

Ags finish third at SWC indoor track
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Mahres take gold, silver

United Press International
SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — Ski racing twins Phil and Steve Mahre of the United States snapped out of their season-long slump to outclass the competition Sunday and win the gold and silver medals in the men's Olympic slalom.

The 26-year-old Mahres, from White Pass, Wash., suddenly regained their form when it counted for their 1-2 victory. Didier Bouvet, 22, a French outsider whose best result before was eighth in a World Cup slalom, skied the race of his life to take the bronze medal.

Ironically, it was Steve Mahre who was ahead after the first of the two runs with Phil in third spot — the twins separated by Sweden's Jonas Nilsson. But Phil staged a blistering second run to place first overall with Steve, skiing that leg more cautiously, slipping back to second. Bouvet was fifth after the first run but had a fantastic second run to move up to third place overall.

The Olympic medals produced spectacular ends to the Mahres' racing careers. They both said they intend to retire shortly. Phil, World Cup champion in 1981, 1982 and 1983, and Steve, who has finished 58 times in the top 15 in World Cup races, were having a bad season this year — until Sunday.

Phil's total time in winning the gold at Sarajevo was 1:39.41 minutes — 21-100ths of a second ahead of Steve's 1:39.62. Bouvet posted 1:40.20 minutes.

U.S. men had never won a gold medal in Alpine competition, but Bill Johnson broke that slump earlier this week by scoring an upset victory in the downhill and the Mahres added

to it with their 1-2 finish Sunday.

Phil Mahre's victory also gave U.S. skiers three of the six Alpine events — Debbie Armstrong won the women's giant slalom, with teammate Christin Cooper taking the silver.

But the Mahres — perhaps fortunately — did not have to contend with Swedish star Ingemar Stenmark and Luxembourg's Marc Girardelli. Of the seven slalom races contested on the World Cup circuit this season, Stenmark and Girardelli had won three apiece.

Stenmark was barred from Sarajevo because of semi-professionalism while Girardelli, although skiing for Luxembourg, is an Austrian national and could not race for Luxembourg because he did not have a passport from that country.

Steve Mahre had what appeared to be a comfortable lead after the first run, 0.67 seconds ahead of Nilsson and 0.70 faster than his brother.

But Phil posted the second fastest time in the second run — 47.86 seconds — to move into the golden slot while Steve clocked a cautious 48.77 seconds which was the eighth best time in the second leg.

Mahre was very relaxed for someone who had just won an Olympic gold medal. In fact he said the slalom at Sarajevo was just another race.

"I was confident after four days of good training and felt I could win," Phil Mahre said.

But the emotion showed through three hours later although for a very different reason — Phil got the news that he was a father for the second time with his wife Holly having had a baby boy while he was racing.

"She was at home doing all the work and I was out here

playing," Phil said, adding that he would have preferred to be with his wife despite the glory of Olympic gold to crown his career.

Twin brother Steve, although

"This is more of an event for the public so it's a bigger race. So I feel it's a big victory for everybody — and for myself." — Phil Mahre

"kinda disappointed" that he missed the gold, was still happy enough with his silver.

"If it's not me, it better be him," Steve said.

Steve, who had a flawless first run, said, "I was a little disappointed. I had to have a perfect

second run in order to beat Phil."

Bouvet was third fastest in the second run with a time of 48.21 seconds which was enough to move him up to third, just 5-100ths of a second ahead of Nilsson who slipped back to fourth place overall.

Top time in the second run went to Italy's Oswald Toetsch — 47.67 seconds, which moved him up from seventh into fifth place.

There were 60 gates in the first run and 58 gates. Both tracks were hard and sometimes icy but conditions for the race were ideal with sunshine and temperatures just below freezing.

An enormous crowd of 55,000 turned out for the race but the mainly Yugoslav spectators had to be told repeatedly by loudspeaker to stop whistling and booing at non-Yugoslav racers.

As it was, the best Yugoslav

performance was the seventh place by 27-year-old veteran Bojan Krizaj.

Phil was World Cup champion three years running, from 1981 to 1983, and was second in the 1980 Lake Placid Olympic slalom.

"This is more of an event for the public so it's a bigger race. So I feel it's a big victory for everybody — and for myself," he said. "I feel like it was just another World Cup race. I had two good runs and I was a little lucky a lot of other people made mistakes."

Both Mahres have said they intend to retire from racing once the current season is over and Steve would be leaving the international race circuit with almost as many honors as Phil. He is reigning world giant slalom champion, placing first in that event in Schladming, Austria, in 1982, and has been 58 times in the top 15 point scorers at World Cup events.

