

Mitchell relies on experience in win over youth

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — American platform diver Michele Mitchell worries about growing old gracefully, something that happens quickly to a young woman in a sport best compared to driving a car off a three-story building.

"The young know no limits. The old know them all. Today was the experience of age vs. the resiliency of youth and I was hoping experience would pay off," Mitchell, 26, said Sunday.

"And it did for me. Silver is great." The color will match the medal Mitchell took home from Los Angeles four years ago, but it will represent a greater personal triumph. She is the American grande dame of the 10-meter tower, written off more than once.

With maturity is supposed to come grace, but women divers are increasingly going the way of their gymnastic counterparts — one step on the world's stage and never an encore.

It is no longer enough to find a young-

ster small, light and agile enough to perform the twists and turns diving demands and wait for her to develop. Now, coaches find kids who are all those things and one more — fearless enough to jump from a platform 30 feet above the water.

And as it turned out Sunday, Chinese teen-ager Xu Yanmei, 17, kept Mitchell from the gold by throwing a flawless backward 2½ somersault in the final round, totaling 445.20 points to the American's 436.95.

But teammate Wendy Lian Williams, 21, finished behind Mitchell with 400.44, in no small part because the more highly regarded of China's youthful duo, 14-year-old Chen Xiaodan, lost her nerve on the final dive.

It was a backwards 3½-somersault with the highest degree of difficulty in the competition. And the failure to hit it left Chen backsliding into fifth.

But it was clear that Chen, who finished first in the preliminaries and so competed Sunday as the final diver, was in trouble be-

fore she ever left the tower. She walked slowly to the end of the platform and never once raised her eyes from it.

Somewhere deep inside, Mitchell must have twitched at the sight. For she had problems last year with an inward 3½-tuck — another high-degree-of-difficulty dive that brings the diver within inches of the concrete platform.

So she simply replaced it. "It made a world of difference. It relaxed her," said her father, Anis Mitchell, who accompanied her on this trip, despite some of the unpleasant memories it stirred.

The elder Mitchell served with U.S. Army occupation forces in Japan after World War II and again in Alaska with the finance corps while the Korean War raged.

"She'd hurt her shoulder, she fought a virus," he said, "and there certainly was some fear involved with the inward. She just was not hitting it."

"Even though it's a 3.2 (degree-of-difficulty), she realized she could do better gettings 7s and 8s on a less-difficult dive. It

showed maturity and it took the rest off the rest of her dives."

And yet Mitchell climbed the tower day for her eighth and final dive. She risked everything on it — a 3½-somersault — she might catch the gold. Given the potential for an equally risky and bronze at best.

One entire world stretched before another — she is part-owner of a company in Florida and appears to be signed to the world of competitive diving.

Enter the voice of experience. "I came into this competition planning to do 16 solid dives and I did," she said. "I felt like that was what it was to take to even get into medal contention."

"When I was up on the platform thinking, 'Yeah, this is your last chance. Let's do it the best we can do."

And so she did.

INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS

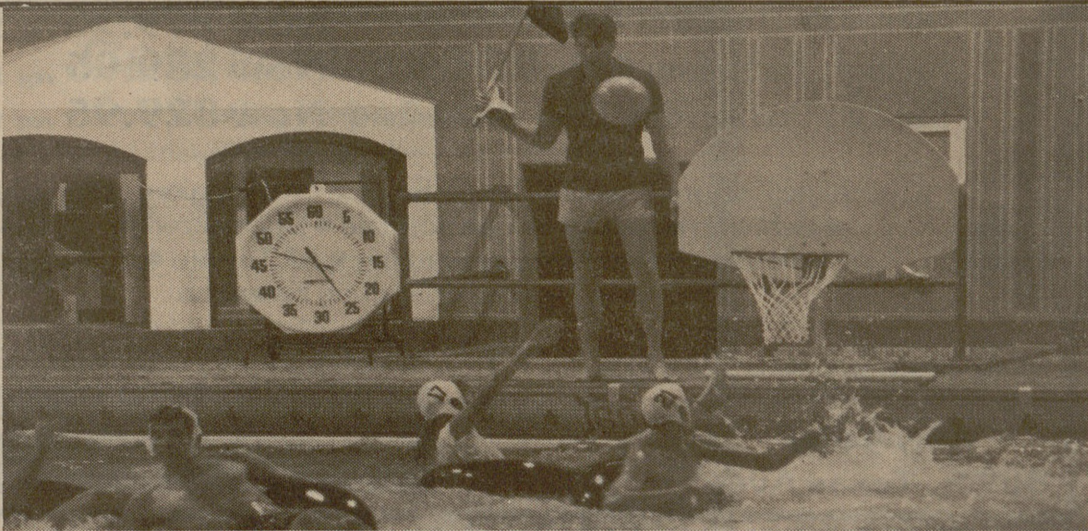
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FOOTNOTES

