

Regatta be crazy!



Photo courtesy of Texas A&M Sailing Team

For the first time in its 20-year history, the Texas A&M Sailing Team is participating in national races. The competition consists of the Team Racing Nationals and the Team Dinghy Nationals, June 5-10 in Boston, Mass.

US soccer team combats boredom, craves ESPN

TIRRENIA, Italy (AP) — The isolated camp where the U.S. soccer team is training for the World Cup is getting to some of the players. It's far away from home and there's not much to do except play soccer.

"A lot of our guys have problems as far as television is concerned," forward Peter Vermes said. "They need their ESPN. They need their CNN news."

The days begin with breakfast followed by 9 a.m. practice. Then there are interviews and lunch. Players have some free time before practicing from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. After that it's dinner and a video. The subject is always the same — tapes of the Czechoslovakia soccer team.

"It's a difficult situation to be in a camp. You take it," Vermes said. "You're here, and you're all by yourself or you're with the team day in and day out. Players get on each others' nerves. So you need your room to be comfortable. That's your outlet to get away from everybody else."

On Monday, players were served rolls and jelly for breakfast and were a bit upset. So, with the help from a cook from nearby

Camp Darby, the Italians made pancakes and muffins on Tuesday.

"We got some big boys on the team, you know what I mean?" Vermes said as he pointed at 205-pound goalkeeper Tony Meola. "Sixteen rolls aren't going to fill this guy."

There are cars for the players to use. But so far, they haven't had a chance to go out on their own. Their families don't arrive until Friday and Saturday.

"There's a lot of time to think about it," midfielder Tab Ramos said of Sunday's game against Czechoslovakia. "You need rest, so you try to go back to your room. Yesterday we had a little tour. We're in a place right here where there's not really much we can do. There's really nowhere we can go. We just have to deal with it and get prepared as much as we can. That is what this place is for, to get prepared."

Since most U.S. sports fans don't know or care about the team, it feels little pressure.

"We're getting a chance to come here for free and at the same time we're getting a chance to see the sights," Vermes said.

Agassi survives Chang rally; Capriati continues march to elite French Open semifinals

PARIS (AP) — Mixing power with patience, Andre Agassi mastered defending champion Michael Chang on Tuesday to reach the French Open semifinals and proclaimed himself ready to win his first Grand Slam title.

Jennifer Capriati, the 14-year-old American prodigy, continued her bid to become the youngest Grand Slam champion by outclassing Mary Joe Fernandez in straight sets. She, too, said she could win it all.

Displaying strength and stamina, Agassi played near-perfect tennis in the first two sets, survived a third-set rally by Chang and put him away in the fourth for a 6-2, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2 triumph.

Last year, Chang became the first American to win the French Open men's title in 34 years. Agassi, the highest remaining

men's seed at No. 3, proved he is a strong threat to follow suit.

"As the tournament goes on, the better I feel," the 20-year-old Agassi said. "It gives me a lot of confidence. I'm going to fight and sweat. This could be one of the biggest tournaments of my career."

Agassi's next opponent will be unseeded Jonas Svensson of Sweden, who overcame France's Henri Leconte 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4, to reach the semis for the second time in three years.

Capriati, the youngest semifinalist in Grand Slam history, displayed her relentless baseline game in beating the seventh-seeded Fernandez 6-2, 6-4 in just over one hour.

Next up for Capriati is second-seeded Monica Seles.

Volleyball coach, player named to U.S. team

Texas A&M volleyball coach Al Givens is used to working with outside attacker Elizabeth Edmiston on her game. Givens spent last year, Edmiston's first at A&M, teaching her the fundamentals of Aggie volleyball.

He soon may regret all he taught Edmiston. Edmiston, a 5-10 sophomore from King-

wood, joins 47 fellow collegiate athletes from across the United States in Minneapolis to participate in the U.S. Olympic Festival.

Edmiston was selected as part of the West squad.

Givens will find himself on the other side of the net. He was chosen as the East

squad's assistant coach. However, Givens is excited about Edmiston's selection to the West team and what it says about the A&M volleyball program.

"I'm extremely excited for Elizabeth, Texas A&M and our volleyball program," Givens said.

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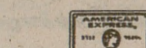


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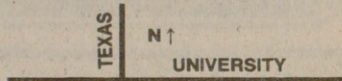
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