

Festival over Aggies do well

United Press International
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The first National Sports Festival is over and Texas A&M was well represented in the nationwide event.
Aggie volleyball players Wendy Wilson and Kristen Bloom left the festival with honors, as their South team won its tournament. Wilson, a sophomore, was named Most Valuable Player of the tournament and Bloom was selected as the best setter of the tournament. Both have been invited to play with the U.S. national team in the Pacific Rim Tournament in Hawaii later this month.
Javelin thrower Donna Branch, basketball player Rudy Woods and the entire men's water polo team also participated in the festival.
The festival managed to run its four days without too many people outside the state of Colorado working up much of an interest, but the man in charge says it served its purpose.
And he thinks it will do a lot more than that in the future.
"I realize it is hard to get people's attention when you first start to do something," said Baron Pittinger, director of the festival. "But people are going to

catch on. They are going to come around. We hope to have live television next year and that will probably help a great deal.
"I think this year went very, very well. We learned things we needed to learn and it's going to get better every year."
The 25-sport festival — a long-time idea of USOC President Robert J. Kane and financially backed by the Olympic Committee — is assured of at least one more year of existence.
"We will be back next year," Kane said. "That has already been decided. We are committed."
The largest problems facing the USOC as it tries to make the summertime athletic festival a yearly affair are trying to lure the best athletes in each sport and the ever-present concern of financing.
The Olympic Committee is counting on television revenue to help trim or eliminate the \$1 million loss it had to absorb this year.
And in an attempt to prevent conflicts in scheduling, the festival will be held next year in August after most of the national championships, after the Pan American Games and before the opening of school.

A question concerning Yankees

By MILTON RICHMAN
United Press International

NEW YORK — Now that it's all over and the two of them are buddy-buddy again following a surrealistic chain of events which kept swinging somewhere between sheer farce and pure fantasy, everyone has the same question.
Why?
Why did George Steinbrenner, ordinarily a tough, iron-willed individual with rocklike resolve, suddenly turn around after firing Billy Martin as manager of his New York Yankees' ball club and hire him back again five days later?
People are asking some other questions, too.
Like, what happens to Reggie Jackson now?
And will Billy Martin actually ever take over as manager again 18 months from now?
But, let's get back to the first one: What made George Steinbrenner change his mind?
The answer isn't quite as simple as it was made out to be in the news conference immediately following Saturday's Old Timers' Day celebration at Yankee Stadium.
One of the aspects which wasn't even mentioned, mostly because both men considered it strictly private, was the mutual oath Steinbrenner and Martin took together one day last week.
It concerns Billy Martin's health. The former and future Yankee

manager can't really be called a sick man but he has a condition, which if not properly taken care of, could appreciably shorten his life.
Within the past year, doctors discovered a spot on his liver and told him it probably came from drinking. They also told him he could help the condition if he quit drinking.
By ordinary standards, Billy Martin isn't a big drinker. I know a number of baseball men who drink twice as much as he does and it may be that they have liver problems also, but the majority of them weren't under the same continuous stress as Martin.
As manager of the Yankees, Billy Martin felt the pressure of his job every day, the same way he felt it in the days he played second base for the Yankees. Some of those pressures as manager were relieved with a couple of drinks after a tough ball game.
Steinbrenner became aware of Martin's health problem only recently. When they talked about Martin's coming back this past week, the Yankee owner came up with an idea to help Martin.
They'd lick Martin's problem together, Steinbrenner said. He would help Martin, but only on one condition — that he, meaning Martin, make a genuine conscious effort to help himself. Steinbrenner wasn't asking for lip service now. He impressed upon his ex-manager, in every possible way he could, that

