

served as city manager for four years. He received a master's de

said.

Planning Commission.



TOMMY BARTOSH of West, Texas, left, the winner of the 242-pound class, holds son T. J. just after lifting 650 pounds in the "squat." The squat is considered the toughest of the three events because it requires both strength and form. Above, Tim Penley puts all of his 160 pounds into squat lifting 405 pounds. Penley, a 17-year-old from Grand Prairie, won the 160-pound weight class.

### Z channel may affect Oscar nominations

By Vernon Scott  
United Press International

Oscar nominations are just around the corner, with balloting among the 3,000 motion picture academy members scheduled to begin next month. The usual barrage of trade paper ads extolling the virtues of performers and films is already underway. Studios and actors take every opportunity to jiggle the memories of academy members in hopes of nominations. Ideally, every member of the academy would see each and every movie made during the year, evaluating performances, direction and the rest. Since some 300 films pour into theaters every year, it is almost impossible for most Hollywood folk to see more than a fraction of them. Members invariably vote for films they have seen, ignoring the others. It is vital, then, for actors, producers and directors to have as many members as possible see their work. In the past, movies with a good chance for nominations traveled the Bel Air circuit, playing in home projection rooms. But only a tiny percentage of academy members has home projection rooms. Now television has come to the aid of those films which are seri-

ous Academy Award contenders. Theta Cable, a pay TV outfit in the Los Angeles area which serves 89,000 subscribers, has a subsidiary "Z channel" which runs three movies a week during most of the year. But in the past four Januarys Z has programmed from one to six showings of nominee prospects, thus allowing academy member subscribers, along with other customers, to see nominee possibilities without leaving home. Frank Hickey, marketing manager for Theta, says Z is the perfect answer for academy members who refuse to visit theaters throughout the year seeing scores of mediocre films in hopes of finding Oscar worthy contenders. Z is particularly effective because it covers Santa Monica, Bel Air, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Holmby Hills, Malibu, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades and parts of the San Fernando Valley — where the great bulk of show folk live. "A recent Z survey showed that 22 percent of our customers are in show business or movie-TV related jobs," Hickey said. The combination of Theta Cable and Z costs subscribers \$19.95 a month. It provides customers with no fewer than 12 movies a month, most of which

are about a year old or less. But in the month of January, just before nomination ballots go out, Z talks producers and studios into showing their best films on the tube for free as a means of providing exposure to academy voters. In all, 18 top films of 1978 will be screened on Z. "Superman" will not be among them, however, and, like "Star Wars," may never be shown on pay TV. One spokesman for Z said showings for nominations began four years ago with "Conversations," a distinguished and highly praised Gene Hackman film which did nothing at the box office and which few academy members saw. It was shown on Z and won a nomination for best picture. Last year "Annie Hall" was shown several times on Z and came away with the Oscar for best picture. "I'm convinced 'Annie Hall' won because, thanks to the cable, more members saw it than any other film nominated that year," said the spokesman. "It also convinced producers and studios. This year almost all the films with a chance are being seen on Z."

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