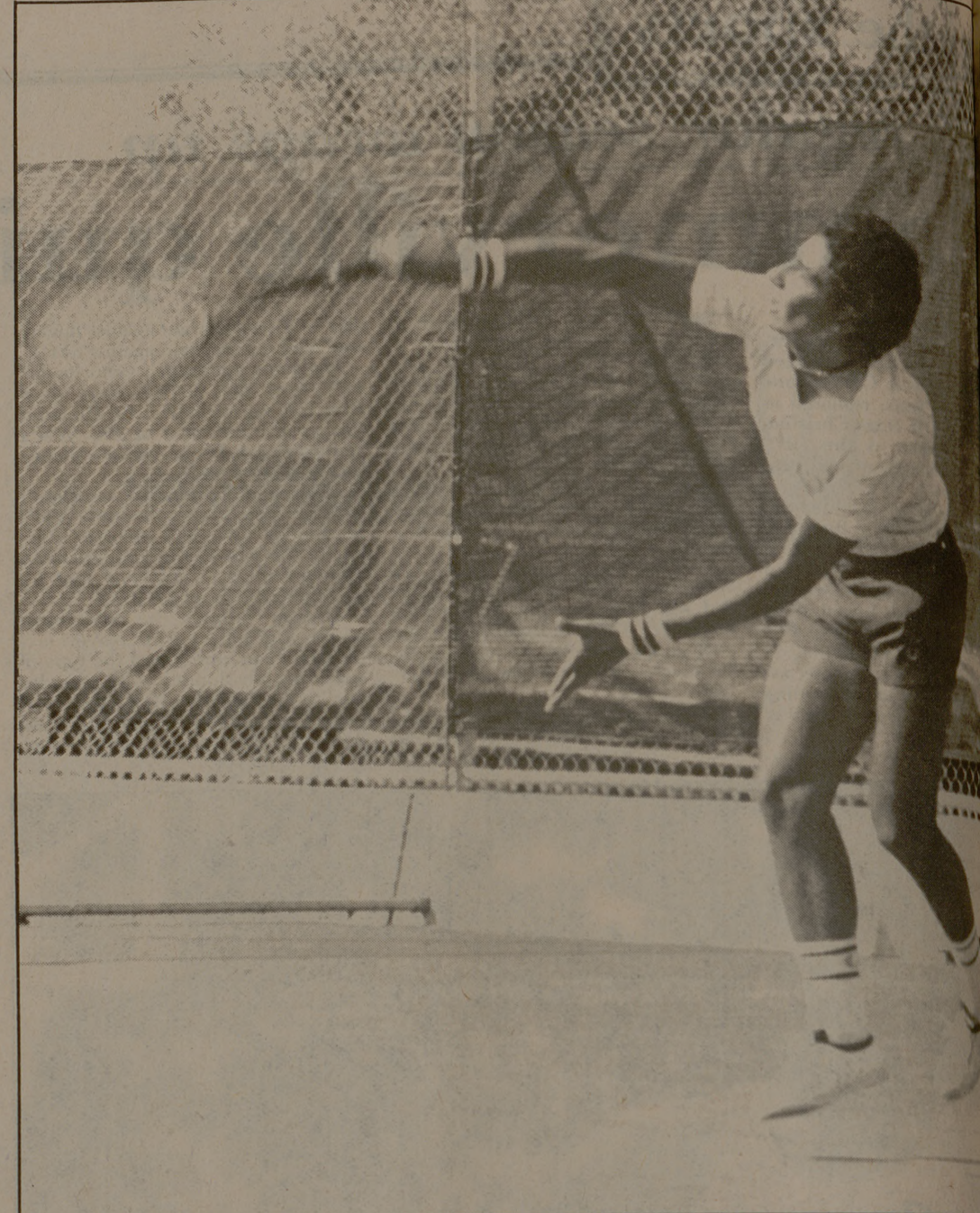
Bob Hall of Boston rolled over the finish line in his wheelchair with a time of 2:07:11, four minutes before Dimick.

Dimick's time was a record for Louisiana marathons and the best posted so far this year in a marathon. The first woman to finish was Gayle Olynek of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who completed the course in 2:38:12.3. Kelly Briant, 11, of Naples, Fla., was the youngest finisher. He made it in 3:11:06.

A strike by New Orleans policemen had threatened to cancel the marathon, as it had most Mardi Gras activities. But late Saturday, sponsors received permission to use the 24-mile Lake Pontchartrain Causeway instead of their original course through New Orleans.

The race sponsors said the last-minute course change made the marathon the longest distance race ever held over water.

Buses transported runners to the Mandeville, La., side of the lake early Sunday and traffic was closed on one span for the run. State police escorted drivers across the parallel bridge in convoys, alternating between northbound and southbound traffic.



Texas A&M's Alberto Jimenez practices his serve in preparation for today's match between the Aggies and the No. 2 rated Trinity University in San Antonio.

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Aggie notes

Netters face Trinity

The Texas A&M men's tennis team travels to San Antonio to play Trinity University today.

"Their line-up reads like a who's who of tennis," Aggie coach David Iskersky and McKown, who are ranked No. 2 in the nation behind Stanford.

Trinity is led by Erick Iskersky, the NCAA national indoor singles champion in 1978 and 1979. The Tigers also feature Ben McKown, who has won 42 straight matches in dual meet singles play. Former national junior champion Larry Gottfried, Tony Giammalva, John Benson and Eddie Reese round out the Trinity line-up. "This is probably the toughest team ever faced by Texas A&M," Kent said. "We are looking forward to the challenge."

The Aggies will take Reid Freeman, Alberto Jimenez, Mike

Skeet and trap

The Texas A&M skeet and trap team won first place in the Division of the Regional Skeet and Trap Championships in Denton, Texas, last weekend.

Texas A&M's Glenn Douglas was the top individual in the trap, scoring 91 out of 100 points. Trinity University and Nichol State University also competed in the meet.

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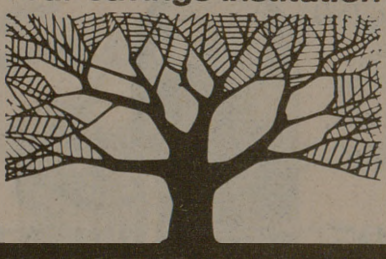
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15th Year	8,671.47	17,342.94	34,685.88	43,357.35	173,429.40
20th Year	14,774.51	29,549.02	59,098.04	73,872.57	295,490.20
25th Year	23,879.19	47,758.38	95,516.74	119,395.93	477,583.70
30th Year	37,461.76	74,923.52	149,847.04	187,308.80	749,235.20
35th Year	57,724.58	115,449.16	230,898.33	288,622.91	1,154,491.69
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