



Texas Aggie Rugby Action

Photo by STEVE THOMAS

Members of the Texas A&M Rugby Club team scramble for the ball during last weekend's 8th Annual Texas A&M Summer Seven-A-Side Rugby Tournament. The host Ags, shown here in action against the top-

rated Dallas Reds, advanced into the quarter-finals of the tourney before losing a match. Texas A&M went on to capture third place honors out of 38 teams from all parts of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas.

## '84 Summer Games ready to open in L.A.

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The XXIII Olympic Games will be opened Saturday with a pageant of music, dance and patriotism designed to produce a "20 goosebump experience" for an estimated worldwide television audience of 65 million viewers.

More than 90,000 spectators, paying \$200 per ticket, will pack the confines of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum to witness the torch-bearing runner lighting the Olympic flame for the more than 8,000 Olympic athletes in attendance.

"My initial goal for the 1984 opening ceremonies was a show that would be majestic, inspirational and emotional — a 20 goosebump experience," said film producer David Wolper, who choreographed the entire opening ceremony.

"Of course, all Olympic opening ceremonies have goosebumps already built in with the march of the athletes and the raising of the Olympic flag ... but I want to add to that, creating something unexpected that would kick off the Los Angeles Olympic Games in a festive spirit."

On a combined budget of \$7 million for both opening and closing ceremonies, a spokesman for the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee says that is only a fraction of the amount spent by the Soviet Union for the 1980 Olympic Games held in Moscow.

A spokesman for ABC, which is handling television coverage of the Summer Games, said the network expects over 65 million viewers throughout the world to tune-in to the opening ceremonies.

The opening ceremonies will present some 10,000 American musicians, singers, dancers and high school drill team members beginning at 4:30 p.m. (PDT). Moscow fielded 25,000 performers during the '80 Summer Games.

The initial festivities will begin with a barrage of fireworks, followed by more than 2,500 homing pigeons, blimps and clouds of balloons that will fill the skies surrounding Los Angeles.

Wolper spent seven months recruiting performers and collecting 200,000 props and 15,000 costumes. Many of the costumes were designed to allow performers to change outfits while on the sidelines due to lack of dressing room facilities.

Spectators entering the Coliseum will hear a 15-minute musical overture by a 100-piece Olympic Symphony Orchestra, followed by ringing of church bells and a fanfare of 120 trumpets and 20 timpani drums.

In the usual Olympic tradition, the host nation will stage a pageant reflecting its cultural heritage. Wolper has chosen "Music of America," a presentation of seven medleys of American music accompanied by hundreds of dancers involving jazz,

gospel, jitterbug, folk, Dixieland, Broadway shows and the big band era.

Some 4,000 performers — musicians, dancers, drill teams and a thousand-voice Olympic Choir — will present the 40-minute musical salute, including pianists at 84 keyboards playing George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue."

"Music of America" will be followed by the Antwerp flag exchange involving the original five-ring Olympic flag first presented at Antwerp in the 1920s. This time, however, no emissary from the city of Moscow will be present to hand the flag to Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley.

The "Olympic Theme" by composer John Williams, who wrote the music for the film "Star Wars," will be introduced at the ceremonies and parts will be played at all 220 Olympic sports awards ceremonies throughout the Games.

The next 80 minutes offer the greatest spectacle of all, the parade of the athletes in their national uniforms, a glittering spectrum of colors.

Greece traditionally leads the way in the parade of athletes with the other countries following in alphabetical order. As the host country, the United States team will follow tradition and march last.

## Gold rush predicted for U.S. swim team

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The Olympic swimming competition opens Sunday, carrying the promise of a gold medal bonanza for the United States team.

On the first day of competition, finals are scheduled in the women's 100 meter freestyle, men's 100 meter breaststroke, women's 400 individual medley and the men's 200 meter freestyle.

