

Sports

Coaches: Barnes set for Seoul

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Editor

Former Texas A&M shotputter Randy Barnes' feats in the Netum L. Steed weight room have become legends of almost Herculean proportions. When Barnes positions himself under 600-plus pounds for a few sets of bench pressing, even the likes of footballers John Roper, Adam Bob and Jerry Fontenot stop to gawk.

"When he's lifting, he puts on a pretty good show," A&M Assistant Track Coach Barry Colburn said. "It's something to watch. He can lift the side of a building."

However, what Barnes has accomplished in Steed is nothing compared to what he could pull off in Seoul, South Korea in September. Barnes will be the first Aggie shotputter to be competing for the U.S. Olympic team since Randy Matson did in 1968. He will also be trying to bring home the first gold medal to Aggieland since Matson's victory in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City.

The 6-foot-4, 285-pound Matson won the United States Olympic Trials in Indianapolis Saturday with a put of 71-9/16. The throw bested the second place finisher by over three feet and set a stadium and meet record that had stood for 16 years.

Barnes' domination of the competition may have startled some observers, but it was certainly no shock to his A&M mentors.

"I don't think it was a surprise — certainly not to us," Colburn said. "Randy's been here training the whole year with Coach Parker and we've had a first-hand look at everything he's doing. Last week I saw his final workout and he was going about half-speed flipping the ball off his fingertips and was throwing over 68 feet."

"Before he ever got on the plane to go to Indianapolis, we knew he was getting ready to throw well. How good we didn't know. But we knew he'd be in the running for it."

Barnes will be the 11th Aggie trackster to compete in the Olympics.



Battalion file photo

Former A&M track star Randy Barnes has a shot at a medal at the 1988 Summer Olympic Games held in Seoul, South Korea.

The last was javelin thrower Juan de la Garza who competed for the Mexican team in the 1984 Los Angeles games.

However, unlike Garza, Barnes will be one of the favorites to win his event.

"I don't know if you can ever pick anybody to be the favorite to win anything because anything can happen on any given day," Colburn said. "We think that Randy will be in the

hunt and up in the medals somewhere. If it's his day, he can do it."

Colburn said that at this point the Soviets and East Germans do not have an advantage over Barnes.

"I think it's about even-steven at this time," he said. "They've got to do the same thing — go out there on that one day at that one moment and throw their best. It always comes down to that one moment."

Barnes sat out the 1988 collegiate

season after two outstanding campaigns to concentrate on his training and improve his chances for making the Olympic team. Barnes, who would have been a junior last season, won the 1987 Southwest Conference outdoor shotput championship and was a two-time SWC champ in the discus. He owns the SWC record toss of 71-9/16, the second best ever by a collegian and fifth best American mark.

Barnes' combination of size, strength and speed made him highly sought recruit for A&M, but no one imagined that his career would blossom into Olympic glory.

"I think the staff thought that Randy was going to be a good one," Colburn said. "I don't think you can go down the line and say a guy's going to be an Olympian or a gold medalist because there are too many intangible things that have to happen."

"You can want a guy to be great, but if he doesn't want to be great, it doesn't happen. You can say a guy's got Olympic ability and want him to be a gold medalist, but if it's not important to him (it won't happen). But it became important to Randy. And when it becomes important to a guy like Randy who's got the tools, you can get the job done."

Barnes may return to A&M after the Olympics, but because he would the miss fall semester because of the games, he may not be eligible to compete for the Aggies. If he is eligible or does seek to return to collegiate competition, Colburn believes Barnes will be tossing iron for A&M.

"I think if Randy can get eligible or is eligible, I don't think he would go anywhere or compete for anyone but Texas A&M," Colburn said. "I think we have a good working relationship with Randy. It's a two-way street. We appreciate everything he's done for us and the program at A&M."

"Anytime you have a great person like Randy, it's always a plus. I think Texas A&M is considered one of the better throwing teams in the United States and partly because of Randy."

Aggies' Heard, Kerr reach semis at Trials

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Texas A&M's Floyd Heard and Stanley Kerr finished third and fourth respectively in the 200-meter dash, while Carl Lewis breezed to victories in the first two rounds of 200-meter heats at the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Floyd and Heard advanced to the semifinals, which will be held Wednesday.

