

# Randy Matson Returns To Aggieland As Spring Semester Gets Underway

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By LANI PRESSWOOD  
Sports Editor

William Shakespeare has replaced Dallas Long in the thoughts of Randy Matson.

The massive Aggie sophomore is resuming his college studies after a one-semester layoff during which he claimed an Olympic silver medal in the shot put.

"It's good to be back in a way," he remarked early this week, "but it sure is going to be hard getting back to studying."

The textbooks in Randy's room look familiar. One of them was open to a play composed by some sixteenth century Englishman. The title is "Romeo and Juliet."

His serious face almost broke into a smile when he said of the play, "I have enough problems of my own without worrying about theirs."

Matson's problems are not easily recognizable. The Pampa

strongboy now reigns as the planet's foremost shot man. At the tender age of nineteen he already has a hammerlock on the top rung and doesn't seem at all anxious to relinquish it.

His Tokyo blast of 66-3/4 is second only to the distances reached by the now-retired Long, who has a mark of 87-10 pending as a world record.

Matson is already back on a full scale training schedule which includes a rigorous, weightlifting program. He didn't start lifting weights until after his graduation from high school. Now he does repetitions in the bench press with 350 pounds and in the full squat with 410.

The 250-pounder hopes to build up to around 265 after competing at 260 in Tokyo.

His performance in what is probably the world's largest city capped a year in which his progress was remarkably consistent.

"I improved faster last year because I was getting bigger and stronger all the time," explains Randy. "I won't be gaining strength that fast from now on so my improvement will be up and down instead of steady."

Since his return from the Olympics Matson has been working in Abilene. He performed in an exhibition capacity in Lubbock Saturday and uncorked a 65-6 1/2 heave.

Of the throw, he says typically, "No, I didn't expect it. It surprised me."

Randy has surprised not only himself but the entire track world as well with his feats in the shot put ring. What is his ultimate goal?

"I never set myself a goal or shoot for any certain distance. I just try to improve."

Some observers feel that his greatest potential lies in the discus, but Matson disagrees, say-

ing, "I'll still concentrate on the shot. I've worked on it longer and enjoy it a lot more."

His two biggest thrills in sports have both come from hurling an iron ball over a sizeable expanse of ground. He ranks winning the state meet as a high school junior second only to capturing of an Olympic medal.

Randy is a business major who would like to go into public relations after graduation. He served as an instructor in a recent coaching clinic in Houston and has made other appearances as a public speaker.

Several mementos in his room keep the memory of the 1964 Olympic Games alive. One is a photograph showing Long atop a platform with his gold medal. It shows Randy standing on a lower level, which is symbolic of second place.

Don't count on a picture like that ever being taken again.

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## Blind Pupils Try Knack At Skiing

SPRING MOUNTAIN, Pa. (AP)—"Can you imagine us skiing?" asked Anita.

It got tougher when she and her fellow skiing students laced their boots and began to walk.

In little over an hour, this particular class of ski instructor Gunther Starker had completed its first lesson. Only one fell.

What's so great about that? The students are blind.

It seems an impossible task, to teach the blind to ski. But not for Starker, who taught Willi Hohm, regarded as the world's finest blind skier.

At the bottom of the slope, in his heavy Germanic accent, Starker's voice was sharp.

"Left ski . . . right ski . . . left . . . left ski . . . right ski . . ."

"Wonderful, Mark. Wonderful," he said to a tall, 14-year-old boy slowly completing a semicircle.

Mark Burns couldn't see how wonderful he was, since he was robbed of his sight by cancer at the age of 3.

Neither could Nicole Spiegel, 20, nor Anita Hawthorne, 19. They had lost their sight before entering public school.

Patricia Fulton, a physical education teacher at the Overbrook School for the Blind where these young people study, brought them to Spring Mountain. She explained they are used to feeling their way with their feet when they walk, but the thickness of the ski boots prohibited them from doing so.

As Starker hooked Anita's left ski in place, she said, "Let me see how this thing looks."

She looked with her left hand. Each student finally skied about 10 yards unaided on a slight hill, coming to a 90-degree stop.

"The last time down the hill I thought I was really going to slide, but not on my skis," said Anita.

Mark said he was glad he didn't break a leg.

"I couldn't afford it," he noted. "I have to wrestle Saturday."

## Mantle Agrees To Yanks' Offer

NEW YORK (AP)—Mickey Mantle has agreed to terms with the New York Yankees for a \$107,000 salary, tops in baseball, the New York Post reported Wednesday.

The report said the Yankees also have reached an agreement with Roger Maris at \$70,000, restoring the cut he took last season.

Both players reportedly will sign official contracts within the next few days.

The Yankees said neither player had signed a contract, and declined to comment on salary offers.

Mantle reportedly got \$100,000 last year. Willie Mays of the San Francisco Giants has generally been accepted as the top-salaried baseball player at \$105,000. He recently signed for the same figure.

Other \$100,000 players were Joe DiMaggio, Stan Musial and Ted Williams.

## Nisenon Becomes Cinderella Netter

HEMPSTEAD, N. Y. (AP)—Skinny Steve Nisenon, who couldn't play basketball in his own backyard as a boy because he was too small, is about to become the third player in the New York area to score 2,000 points in a college career.

The 6-foot 2, 170-pound Hofstra University senior has 1,994 points and should hit the magic mark Thursday night against Long Island University.



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