

"I REGRET THAT I HAVE
BUT ONE DAY TO GIVE TO
THE BIG EVENT"

Nathan Hale



Feb. 20th, 1983

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INTERURBAN

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sports

Score of 805 helps Aggies in Las Vegas

Christensen leads archery squad

by Frank L. Christlieb

Battalion Staff
Elaine Christensen won't have to put a star or a check on her calendar to remember Jan. 28-30, 1982. In her mind, those three days will be written in big bold letters, "magic-marker style." You might say she's a shooting star. But Christensen, a junior biology major at Texas A&M and a member of the Aggie archery team, isn't one to brag about her recent stroke of good luck.

Competing in the Las Vegas Shootout over the past weekend, Christensen and her teammates matched their skills with more than 800 archers from around the nation. And after the final arrow had been shot Sunday afternoon, Texas A&M walked away with a third-place and a fifth-place finish in the prestigious tournament.

But from the Aggies' point of view, the most eye-catching statistic of the competition was listed under the individual scores: "Elaine Christensen, Texas A&M — 805."

Shooting close to 40 points above her average, Christensen placed 12th in the overall individual standings, as she and teammate Heather Dunnam combined for a score of 1,491 and third place. Christensen finished with 805 points and Dunnam totaled 686.

For the Aggie men's team, Paul Chan compiled 788 points and Mark French had 771 for a total of 1,559 and fifth place among in the men's team competition.

Christensen, who's been shooting for the Aggies during all three of her years at the University, says the tournament ranks as one of her best archery experiences.

"I thought it was very exciting for me," she said. "It was the first time I'd been to this particular tournament. It was unique because they had compound shooters at this tournament, which are some of the best shooters in the United States, like Luann Ryon and some other top shooters. You learn a lot by just

watching all those great shooters.

"We had six women from the South who were in the championship flight (held Sunday) out of about 24 people, which is very unusual. Archery is just not a big sport down here."

Christensen said she entered the tournament knowing exactly how she wanted to perform.

"I went in wanting to shoot scores as well as I do in practice, and I did that on the first day," she said. "Then on the second day, everything fell into place and everything was in synch. On the third day of the tournament (the championship flight), I guess I got a little nervous and fell back below my average."

"I had practiced a lot over the holidays, and that probably helped a lot. I had had experience at national tournaments, so I went in confident. I wanted to shoot for the team. I wasn't worried about my individual score — I know that Heather (Dunnam) and I are both good archers, so I knew that we could

shoot well."

Coach Frank Thomas didn't attend the tourney, but he wishes he had.

"Elaine's performance was just incredible," Thomas said. "Nobody could have predicted that she'd do that well. She's been practicing extremely hard and it just paid off."

For its third-place finish, the Aggie women's team was awarded \$400, which will be used to help with club finances. The Texas A&M men's squad won \$200 for its efforts.

Arizona State University, which boasts three sure-bet Olympic team members, won both the men's and women's divisions at the tournament. ASU's archery program awards scholarships to its team members and is fully supported by the school's athletic department.

Shooting as an extramural club, Texas A&M finished higher than any non-scholarship school.

Two Texas A&M students

competed as "open," or affiliated shooters in the tournament. Tricia Green placed and Laura Cale, ranked among the top archers in the nation, finished sixth individually.

Under the tournament mat, each competitor shot arrows Friday and Saturday, finished with 30 arrows Saturday. The scores from the first days' events were combined with team scores, but all three performances made up the individual scores.

The Aggies will compete in several more tournaments during the spring semester, starting with the indoor regional in Austin Feb. 11-13. Here are the remainder of the team's scheduled events:

- Outdoor archery tournament, March 5 (here)
- Indoor nationals, March 25-27 (Muncie, Ind.)
- Outdoor tournament, April 8-9 (Austin)
- Outdoor regionals, April 17 (here)

Crowd of 500,000 cheers 'Skins

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Coach Joe Gibbs stood in the rain and thanked one of the biggest crowds ever to gather in the nation's capital, an estimated 500,000 people, for helping the Washington Redskins become Super Bowl champs.

"Each one of you has a small piece of this," said Gibbs, holding high the Vince Lombardi trophy to a chorus of cheers and a sea of burgundy and gold Redskins banners.

The often stodgy government city let down its hair Wednesday and embraced the

football team with a festive parade and screaming salutations, gushing tears and rousing cheers.

The throng of 500,000, as estimated by the police, matched the top anti-war marches of the early 1970s and equaled the number of people who turned

out on Jan. 27, 1981, to welcome home the American hostages from Iran.

Among the few people in town who didn't attend the parade, which included blaring bands and a truckload of hogs in honor of the team's "Hog" offensive line, was back John Riggins. He says he slept.

Riggins, named the league's Valuable Player in Sunday's Super Bowl Skin win over the Miami Dolphins, managed to make a team limousine provided by a television station.

Policeman Ray Terzak said: "This is a happy, even united, and as far as I can see, one is drunk."

Many, however, were excited with joy. Strangers pedaled hands in "high school" for the day whooped and cheered for Sunday's heroes. And city and federal officials granted two-hour administrative leaves by President Reagan and city officials to attend mid-day celebration, their hands red.

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