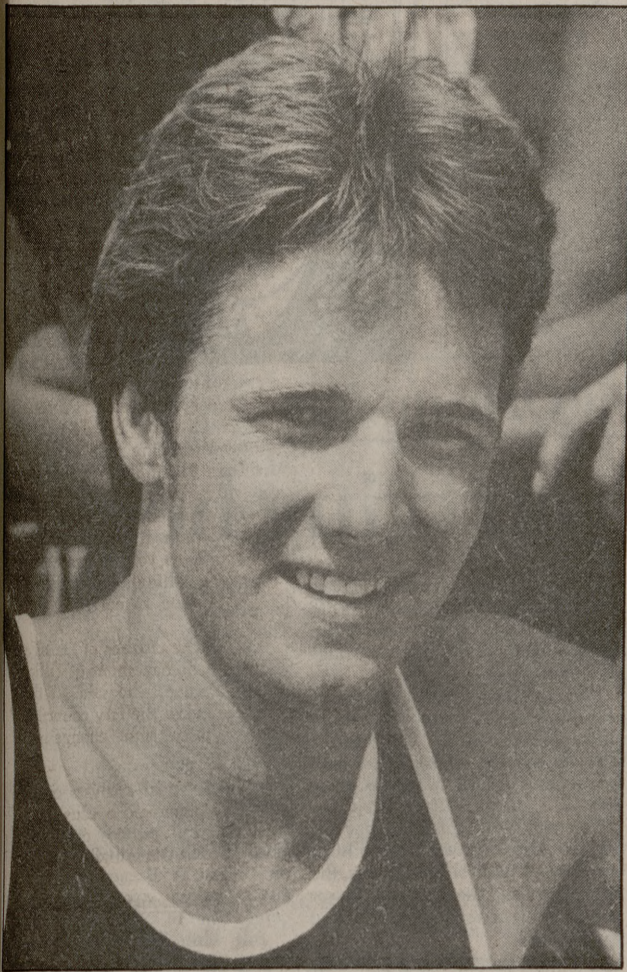


Sports



Hall looks to improve in '81

By ANN DUFFY  
Battalion Reporter  
Texas A&M University track star Randy Hall will be hard up to improve on his 1980 record as he enters this track season.

Last year's All-Southwest Conference Indoor and Outdoor pole vaulting champion also holds the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) meet record of 18-2 1/2 feet. His record-setting performance at the SWC Outdoor Championships was a prime factor in the Aggies meet-winning effort.

But his accomplishments last spring don't end there. Hall won the NCAA pole vault championship in both the indoor and outdoor competitions, and broke the SWC record at the Rice Invitational in Houston with an 18-0 1/2 effort and jumped the same height in the non-conference Bruce Jenner Invitational. That jump tied him for the title. He also won his event at the Florida State Invitational in Tallahassee.

"My most memorable jump was my first 18-foot jump last year," Hall said. "It was a goal I'd been wanting to achieve all along."

Hall, 21, is a finance major and has been vaulting since he was 10 years old. His father vaulted in high school and at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

"My dad's really my coach," said Hall.

Hall's father now coaches track at Calhoun County High School in Port Lavaca.

"I ran hurdles and did the high jump in junior high," Hall said, "but to really excel in vaulting I had to devote all my time to it."

The track star is now a senior as far as his track eligibility, but is only a junior at A&M because he stayed home from school last fall.

"I thought I had a chance for the Olympics, but they boycotted it," he said. "I wanted to stay home and prepare for it."

Hall was one of eight Aggies to qualify for the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore. June 21-July 1. He said several of his friends thought he wouldn't return to Texas A&M if he stayed out a semester.

At those Trials, Hall succumbed to bad track conditions and failed to make the team.

"It (staying home a semester) helped me out a lot," he said. "I found out how far I wanted to go with my vaulting and my career. I'm going to keep doing it as long as I can, and I'm good at it, so why not? I like being in shape."

Hall's workouts include running, gymnastics, trampoline (for body

coordination in the air) and weight-lifting. He works out six days a week. Still, Hall said he developed most of his techniques from what his dad taught him.

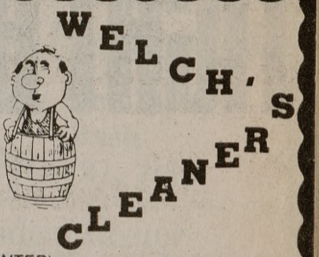
"Pole vaulting requires a more specialized workout with gymnastics. We also have to watch the food we eat."

The training is not all physical, however. When a person is falling 18 feet, he must depend on quick mental reactions.

During the off-season (September and October), Hall runs cross country to keep in shape and lifts weight October through May. He starts vaulting in November with a short pole, not for height. SWC track and field competition begins in mid-February.

Last summer, Hall traveled through Europe with the NIKE track team, which took 15 people from all over the nation. Texas A&M shot put star Tim Scott was also chosen to accompany the team.

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Borg shoots for elusive Open crown

United Press International  
NEW YORK — Now that he's learned the secret of winning in New York, Bjorn Borg is looking to achieve the single major prize that has eluded him in tennis.

Five years in a row he has won Wimbledon, and five times he has captured the French Open. Yet the young man who already is considered by many as the greatest player ever has been stopped short in his quest to capture the U.S. Open.

The last three years Borg went to the Open with his hopes alive to achieve the Grand Slam, a feat accomplished by only two men, and each time he failed.

So it was little wonder that when Borg was asked his hopes for the new year on Sunday, he replied, "I want to do well in the big tournaments, but probably my biggest mission is to do well in the U.S. Open."

Until the Masters last year, Borg had failed in nine tries to win a tournament in New York. But he finally made the breakthrough, and on Sunday he completed a successful defense of the \$400,000 Masters Championship with a surprisingly easy 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 rout of Ivan Lendl.

Not only does the Super Swede continue to win, but at 24 he claims he has yet to reach his peak.

"I'm still continuing to improve my game," Borg said. "Over the last couple of years I've been improving my serve a little bit, also I've been very consistent."

Even Borg, who hadn't played competitively for six weeks coming into this tournament, was surprised at how easily he handled Lendl, earning him top prize of \$100,000. "I expected a very tough match," he said. "The last time I played Ivan he beat me in five sets in Basel (Switzerland)."

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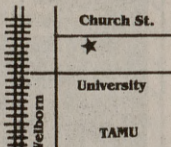
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