

Wrestlers enjoy their sport

By STEVE MARTAINDALE

Rick Vigue has little to gain from wrestling for Texas A&M except for the enjoyment he gets from it.

"I just wrestle for the fun of it. Like coming back from Lubbock, we stopped and had a snowball fight. We just have a lot of fun." Vigue is undefeated in eight matches in the 118 classification.

Not included in that record is tournament play, which most recently included a first place finish at the Texas Tech Invitational. In winning the tournament he picked up a 12-2 decision over a Texas Tech wrestler and a 4-1 decision over a Richland athlete.

Though Vigue competes in the 118-pound division he usually weighs more.

"I'll probably weigh about 132 when the season is over," he said. "Right now I weigh about 125."

The 118 is a maximum limit, but the rule only says the wrestlers must not weigh any more than that at the weigh-in, usually about two hours before the match. In fact, if a wrestler wants, he may eat between the weigh-in and the competition.

"Actually, losing 10 or 12 pounds before a match isn't unusual," the freshman explained. "People will usually say 'You lose 12 pounds in one day?' But it's mostly water. The hard part is the last two or three pounds when you run out of water and start trying to lose fat. Some of the bigger guys, especially up North, will lose as much as 25 pounds for a match."

Vigue graduated from Samuel Clemens High School in Universal City. His wrestling began, however, in Vandalia, Ohio.

"I first wrestled in the eighth grade during football off-season and I liked it. When I got into the ninth grade some friends talked me into trying out for the team."

When he moved to Texas, he found out that Samuel Clemens, like many high schools, had no wrestling team. He and a couple of friends found a coach and started a club of their own. In his pre-college wrestling, Vigue says he has a 60-15 record.

Comparing wrestling here with that in the North, he said he thought Texas A&M could "stay with" one of the schools where

wrestling is a more popular sport. "As long as you don't get too far North. Like up in Pennsylvania. They're really good up there."

He said that most of the Aggie wrestlers are from the North, including Coach Jim Giunta, of Pittsburgh.

"It's more advanced up there. There are a lot of good wrestlers here but the training just isn't as good."

Vigue credited Giunta with much of the Aggies' success.

"He puts a lot of work into this, all on his own time and money," Vigue said. Wrestling is a club sport at Texas A&M and receives limited monetary support.

"He takes care of the training, getting the schedule together and making all the travel arrangements. He keeps pretty busy."

As for post-college wrestling, Vigue says there is little to choose from.

"There are a few open tournaments I could compete in but that's about it. If I'm still in shape in 1984, I would like to try out for the Olympic team but that's a long way off."

Vigue said he and his teammates are looking forward to a possible state championship.

"We think we can win it," he said. "We would especially like to get it for those that are graduating."

The Texas College Championships will be held March 4 and 5 at TCU. The team will wrestle Texas Tech Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in DeWare fieldhouse.

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Olympic great still boosts the Games

United Press International
PHOENIX—Jesse Owens, son of an Alabama sharecropper, made Olympic history in 1936 when he won four gold medals with the running prowess he developed through his own grit and determination.

With a disapproving Adolf Hitler looking on in Berlin, the 21-year-old Ohio State University student won the 100-meter dash in 10.3 seconds, tying the existing record. He then set new Olympic records, which stood for years, in the 200-meter dash 20.7 seconds, the long jump 26 feet, five and a quarter inches, and ran a leg on the 400-meter relay team which won in a time of 39.8 seconds. The long jump record was not bettered until Bob Beamon turned in 29 feet two and a half inches at Mexico City in 1968.

Today, Owens, now 63, makes Phoenix his home but is far from retired. He operates a public relations and consulting business and is one of the biggest boosters of the Olympics. A member of the U. S. Olympic Committee, he makes appearances all over the country to raise funds for athletes and is in charge of a speaker's bureau for that purpose.

Owens also participates with several major corporations in development of young athletes through such events as the Jesse Owens Track Classic for novices in the 10-to-15 age group.

Owens doesn't share the opinion of many who have criticized the political developments in Olympic games.

He says that people who protest the "nationalism" creeping into the games "are the ones who never had the opportunity of standing atop the victory stand."

"It's a tremendous feeling when you stand there and watch your flag fly above all the others," he said. "You say to yourself, 'I am an Olympic champion' and the last thing in your mind is nationalism, commercialism or any other ism."

In that same vein, Owens says he has "no negative thoughts" about the next Olympiad in the Soviet Union.

Knowing route partial solution

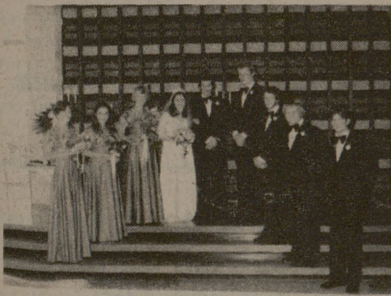
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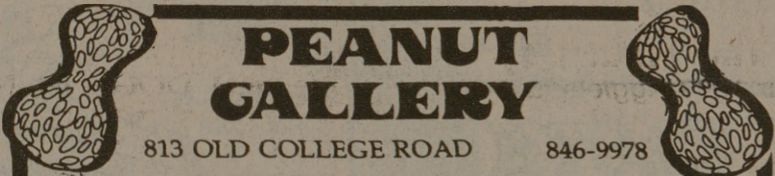
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The A&M Aerobics Club is selling New Balance Running Shoes to A&M students and faculty. This is not a money making project for the club, we just want to break even, for this reason we are able to sell the shoes for \$15.00 — they regularly run for \$20.00-\$25.00. You can purchase these shoes at G. R. White Col. Annex from 12:30 to 1:30 at Room 255. Here are the sizes left: 5D, EE; 5-1/2B, D; 6D; 6-1/2B; 7-1/2E; 8-1/2B; 9A, B, C, D, E; 9-1/2B, E; 10B, C; 10-1/2B, 11B.



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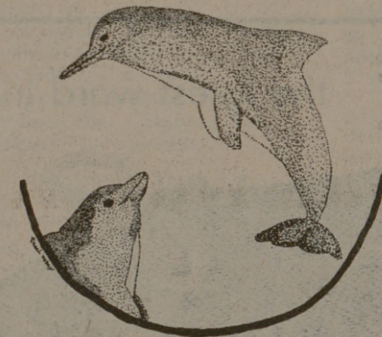
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