

Randy Matson Named 1967's Top Amateur Athlete

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Randy Matson, a gargantuan Texan who holds the world's shot put record, was named Wednesday winner of the Sullivan Award as the outstanding amateur athlete of 1967.

The 22-year-old Texas A&M athlete from Pampa, Texas, beat his own world record last April 4 by 10 1/4 inches by hurling the 16-pound ball 71 feet, 5 1/2 inches. He also threw the discus 213 feet, 9 3/4 inches for the unofficial American mark.

IN BALLOTING for the Amateur Athletic Union, Matson beat out three women in different fields—Billie Jean King of Long Beach, Calif., recognized as the

world's No. 1 woman tennis player; Deborah "Debbie" Meyer, 15-year-old swimming whiz from Sacramento, Calif., and Peggy Fleming of Colorado Springs, Colo., world figure skating queen.

Miss Fleming will be favored to win a gold medal in the Winter Olympics next month at Grenoble, France. Matson and Miss Meyer almost certainly will compete in the Summer Games at Mexico City. Matson was silver medalist, second to Dallas Long, in the 1964 Olympics at Tokyo.

Matson is a massive athlete who stands 6 feet 6 1/2 inches and weighs 260 pounds, more than twice the weight of his two closest

rivals. WITH SHOULDERS like a blacksmith and arms like wagon tongues, he tosses the 16-pound shot around almost as if it were a baseball. Whereas most shot-putters spin and shove the ball with a grunting effort, Matson imparts a flip wrist action.

As a 20-year-old growing boy in 1965, he shattered Long's world record by 2 feet, 9 1/4 inches with a heave of 70 feet, 7 1/4 inches. He became the first and only 70-foot shot putter. He set the present mark in a triangular meet involving Texas A&M, Baylor and Texas Tech. He has been the national AAU shot put champion in 1964, 1966 and 1967, not competing in 1965 because of injury.

David A. Matlin, AAU president, in making the announcement, said Matson compiled 787 points under a system which awards five points for a first place vote, three for second and one for third. Mrs. King polled 579 points, Miss Meyer 528 and Miss Fleming 486.

THE VOTING panel consists of 1,000 amateur sportsmen, sports writers, broadcasters and former winners.

HALF OF THE 14 Sullivan Award nominees were women.

Others receiving votes included, Charlotte Cooke, Washington, D. C., track; Lt. Micki King, Ann Arbor, Mich., diving; Larry Kristoff, Carbondale, Ill., wrestling; Ron Laird, Pomona, Calif., race walking; Margo Ann McGrath, San Francisco, synchronized swimming; Lindy Metheny, Tuscola, Ill., gymnastics; Joe Puleo, York, Pa., weight-lifting; Mark Spitz, Sacramento, Calif., swimming; James Wallington, Fort Bragg, N. C., boxing, and Ron Whitney, Boulder, Colo., track.

Matson said, "I was real surprised to learn that I had been named. It is a great honor. I feel like it is perhaps the highest award an amateur athlete can get. The Gold Medal in the Olympics is the only thing that could surpass it."

HIS TRACK COACH, Charlie Thomas, said, "I think Randy really deserves the Sullivan Award. That 71-5 1/2 shot put throw was just fantastic. Randy is truly an all-American type person."

Matson will participate in the San Diego Indoor Meet Feb. 3, the Fort Worth Indoor Meet Feb. 9 and the Los Angeles Indoor Meet Feb. 10.

Then he plans to take a long break and concentrate on weight lifting. He will resume field competition in late March or early April.

MATSON FIRST attracted attention when he started shattering schoolboy records in the shot-put while attending Pampa High School in the Texas Panhandle, where he also played basketball and football.

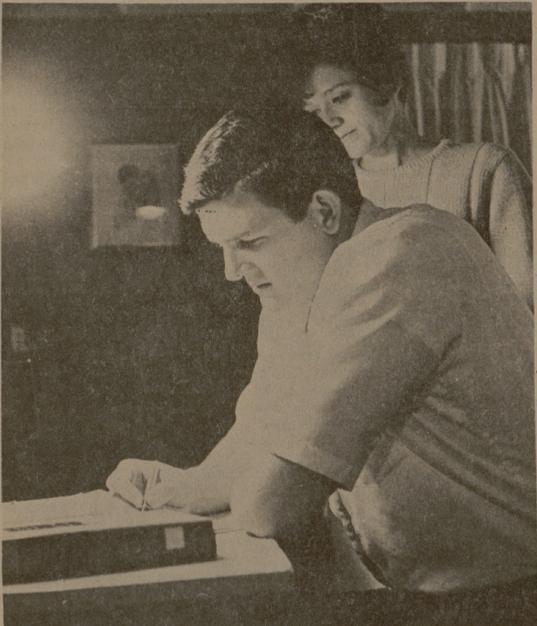
Wooded by a number of colleges and universities, Matson chose A&M, enrolling in 1963. He skipped the fall semester of his sopho-