Lewis, who already has won the 100-meter dash during the Trials, in a wind-aided 9.78 seconds, the fastest-ever run, also was to compete in the long jump Monday night.

Other finals scheduled Monday night were the hammer throw, the men's and women's 800 meters, the women's javelin and 400 meters, and the men's 10,000 meters.

The final of the men's 200 also will be held Wednesday. After that, it will be determined whether Lewis again will make the U.S. team in

three individual events, as he did four years ago.

He also qualified for a possible spot on the 400-meter relay team by winning the 100.

Although he is not yet assured a place on the relay team — that will be determined by the coaches — Lewis most likely will anchor the 400 relay.

He anchored U.S. teams to world records in the relay at the 1983 World Championships and 1984 Olympic Games, and ran the final leg on last year's winning team at the World Championships.

Lewis eased to victory in the first round of the 200 in 20.32 at the Indiana University Track and Field Stadium, then ran a sparkling 20.03 in the second round.

"I felt confident in both races," Lewis said. "Physically, both felt very easy. They weren't real fast."

Rockets trade Reid to expansion Hornets

HOUSTON (AP) — Popular Houston Rockets guard-forward Robert Reid, a fixture on the Rockets roster the past 10 years, was traded to the expansion Charlotte Hornets Monday for guard Bernard Thompson.

Reid, 32, has played his entire career with the Rockets. He averaged 6.3 points in 62 games last season.

Thompson, 6-6, 210, was obtained by the Hornets in the recent expansion draft, after playing the last three seasons for the Phoenix Suns.

"This is an excellent deal for us," Hornets vice president and general manager Carl Scheer said in a prepared statement. "It not only provides us with a veteran player who could help us considerably in the early years, but it also assures of a future young player."

Reid was a key part of the Rockets'

drive to the 1986 NBA finals against the Boston Celtics.

The Rockets also scheduled a news conference Tuesday, with the announcement likely concerning Los Angeles Clippers third-year guard Michael Woodson.

Woodson and Patterson had earlier confirmed their contract talks.

Reid missed the start of the 1987-88 season after undergoing knee surgery and dieting to lose weight.

He returned to the lineup, but his playing time was limited as the season progressed.

Reid ranks fifth on the Rockets' all-time scoring list with 8,823 points and is third on the all-time list of games played with 762.

The Rockets selected Reid, from St. Mary's University, in the second round of the 1977 draft, the 40th player chosen overall.



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1.17	2,750	5,000	1,395	2,700	.33	325	600	.35
1.15	2,995	6,000	1,095	2,000	.30	95	200	.25
1.11	2,350	4,600	1,050	2,100	.24			.23
1.11	3,950	8,000	1,395	2,700	.21			.18
1.09	2,195	4,000	795	1,400	.22			.11
1.09	2,750	5,000	995	1,800	.21			
1.09	3,850	7,000	895	1,800	.19			
1.04	2,150	4,000	795	1,500	.18			
1.03	3,595	7,000	795	1,500	.16			
1.01	1,495	3,000	850	1,600	.15			
1.01	1,895	4,000	795	1,500	.14			
1.01	3,495	7,000	695	1,400	.12			
1.01	2,185	4,200	695	1,400	.10			
.95	2,395	4,600	795	1,500	.09			
.93	1,595	3,000	895	1,700	.08			
.92	1,850	4,000	795	1,500	.07			
.92	1,650	3,200	595	1,000	.06			
.91	3,195	6,000	695	1,400	.05			
.90	1,595	3,000	795	1,500	.04			
.90	1,750	3,100	795	1,500	.03			
.89	1,350	2,600	795	1,500	.02			
.89	895	1,700	695	1,300				
.88	1,340	2,600	695	1,300				
.83	1,595	3,000	795	1,500	1.67			
.80	1,025	2,000	695	1,400	1.21			
.77	985	1,800	695	1,400	1.13			
.75	1,075	2,000	695	1,400	1.04			
.75	950	1,900	650	1,200	1.01			
.75	1,135	2,200	595	1,100	.68			
.75	1,395	2,600	595	1,100	.65			
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