Martin himself was the key and if he made the effort, Steinbrenner would match it.
That was a solemn promise the Yankee owner made Martin understand. In turn, Martin promised he'd do everything he could to justify Steinbrenner's faith in him. They took an oath together, even shook hands on it.
George Steinbrenner can be rough as nails or soft as butter. He was born on July 4, under the sign of Cancer the Crab, and one of the characteristics of Cancerians is that they can freeze you to death with their icy manner one minute and melt your heart away with their utter devotion the next.
There were those around him who urged Steinbrenner to let Martin's departure stand after last week's severance.
"No," said Steinbrenner. "When a man is down and has a problem, you don't walk away from him. There is a time to be rigid and a time to be compassionate."
This shouldn't be taken to mean Steinbrenner wasn't aware of the mood of the people, the legion of Yankee fans who were unhappy over what happened to Martin.
By doing what he did, rehiring Martin for 1980, Steinbrenner made the perfect public relations move. He softened public opinion against him and bought time.
That brings up the subject of Reggie Jackson, the controversial Yan-

kee slugger some blame for what happened to Martin. Jackson says there's a "50-50 chance" he won't be with the Yankees by the end of this season.
More likely, there's a 50-50 chance he won't be with them by the end of next month. The logical club for him to move to is the Angels because they'd like him to beef up their hitting. It would be rather appropriate for him to wind up in

California because that's originally achieved status.
In my opinion, Martin's age the Yankees 18 months now. True, a lot of things happen between now and then. Martin has his health and he has the job.
I think he'll have his health. Billy Martin makes up his mind to do something, he thinks it else.

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Ongais, Mears return to TWS for Texas Grand Prix

The eleventh race for the Indianapolis Championship cars of the United States Auto Club Citicorp Cup, the Texas Grand Prix, will be held at Texas World Speedway, south of College Station, on Sunday. This, the second annual Texas Grand Prix will be a 200-mile race on the world's fastest speedway.
This is the first in a series of articles on the top contenders expected to compete in Sunday's race, which is scheduled to start at 3:15 p.m.



Danny Ongais

He is known as Danny On Gas, and that he is.
Danny Ongais is the most promising new star on the Citicorp Cup Series horizon. In 1977, he was the fastest qualifier for four USAC Championship races and, in 1978, he has been on the pole for almost every race, led every race, and won three races, including the Coors 200 at Texas World Speedway in April. Prior to that time, he'd recorded a pair of 13th place finishes in his only two Texas World Speedway appearances, both last year, but he led five

laps of the July race after winning the pole at 205.421 m.p.h. He won the pole for the Coors 200 last April at 211.889 m.p.h.
USAC's National Championship "Rookie of the Year" in 1977, Ongais finished 12th in his first full season of competition. He's again assigned to the Interscope Racing Special for

the 1978 season and is a top threat for victory in the Texas Grand Prix, but nobody has ever before won both Texas Indy Car races in the same year.
He gained his first National Championship victory in a 200-miler at Michigan International Speedway last season and recorded the fastest lap in the history of the Indianapolis 500 during competition in May of that year.
His primary experience was gained in dragsters, but he's now branching out into all types of racing.



Rick Mears

Rick Mears gained the distinction of winning his first Championship Car race earlier this year at Milwaukee. He joined a select group and put himself in the top ten in the Citicorp Cup point standings even though he sat out four of the first

eight races while Mario Andretti drove the car.

Mears was named the 1976 USAC National Championship "Rookie of the Year", finishing eighth in his very first Indianapolis 500 that year.
He didn't race in the Coors 200 but started the last three races at Texas World Speedway, placing seventh in last July's American Parts 200. He'll drive the Gould Charge Special as a teammate to USAC National Champion and Citicorp Cup winner Tom Sneva.
Mears' primary experience has been gained in off-road racing events, and he has several major triumphs there. He converted that experience to the rugged Pikes Peak Hill Climb for a stunning victory in the "Race to the Clouds" in 1976.
Mears finished fifth in the Phoenix opener and a disappointing 23rd at Indianapolis because of mechanical problems, but came back with a second at Mosport before his win at Milwaukee.

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