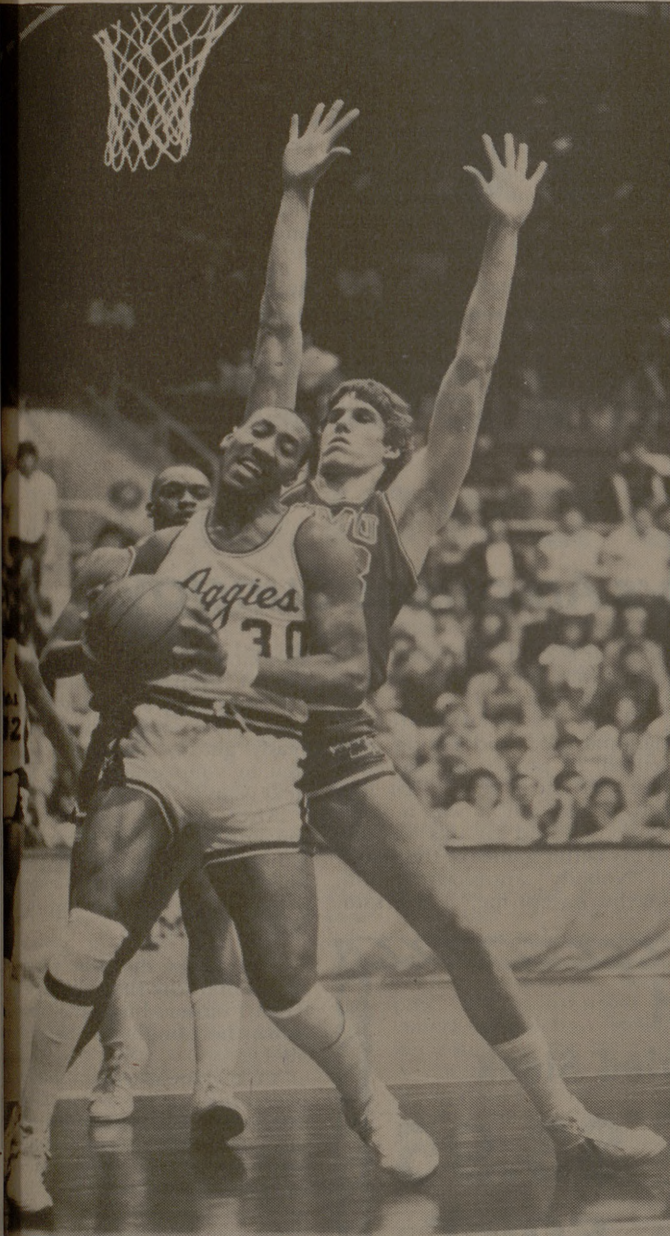


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Aggie center Jimmie Gilbert smiles with determination as he prepares to shoot against 7-foot SMU center Jon Koncak. The Ags lost 60-58.

Davis sinks free throws, Aggies

By BOB CASTER
Sports Writer

Texas Aggie head coach Shelby Metcalf admitted after the team's 58-60 loss to SMU that if the Aggies were to foul anybody Saturday night, it should have been Larry Davis, the Ponia's junior forward. Metcalf's reasoning: coming into the game Davis had been hitting 44 percent from the free-throw line — not necessarily a great feat.

But Davis shocked the Aggies, connecting on nine of his 11 attempts from the line. More importantly, Davis put in his last two free throws with one second left in overtime to put down any hopes for a badly needed Aggie victory.

Surprisingly, the Aggies stepped out in front at the start of the game and the Mustangs did not see the lead for the first time until a 29-28 lead by the half. The Aggies battled back and forth with SMU for most of the second half, surviving a scoring

slump midway through, and appeared to have the game pretty much wrapped up after Winston Crite picked up three points on a reverse layup and the foul shot that followed. Crite sank the free throw and the Aggies went ahead 54-51 with 2:43 left in the game. But with 1:50 left, Davis tied the game up for the Mustangs with a free throw.

The Aggies took the rebound

played the stall, waiting for the last shot to materialize. That shot came with three seconds left and was taken by Crite and bounced in and back out of the bucket, forcing the game into overtime, tied at 54-54. A last-second foul by Darnell Williams sent Davis to the free-throw line for SMU and in that final second, Davis was able to do what the Aggies had attempted all night.

Meanwhile, the women defeated SMU 75-61 behind center Michell Tatum's 26 points and 20 rebounds. Lisa Langston, the only other Aggie in double figures, added 13.

The women play the University of Texas tonight in Austin. The Longhorns are the top-ranked team in the nation this year.

Aggies playing, losing gut-check ballgames

By DAVE SCOTT
Sports Writer

"A gut-check." That's what head coach Shelby Metcalf termed the Aggies' 60-58 loss to SMU Saturday.

Metcalf used that terminology because it takes guts, courage, for players to keep fighting when any mistake could mean responsibility for a loss.

Three of the last four games for A&M have been "gut-checkers" and losses. The Aggies lost by one to Rice and by another by a single point to Arkansas.

When Metcalf said the close games and gut-checks are good for a team only "Only if you

pass them." He said he likes players who are willing to undergo a "gut-check".

"I like those people who are willing to take the responsibility of being a hero," he said.

Forward Winston Crite could be one of those people. He took the responsibility of taking the last shot in regulation, which he missed.

Trying to be a hero is tough, but being a goat is worse.

"We would like to win a few of them," Crite said.

Guard Darnell Williams agreed. "These one point losses hurt," he said.

Williams may have been hurting the most. With one sec-

ond remaining in overtime, he was called for a foul that gave SMU two game-winning free throw attempts.

When the whistle blew and the referee pointed at Williams, his eyes bulged wide in disbelief, he collapsed to the court and remained face down for several seconds.

But Metcalf didn't blame Williams, although he was disappointed with the outcome of the game.

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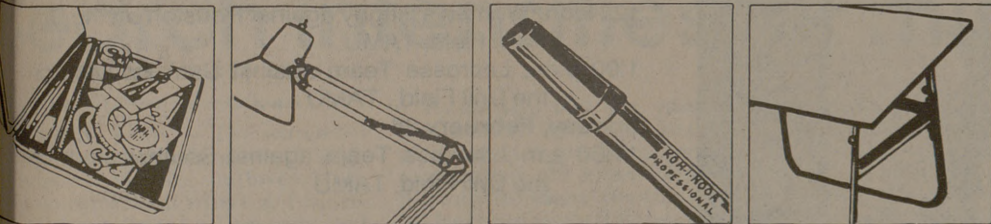
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