

# Lumpee's no lightweight in world of power lifting



Steve Lumpee demonstrates his brute strength in power lifting.

By CHRISTI DAUGHERTY  
Reporter

**S**TEVE LUMPEE'S MOTHER wasn't exactly thrilled with the career path he chose to follow. She didn't really mind if he concentrated on sports if basketball was the sport he concentrated on. But power lifting didn't seem like a sport with much of a future.

But, in 1984, Lumpee won the Junior World Power Lifting Championship in Perth, Australia, and in September in Soest, Germany he placed third in this year's competition.

He's now ranked first in the world in the junior division, and he's sure there's a future in power lifting.

Lumpee, 23, a senior physical education major from El Paso, has been lifting weights since eighth grade.

The 5-foot-11-inch redhead stretched out behind a desk during the interview which, appropriately, was held in the Nautilus room at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The room was filled with people sweating and groaning, working out on vicious-looking pieces of machinery. The scene brought to mind nothing more than a Bosch painting of the various stages of hell.

Lumpee says he started lifting in high school because most of his friends played football, but he couldn't because of injuries; so for something to do, he lifted weights.

"At the time it was fun to be able to say that I was stronger than the football players," he says.

Lumpee says he was always very involved in sports, especially basketball, and his parents wanted him to pursue that as a career.

"I don't know, maybe that's why I decided to go into weight lifting," he says, "to rebel."

To this day his parents have never seen him compete.

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