- Raining ?? Rained Out ?? Not Sure ?? CALL 845-2625.
- There will be an Innertube Water Basketball Officials Meeting September 19 at 6:00 PM in 164 Read.
- Flag Football begins today so make sure you have checked your schedule.
- 16" Softball starts today also, so check those schedules.
- Billiards Doubles will be posted at 1 PM on Thursday.
- Horseshoe Singles will be posted at 1 PM on Friday.

RECREATIONAL ID'S STILL AVAILABLE

The Intramural-Recreational Sports Office is still selling and renewing Recreational ID's for the faculty, staff and their spouses. Individuals with these ID's may have access to recreational facilities during the evening and on weekends. The cost for the ID is \$7.50 for faculty/staff and \$15.00 for a spouse.

T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST

Entries are being accepted for the Third Annual T-shirt Design Contest. This contest is held to determine an All-University T-shirt design for the 1989-90 school year. All entries must be received no later than 5:30 PM, Tue, Mar 21. All entries must be 12" by 12", black ink on white paper and should include the words "Intramural Champion 89-90" or "All-University Champion 89-90". It is also recommended that "Texas A&M" or the block ATM be included in the design. Entries will be judged by a panel of students, faculty and staff with the entry best depicting Intramural-Recreational Sports All-University Champions being declared the winner. The winner will be notified April 17 and will receive \$50.00

SPORTS CLUBS

- **Rugby:** The A&M won both sides of its game against Sam Houston. They took the first side winning by the score of 22-0. Scoring for the aggies was Keven Kuen, Mike Chidress, Kenney Evens, and James Goodman. The second side they took by the score of 10-3 with Bill Smith doing the scoring for A&M.
- **Women's Soccer:** The Lady Aggies play Trinity Friday, September 23 at 5:00 PM on the East Campus so be there.
- **Men's Soccer:** The Men's Soccer Team is going to take on Baylor Saturday, September 24 at 1:00 PM on the East Campus.
- **Water Polo:** For those of you in Dallas this weekend, the Water Polo Team will be playing in a tournament at North Lake Community College Saturday and Sunday. Play will get under way at 10:00.

TAMU-OUTDOORS

KAYAK ROLL INSTRUCTIONAL CLINICS

Learn the mechanics of the eskimo roll! Experienced guides will be on hand to instruct and assist you in sessions at the Outdoor Pool. The \$8.00 (\$10.00 non A&M) fee covers instruction, kayak rental and pool time. Limited to 10 participants. For more information, contact Patsy Greiner at 845-7826. **DATE:** Sept. 22, 6:15-8:30 PM **REGISTRATION:** Sept. 5-19 **DATE:** Sept. 27, 6:15-8:30 PM **REGISTRATION:** Sept. 12-26 **DATE:** Oct. 6, 6:15-8:30 PM **REGISTRATION:** Sept. 19 - Oct 3 **DATE:** Oct 11 6:15-8:30 PM **REGISTRATION:** Sept. 26-Oct. 10 **DATE:** Oct. 20, 6:15-8:30 PM.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Mountain bikers! Tired of riding around on the asphalt trails of campus? Join us for a day of riding the hills and streams of the tree-shaded Greenbelt Trail. There is a \$5 fee for this mountain biking adventure. You must provide your own mountain

bike. Sign-up in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office, 159 Read. The trip is limited to 10 participants. The trip will be Sunday October 9 and registration begins September 19 and ends October 3

KAYAKING WORKSHOP

Take the weekend of and learn the fundamentals of kayaking in a two day class offered by TAMU Outdoors on October 1 and 2. The first day will be an introduction to kayak strokes, rescue, and the eskimo roll. The second day will be spent on the San Marcos river learning how to paddle the boat and get a feel for white water. Registration begins September 12-26 but sign up early because class size is limited. The cost for the class is \$40.00 (\$45.00 non A&M).

