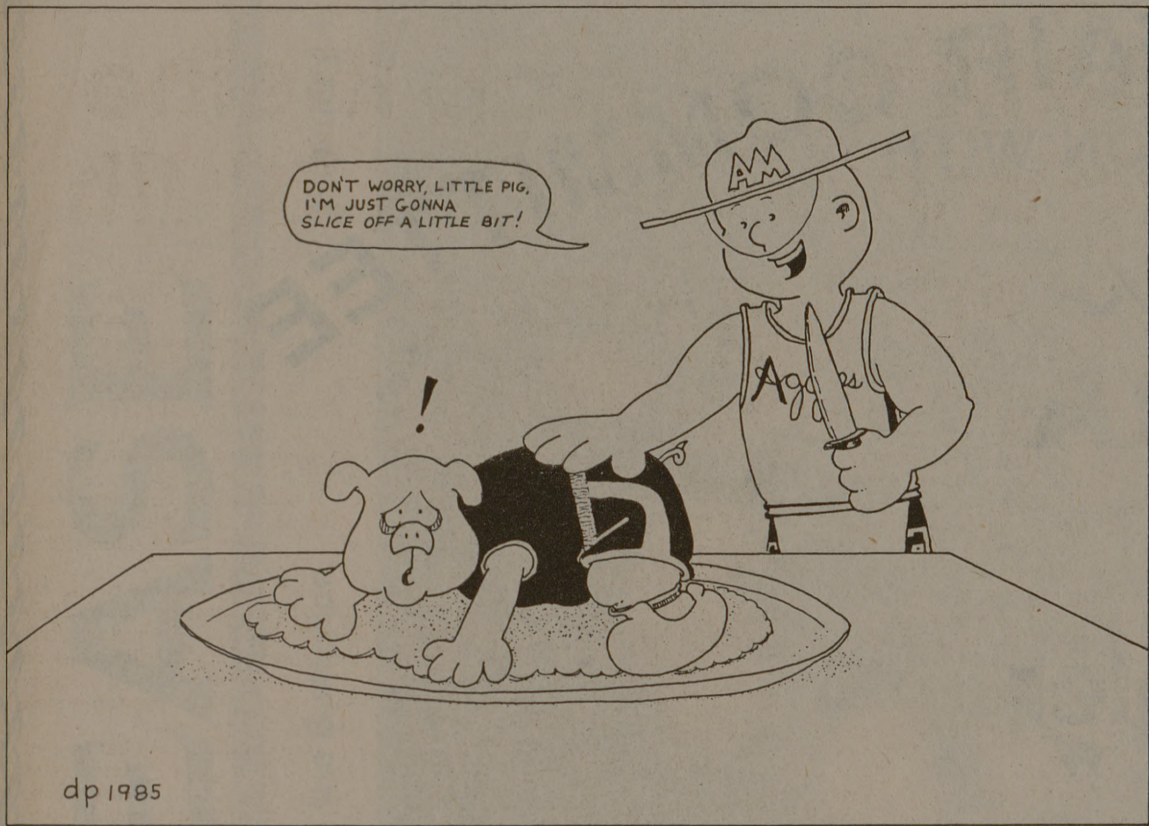


SPORTS



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Swiss miss victorious in downhill

Associated Press

SANTA CATERINA, Italy — Maria Walliser of Switzerland won the women's downhill race Thursday at the opening of the World Ski Championship.

Meanwhile, West German veteran Irene Epple made a surprise announcement that she was retiring, effective immediately.

Walliser, 21, mastered the 2,258-meter Cevedale course, with a vertical drop of 607 meters, in a blistering 1 minute 16.26 seconds.

Traudl Haecher, a rising West German star, finished second in 1:16.41, while Claudine Emonet of France was third in 1:16.50.

Thursday's downhill and a special slalom Monday will decide the combined title.

Helmuth Hoeflehner of Austria clocked the fastest time of 2:07.59 in the first of two downhill trials for men. Conradin Cathomen, third in the first heat, was fastest in the shorter second run at 1:59.27 and clinched the last spot on the powerful Swiss downhill team.

Olympic downhill champion Bill Johnson of Van Nuys, Calif., was struck with intestinal flu and had to miss the two training runs.

Johnson was reported not to have a fever, but appeared unlikely to race in the combined downhill Friday. But U.S. team officials said there was no danger he would miss Sunday's title race.

Epple, 27, won the silver medal in the giant slalom in the 1980 Olympics at Lake Placid, N.Y., and had nine World Cup victories in 13 years on the circuit. She had been expected to race at the World Championships, but said her training runs made her realize that she could not go as fast as she wanted.

Michela Figini of Switzerland, the Olympic downhill champion who was heavily favored, finished a disappointing seventh.

Debbie Armstrong of Seattle was the top American, finishing in a 16th-place tie with Erika Hess of Switzerland in 1:17.47.

Cindy Nelson of Reno, Nev., wound up 19th in 1:17.73, Tamara McKinney of Squaw Valley, Calif., was 22nd in 1:18.06, and Eva Twardokens, also of Squaw Valley, placed 24th in 1:18.19.

Athletic dorm questions a matter of geography

Editor's Note: This is the last in a three-part series exploring how college athletes are treated once they've been recruited. Part III focuses on the reason why Texas A&M has separate athletic dorms with comments from A&M Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill.

By BRANDON BERRY
Sports Writer

Texas A&M Head Football Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill says the solutions to the problems of integrating student-athletes into the mainstream of college life should be found in the structure of the academic programs available to them.

"I don't believe an ex-coach is qualified to run your academic programs," Sherrill says. "I think the only person qualified is someone involved with teaching, someone who is involved with the mainstream of college life as a professor."

"As for the graduation rate," he says, "it is in direct relation to the type of student that you recruit. You try to recruit only

*"In the South, don't tell me that these kids are not in the mainstream of campus, because they are. They're involved in campus activities. They're involved in fraternities."
— A&M's Jackie Sherrill*

those individuals that you think will be able to make it through your school.

"However, because the national average is only about 50 percent for normal students to go through retention anyway in four years, I don't think it's fair to say that athletes are expected to follow different standards."

The majority of large Southern schools have athletic dormitories. The majority of the schools in the North, East and Northwest do not have athletic dormitories.

Sherrill reiterates his statement that the issue is geo-

graphic and nothing else.

"I have had an opportunity to play at Alabama and live in an athletic dormitory and coach at Arkansas, Alabama and Iowa State, where we did not have athletic dormitories and at Washington State, where we did not, Pittsburgh, where we did not and then come to Texas A&M, in which we do," he says.

"In the South, don't tell me that these kids are not in the mainstream of campus life, because they are. They're involved in campus activities. They're involved in fraternities."

"When I was at Alabama, I pledged a fraternity and I was involved with campus life."

"Living in a dorm or not living in a dorm, living on campus or not living on campus has nothing to do with it."

So how can today's collegiate athlete best integrate into the rest of the student body?

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