By the time the waters calm, America could have a pack of gold medals put away. "We're looking at possibly a combined total in the neighborhood of 20 gold medals," says U.S. Olympic coach Don Gambriel, who says the larger share of those golds will go to Tracy Caulkins, Mary T. Meagher, Tiffany Cohen and company.

Based on the world's top times rankings this year and the boycott, the American women are in a position to dominate this year almost as completely as East Germany did in 1976, if things go according to form.

But the women's times at last month's Olympic Trials at the Indiana University Natatorium were often slower than observers had hoped.

"I know some of the times weren't what we had hoped for," says Caulkins, the leading individual gold medal hope for the women.

Caulkins, winner of 48 national titles in her career, is the 1984 version of Shirley Ba-

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shoff, the U.S. team leader in Montreal. She will compete in three individual events, the 400-meter and 200-meter individual medleys and the 100 breaststroke.

"There's no question everyone looks to Tracy," says teammate Nancy Hoghead, who, like Caulkins, is a qualifier in three events.

The boycott shouldn't affect the men's competition much, but practically unbeatable Soviet distance ace Vladimir Salnikov is out of the 400 and 1,500 freestyles.

The U.S. men boast world record holder Rick Carey in the 100 and 200-meter backstroke. Carey is at his peak and is favored.

John Moffet and Steve Lundquist have been swapping the 100 breaststroke world record and Rowdy Gaines and Mike Heath are premier 100 freestylers. Pablo Morales, the rising star of the Olympic trials, emerged as a world class contender in the 100 and 200 butterfly. George DiCarlo set American records in the 400 and 1,500 freestyles.

There are the "names" — Caulkins,

Meagher, Lundquist, Carey — along with the unknowns who could grab the Olympic spotlight — Richard Schroeder, DiCarlo, Jenna Johnson.

And there are also some names missing. Bill Barrett, American and former world record holder in the 200 individual medley; Craig Beardsley, American and former world record holder in the 200 butterfly; and Susan Walsh, owner of the U.S. record in the 100 backstroke, all failed to qualify.

Carey would appear to have the biggest lock on a pair of gold. He broke his 200 backstroke world record in the trials and came close to his 100 record. His nearest competition in the longer event is nearly two seconds away.

"I know this may sound cocky," says Carey, "but I know I have better times in me in both races."

Gross could come up with four golds if he swims the 400 freestyle, but Gambriel thinks that unlikely. DiCarlo came up with probably the most impressive performances at the

U.S. trials, setting American marks at 400 and 1,500 meters.

"It is too bad Salnikov isn't going to be there," DiCarlo says. "But I'm going to swim for time in the prelims and to win in the finals."

Meagher is the biggest favorite among the U.S. women for two gold medals. She is the only American woman swimmer with existing world records in Olympic events. She is optimistic despite not swimming well in either the 100 or 200 butterfly.

"People keep asking me why I'm not swimming like 1981 (when she set the marks). I tell them maybe I don't have the same body," she said.

Jenna Johnson, 16, upset Meagher in the 100 butterfly at the U.S. trials, but Meagher, off her a career that includes world championships and Pan Am gold, remains the Olympic favorite at both distances.

Caulkins, who set an American record in the 200 individual medley, had hoped for six individual-event medal opportunities. She had to settle for three after failing to qualify for the team in three other marginal events, but — given the boycott — she could realistically be seen as a favorite in the 200 and 400 IMs and the 100 breaststroke. She could also win relay gold.

## Jay Hess transfers from A&M

United Press International

Jay Hess, a freshman quarterback who was red-shirted in 1983, announced Thursday he has decided to leave Texas A&M and enroll at Northeast Oklahoma Junior College this fall.

The 195-pound Eastland High School product, led his team to the 1982 AA state championship, passing for more than 3,000 yards in the season.

"Jay made a decision not to come back based on the competition he faced for the quarterback job at A&M and the opportunity to play somewhere else. He'll play there this fall, and then probably transfer to a four-year school in January," Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill said.

Hess couldn't transfer to another four-year school and play immediately, but would be allowed to play in the fall for a junior college.

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