more year to compete in the Olympics, winning second in the shot put behind Dallas Long's toss of 66 feet 8 1/4 inches.

Matson set the world's record of 70 feet 7 1/4 inches in 1965 then bettered it later with a toss of 71 feet 5 1/2 inches.

THE TOWERING Texan would like to get his weight up to 280 for this year's Olympics. Matson has abandoned—for the

present at least—the discus which he has hurled 213 feet 9 3/4 inches. (See Matson, Page 10)



STUDIES DON'T WAIT

Randy Matson, who was named the 1967 winner of the Sullivan Award, hits the books shortly after learning he had been named as the outstanding amateur athlete of 1967. His wife Margaret looks on.

Doubleheader To Open Aggie Baseball Season

by JOHN PLATZER

A doubleheader opens Coach Tom Chandler's Texas A&M baseballers' 1968 season when the team travels to Edinburg to take on Pan-American.

Returning from last year's squad are 10 lettermen. Among the returning seniors are Richard Backest, a second baseman, catcher Joe Staples, pitchers Bob Sanders and Rocky Thompson and pitcher-outfielder Rick Schwartz. The juniors include outfielders Bob Long and Pete Maida and pitcher Walter Varvel.

If there is a separate freshman team they will open March 5 at home against Baylor. Among the team's most promising players should be footballers Mike DeNiro and Dave Elmendorf.

Despite the loss of Randy Mat-

son, one of the world's greatest trackmen, through graduation, the Aggie track team should once again be strong.

Coach Charles Thomas' athletes begin their season February 9 with the Fort Worth Indoor Meet. There are 15 lettermen on the team including such standout performers as seniors Gary Abernathy, Steve O'Neal and Willie Rodriguez.

Fighting for Matson's vacant spot as "king of the weightmen" on the team will be senior George Resley and sophomore Ronny Lightfoot.

The Aggie tennis team of Coach Omar Smith will also be beginning their season soon with two top players back from last year. They are junior Marcus Beleck and senior Joe Tillerson.

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THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Barfield, Billy Joe
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Agricultural Engineering
Dissertation: Studies of Turbulence in Shallow Sediment Laden Flow with Superimposed Rainfall.
Time: Friday, January 26, 1968 at 9:00 a. m.
Place: Room 317-D Agricultural Engineering Bldg.
Wayne C. Hall
Dean of Graduate Studies 527fn

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Waldron, Bobby Ray
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Statistics
Dissertation: Optimal Parameter Estimation in Multiple Sample Problems.
Time: Monday, January 29, 1968 at 9:00 a. m.
Place: Room 102 Space Research Bldg.
Wayne C. Hall
Dean of Graduate Studies 527fn

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Anderson, Robert Eugene
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Biochemistry
Dissertation: Species Differences among Animal Endogenous Triglycerides.
Time: Monday, January 29, 1968 at 10:00 a. m.
Place: Room 303, Plant Science Bldg.
Wayne C. Hall
Dean of Graduate Studies 527fn

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Final Examination for the Doctoral Degree
Name: Ewert, Jack Burnie
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering
Dissertation: A One Dimensional Steady State Nonidealized Technique for Estuarine Analysis and Its Application to the Houston Ship Channel.
Time: Monday, January 29, 1968 at 1:00 p. m.
Place: Conference Room Texas Transportation Institute Bldg.
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Two radio sets recently stolen by Hydraulics Lab, Texas A&M University, and a boat, Glastron, 15 ft., stolen by Texas A&M Research Annex, are property of the United States Government. The radio sets, military designation GRC-19, are valued at \$7,000 each at the boat at \$650. Any person with knowledge that can lead to the recovery of these items is urged to write Mr. Duane Rychlik, FE Box 44, College Station, Texas, 77843 or call him at 846-0743. FBI, The Cognizant Investigative Agency is aware of the publication of this notice.

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