ROCK CLIMBING CLINIC

Join us for an introduction to the thrills of Rock Climbing. Experienced guides will teach a variety of climbing techniques and skills. The class will take Saturday, October 8. The fee is \$10 (\$15 non A&M) and registration begins September 19 and goes on till October 3.

IM GAMEPLAN

ENTRIES OPEN: SEPT. 12

ENTRIES CLOSE: SEPT. 27

HORSESHOE SINGLES *Entry fee: Free Play Begins: Tuesday, Sept. 27. Tournament: Classes A, B and C will play single elimination tournaments. Schedules: Schedules will be posted after 1 PM on Friday, September 23 on the bulletin boards outside the Intramural Office, 159 Read. Eligibility: All TAMU students, faculty, staff, and their spouses with recreation ID and intramural validation are eligible to play if they meet the eligibility requirements in the Intramural-Recreational Sports Calendar/ Handbook. Location: Horseshoe pits are located directly north of the Penberthy Intramural Complex by the Fish Lot and are available for use when not in*

use for intramural competition. Equipment: shoes are provided for the tournament. **BILLIARD DOUBLES** *Entry Fee: \$4.00 per person. Play Begins: Friday Sept. 23 through Sept. 25. Schedules: Thursday, Sept. 22, outside the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office. Tournament Structure: Double elimination. Competition: Men's and Women's Divisions offered with no class distinction (no AB). Residence Hall teams will receive points as were in Class A. Equipment: Provided by the Personal equipment is allowed. Rules: Rules with Intramural exceptions.*



ENTRIES OPEN :SEPT 19

ENTRIES CLOSE: SEPT 27

LONG DRIVE *Entry Fee: FREE!! Contest Held: Wednesday, September 28, at 4:00 PM. Location: Driving range at the Intramural Sports Center west of the Track Stadium. ** Bring your student or Recreation ID.** Competition: Each participant will drive 3 balls. The longest of the 3 will be the official distance. Participants may use their own clubs. Balls and some clubs will be available. Awards: Will be given to the Men's and Women's Champions. Late Entries: Will be accepted at the site only if space is available.*

RAQUETBALL DOUBLES *Play Begins: Tuesday, October 4 Place: Raquetball courts in the Read Building. Rule: AARA rules will be used. Matches consist of two games to 21 points. An 11 point tiebreaker will be used if necessary. Competition: Open-All competitive club members must play in this division. Competitors in other divisions may also sign up for this division. Class A-Highly skilled, single elimination, t-shirt award to All-University Champion. NO competitive club members may play in this division. Recreational and former club members may play in this division. Class B-Moderately skilled, single elimination, certificate award to All-University Champion. NO competitive club members may*

play in this division. Recreational or former club members may play in this division. Class C-Novice, single elimination, certificate award to All-University Champion. one affiliated with the club can compete in this division. Schedules: Will be posted after 1 PM on Friday, September 30. Contact the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office to see if you play. You will be assigned an opponent, a day, a time and a court.

INNERTUBE WATER BASKETBALL *Entry Fee: \$20.00 per team Play Begins: Sunday, October 2 Schedules: Match will be picked up at the Team Captain's Meeting. Match will be held Thursday, September 29 at 7:00 PM in 164 Read. Classes: A - Highly skilled, T - shirt awards B - Moderately skilled, Certificate C - Novice, Certificate D - Novice, Certificate E - Novice. Division: Men's and Women's Independent CoRec.*

THANKS TO GENERAL MOTORS General Motors is sponsoring the CoRec/Recreational Motors in the Intramural Program. All Class B CoRec Champions will receive General Motors T-shirts. We are appreciative of General Motors support of the Intramural-Recreational Sports Program.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: McDonald's Intramural Highlights is sponsored in the Battalion by your local McDonald's Restaurant at University Drive, Manor East Mall, Hwy 21, Texas Ave. at SW Parkway and Post Oak Mall. Stories are by Steve Harding, graphics are by Paul Irwin and photos are by Mark Figart and Sarah Cowan.